



**JONES**  
SINCE 1911  
Inspiring Greatness  
w.jcjc.edu

### Top of the Class event held at JCJC Ellisville campus

Valedictorians and Salutatorians from 45 schools participated in this year's celebration of the "Top of Class" recognition program hosted by Jones County Junior College and WDAM-TV. The Hattiesburg station's production crew videotaped the event and featured the students during WDAM-Sunrise at 6 a.m., May 7 through June 15, and on the WDAM-TV web page. Pictured (Above, L-R) are Greene County High School Valedictorian Joshua Thompson and WDAM anchor Karrie Leggett-Brown. GCHS Salutatorian Cameron Graves (not pictured) was unable to attend the event.

Photo courtesy of JCJC

# Greene County H.S. enjoys 30th graduation celebration

Greene County High School held its 30th graduation Friday night, celebrating 30 years of memories and changes and some things that never change.

The School Board members in 1987 when the school was opened were David Huff in Dist. 1, Wilma Leverette in Dist. 2, Ruben Mills in Dist. 3, Donald Pipkins in Dist. 4 and Joe Rogers in Dist. 5.

J.R. McCalla was the first principal that sat in the office with Jerry K. Smith at his side as the Assistant Principal. Joe James was the Superintendent of Education at that time.

Greene County High School saw 579 enrolled students the first year. The freshman class had 157 students. The sophomore class also had 157 students. The junior class included 119 students, while the seniors started with 146 students and ended with the same.

GCHS offered several clubs the first year, including the long-standing FFA, FBLA, FHA, and the Beta Club. Football, baseball and softball, basketball and track were the sports offered, and students could participate in band, cheer, and chorus. Other clubs and sports have been added since the opening of the school, and throughout the years, changes have been made to the school and grounds to accommodate the needs.

One hundred forty-six seniors walked across the field on the night of May 30, 1988. They were the first unified class for the county. That first year gave the communities of the county a way to connect. Friendships were made that have grown into families. The communities rallied together at football and basketball games. They cheered for the cheerleaders and the band. And parents from Leakesville, Sand Hill, State Line and McLain gathered together to watch their children take part in the historical event that took place that hot Monday night in May.

Here we are, 30 years later. The members of the Board of Education are Sue Eubanks in Dist. 1, C.J. Hill in Dist. 2, Keith Elmore in Dist. 3, Shannon Denmark in Dist. 4 and Robin McCoy in Dist. 5.

Scott Bray is the Principal with Ricky Dickson standing as his Assistant Principal. Charles Breland is our Superintendent of Education.

One hundred forty-two students walked across the field Friday night.

Those students will be the future of Greene County for years to come. Those of us that have walked across that football field over those 30 years have spent our lives leaving our mark in our county and all the places we have been. The communi-

### Around the Greene

By **Annette Harvison**  
*Herald Columnist*



ties of the county still rally together to watch our children learn and grow.

We have strived to see our children succeed. We have watched the students of our county work hard and prosper in the various clubs and organizations in which they participate. They are growing a name for themselves, the Greene County School District, and Greene County.

The football team went from defeated to undefeated in one season in the 1990s. The students formed their own peer group, WILDPAT, that aims to help their fellow students through the challenges of high school and the teenage years; they also take part in community service projects. The FBLA, FFA, FHA and Beta remain ever-strong at GCHS. School pride is abundant and shows in the great talents and achievements the students have shared throughout the years, and some students return to the school to teach future generations in Greene County.

The largest graduating class that has walked across the field was the Class of 2017, with 154 graduates. The smallest class to graduate

from GCHS was the Class of 1999. Just 76 students walked across the field that year.

Lives change, the years will go by faster, and you will grow into the adults you have longed to be. Keep your heads high and do not let the obstacles in your path keep you from reaching your goals. Remember your character is defined by the choices you make. Happiness is a choice that you must choose to make every day. Life will always throw lemons, you have to be determined to make the sweetest lemonade. Start the next chapter in your lives with purpose and determination and hold tightly to it.


Good luck to all of you, the Class of 2018.

# Smith completes home school graduation requirements

*Special to the Herald*

Isaac Aaron Smith, the 18 year-old-son of Mike and Edna Smith, completed his coursework with the Christian Home Educators Association in Feb. 2018.

Smith is currently working with a local construction company and plans to acquire a trade skill that will enable him to secure a job in railroad maintenance within the next five years. He is an avid fan of the WWE and air soft. He recently developed an interest in kayaking and is a beginning runner.



Isaac Aaron Smith

## Hooray for Our Graduates!

REACH FOR THE STARS, CLASS OF 2018

*We're proud of you, and we wish you all a bright and shining future with much happiness.*


**JONES & SON**  
FUNERAL HOMES

<b>RICHTON</b> 601-788-6000	<b>MOSELLE</b> 601-584-7913	<b>HATTIESBURG</b> 601-268-2241	<b>BEAUMONT</b> 601-784-2241
--------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------------

## Congratulations

to our graduate

**Chloe Steede**



and the

## Class of 2018

*Hip-hip-hooray! It's your special day. We wish you all the best!*

**WARD'S** OF LEAKESVILLE  
700 Main St. - Leakesville  
(601) 394-5511



### GRADUATE to a Better Policy

Contact our agent today!  
**Bernie Dearman**  
bdearman@alfains.com

Get a complimentary policy review and price quote today to see how our rates and services compare.

314-D Main Street • Leakesville  
**(601) 394-5000** **Alfa Insurance**  
Call Alfa. The best agents in the business.

## Congratulations ... to ALL our Graduates!

**Your Hard Work & Dedication Have Paid Off!**

*We are proud of the efforts of our young people here in Greene County. You make us proud in the classroom and when representing our community around the state. Good Luck in the Future!*



### Greene County's County-Wide Elected Officials

Coroner Ladd Pulliam - Circuit Clerk Cecelia Bounds - Sheriff Stanley McLeod  
Chancery Clerk Michelle D. 'Shelley' Eubanks - Tax Assessor / Collector Mark Holder