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Holmes  
County

# HERALD

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“Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness.”

Psalms 112:4

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TWO SECTIONS

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## Robinson bidding for Durant mayor

The *Holmes County Herald* has been authorized to release the following paid political announcement.

For too long, we have seen our society plummet. For too long, we have desired to see our city and our people flourish, but it seems as if there was only a desire and not an opportunity to change. Michelle Obama stated that her husband talked about “The world as it is, and the world as it should be.” President Obama said that all too often we accept the difference between the two, and we settle for the world as it is, even when it does not reflect our values and aspirations. I have come to realize that what is preventing us from shaping the future we desire is not that there is an absence of good ideas, but instead an absence of commitment to take tough steps necessary to make Durant great again.

I believe in the power to make a change and the ability to make

## Holmes shines at SkillsUSA State Championship

### HCC Communications

The SkillsUSA chapters from all three Holmes Community College campuses successfully competed in the annual competition hosted by the Mississippi Department of Education at the Jackson Convention Center Feb. 28-March 1. The first place winners will be traveling to the national competition in Louisville, Kentucky, June 19-23.

Overall Holmes took home



DR. HENRY ROBINSON, JR.

a difference for all people. I am dedicated to creating a city where everyone’s voice is heard and their desires are addressed. As mayor, I will fight for each and every member of the community no matter who they are and will seek to bring restoration to our city. I understand that Durant is not only my city, but OUR city. We all have a stake in this society, and Durant de-

13 awards: seven from the Goodman Campus, four from Grenada, and two from Ridgeland. Goodman SkillsUSA students Jenna Cummings, Kevin Luckett, Lauren Martin, David Orduna, Ann Pohlig, Lakesha Rand, and Hallie Westbrook performed the official closing out of the meeting; an honor bestowed on them for winning first place in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies category.

## Life sentence for murderer

### The Belzoni Banner

On Thursday, March 9, after a four day trial, a Humphreys County Jury returned a verdict of guilty for Fred Hogan of Tchula in the 2015 slaying of victim Tahiti Banks of Belzoni, Mississippi.

Hogan was charged with One Count of First Degree Murder as a Habitual Offender and One Count of Possession of Firearm by a Convicted Felon. Circuit Court Judge Jannie Lewis-Blackmon sentenced Hogan to serve a Life Sentence without the Possibility of Parole for First Degree Murder and Ten (10) years without Possibility of Parole for the second count.

Hogan was a member of the Vice Lord Gang and shot the victim over four times with three of those shots to the head.

Akillie Malone-Oliver, District Attorney for the Twenty-First Judicial District, stated that “Our victims and their families



FRED HOGAN

are always our highest priority and we will fight relentlessly to make sure that violators are no longer a threat to our community.”

Hogan’s defense counsel was Martin Perkins of Jackson.

The victim’s family was pleased with the verdict and was very happy that justice was served.

serves a mayor who will put the people’s needs at the forefront and seek to rebuild a city of which people are proud and take pride. Jobs, workforce training, removing blighted properties, starting a Durant-based GED program, and advocating for you, are only a few ideas I have.

The United States Constitution dictates that our government is a government “...of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Thus, the people control what goes on in our city. And, the people decide what we should, and what we should not do. It is time to place government back into the hands of the people. Each person—young and old—matters and I have a sincere belief that we can start rebuilding tomorrow, today, TOGETHER.

I, Dr. Henry Robinson, Jr., humbly seek your support, prayers, and vote as I venture to become Mayor of the City of Durant. God Bless you and the City of Durant.

Morgan Lancaster and Ivory Smith also took home a first place win for Esthetics.

Other Goodman students brought home medals, as well. Paige Hitt and Caitlyn Pounders placed third in the Nail Care division, Michelle McMullough placed third in Cosmetology, Todd Ingle placed third in Collision Repair, Josh Saxton placed third in Appliance Repair, and Clark Tyner placed third in Technical Math.

From the Grenada Campus, there were two first place and two second place wins. Brittany Starnes won first place in Medical Terminology, and Meredith Moore brought home first for First Aid/CPR. In the Job Interview category, Angela Stowers won second place, and Marlena Pendleton won second in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Ridgeland Campus students  
(Continued on page 7.)

## HERALD BRIEF

### Annual Chamber banquet set for April 23

The Holmes County Chamber of Commerce will host University of Mississippi Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter to give the keynote address at the annual awards banquet set for Thursday, April 13.

Goodman native and Hip-Hop artist Brady Smart will provide entertainment for the evening.

The event takes place at 6 p.m. in the Carroll Cafeteria



Cellular phones, tobacco and other substances were removed from inmates’ cells at the Holmes-Humphreys Regional Correctional Facility in Lexington during a recent surprise “shake-down.”



## Contraband seized at Holmes County jail

Two regional facilities were the subject of surprise shake-downs early Thursday, March 16, as part of the Mississippi Department of Corrections’ contraband crackdown known as Operation Zero Tolerance.

Officers searched the Yazoo County Correctional Facility in Yazoo City and the Holmes-Humphreys County Regional Correctional Facility in Lexington before dawn, respectively, bringing to five the number of facilities Corrections Commissioner Pelicia Hall has ordered searched this month.

At the Yazoo facility, officers found homemade alcoholic beverage and excessive nuisance contraband.

Several cell phones, cell phone chargers, cell phone batteries, digital scales, cigarette lighters, packages of cigarettes, and suspected spice and marijuana were seized at the Holmes County facility. In addition, large amounts of commissary items were found with several inmates, indicating that the inmates may be using the items for illegal purposes, such as extortion.



“I am pleased that we did not find a large amount of dangerous contraband,” Hall said. “As evident by what we found especially at Yazoo, the zero tolerance message apparently is being heard. Our goal is to make the prison system safer for the staff and inmates.”

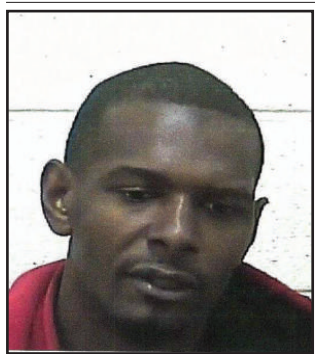
All facilities will be searched,

Hall said.

Inmates caught with contraband face disciplinary action.

Hall has extended the renewed security effort to inmates posting on Facebook and the search of visitors and vendors upon entrance to prison grounds.

Yazoo and Holmes counties  
(Continued on page 7.)



YARTNEY GREER



REGINALD WEBSTER

## Two arrested for Durant gang activity

On Tuesday, March 14, the Durant Police Department arrested Yartney Greer and Reginald Webster for illegal gang activity. The offense was against state statute [97-44-19], according to a press release.

Chief John Haynes said the

safety of all citizens is a top priority and gang activity will not be tolerated in Durant, according to the release.

Both Greer and Webster are currently being held at the Holmes-Humphreys Regional Correctional Facility on \$25,000 bonds.

Holmes County Herald  
serving the area  
for 57 years



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## Holmes County 7-Day Forecast for March 23 - 29 as reported on THE WEATHER CHANNEL



**Thursday**  
Mostly Sunny  
80/61  
Precip. Chance  
10%



**Friday**  
Cloudy  
77/63  
Precip. Chance  
20%



**Saturday**  
Thunderstorms  
74/59  
Precip. Chance  
90%



**Sunday**  
A.M. Showers  
77/60  
Precip. Chance  
40%



**Monday**  
Thunderstorms  
77/60  
Precip. Chance  
80%



**Tuesday**  
A.M. Showers  
77/59  
Precip. Chance  
50%



**Wednesday**  
Scattered T'Storms  
76/59  
Precip. Chance  
60%

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