

Numerous locals earn collegiate degrees



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Nick Merritt, a 2013 graduate of GCHS, was one of a handful of local area students completing degree requirements at the University of Southern Mississippi this Spring. Merritt, who earned his bachelor's degree, is shown here with his parents Mark and Nikki Merritt and younger brother Lawson on graduation day on the Hattiesburg campus.

From Staff Reports

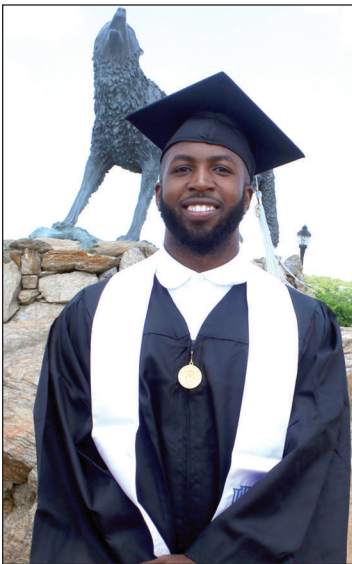
While high school and kindergarten registration drew big crowds around the county in recent weeks, several students from the county and surrounding communities had big moments to celebrate as well as they completed collegiate degree requirements at assorted schools.

Three Greene County High School alumni received their collegiate degrees May 11 and 12 when the University of Southern Mississippi held spring commencement exercises at Reed Green Coliseum on its Hattiesburg campus and at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi, respectively. Southern Miss

President Rodney D. Bennett conferred undergraduate, graduate and specialist's degrees at each ceremony. Among those earning degrees were Greene countians Nick Adam Merritt, of Leakesville, and Sand Hill area residents Holly Breanna Smith and Jaricia Danielle Brown Clark. Other Southern Miss graduates from the local area include: George County students Caro Susannah Bradley, Luke Anthony Broadhead, Geraldine Ballinger, Whitney Mei Jun Dees, James Reuben Upton, Hillary Nicole Vise, KeOndra JaNe't Wells, Michaela Michelle Franklin, Emily Bliss Howell, Ashley Smathers, Jennifer Nicole Whitley, Tiffany A. Woodard Baker, Brittany Kendall Fausak and Randall Trey Mitchell; and Perry County residents Lindsey Alyssa Crane, Marley Reagan Mills and Crystal Gayle Maleckas. Over in Carrollton, Ga., 2013 Greene County graduate Lamarcus 'Marko' Franks graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Health and Community Wellness from

the University of West Georgia. Franks is a former Wildcat student athlete that used his talents on the football field to continue his education and earn his degree. Across the state in Poplarville, a handfull of local students were among about 950 students receiving diplomas or certificates from Pearl River Community College. Students who completed their studies in the summer and fall 2017 and the spring 2018 semesters were eligible to participate in graduation on Friday, May 11, at White Coliseum. The graduates are listed by hometowns: Beaumont - Ebony Bradley, Jenniell Grimsley, Dalisha

Lewis, Caitlen Solomon; Leakesville - Anna Cooley, Melanie Snyder and Mekayla Williams; Lucedale - Taylor Bolton, Amber Helton, Anthony Hertzke and Katelyn Patrick; McLain - Caitlyn Penton; Richton - Seth Clark, Shannon Farmer, Kayla Freeman, Harley Parker and Ni'Queria McSwain; and Waynesboro - Brooklyn Smith. Jones County Junior College in Ellisville saw multiple Greene County students complete studies and earn degrees this spring. Unfortunately, a listing of those students was not available for this edition as JCJC officials said they were unable



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Lamarcus Franks is shown in from of a West Georgia University mascot statue on his graduation day at UWG.



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Millennial graduates

Greene County High School had two millennium babies graduate Friday night. Adaisha Griffin (Left) and Ranisha Gunn were both born Jan. 1, 2000. The two seniors stood side-by-side for the commencement exercises. Adaisha is the older of the two, having been born just five minutes into the new millennium.

Mississippi universities want more courses for new students

By JEFF AMY
Associated Press
JACKSON (AP) — Mississippi's eight public universities plan to raise their admission requirements, in line with changes made earlier to the state's public high school diplomas. The College Board on Thursday voted preliminarily to increase the number of academic credits high school students would need for full admission. The board must vote again later. The changes would begin with students entering in fall 2022. Those students will start high school this fall and will be the first subject to new high school diploma requirements. The K-12 system voted last year to change high school diplomas, creating traditional diploma as well as an alternate diploma for some special education students. For students earning a traditional diploma, state officials want students to seek one of three endorsements — career and technical, academic and distinguished academic. Students will have to take four years of math, up from three now. Social studies requirements will rise from three years to three-and-a-half years. Students will have a year of computer science or technology, up from the current half year. The College Board's new

requirements mirror the academic endorsement, although the universities recommend students follow the more rigorous distinguished academic track. "We've edited our admission requirements to reflect what high school graduates will have in fall 2022," the College Board's Heather Morrison said. Any student who completes the academic endorsement with a 3.2 grade-point average or higher earns admissions to any of the eight universities. Any student who completes the curriculum with a 2.5 GPA must score 16 or higher on the ACT college test. Any student who finishes the curriculum with 2.0 GPA must score 18 or higher on the ACT. Universities also accept students who meet NCAA Division I standards. Associate State Superintendent Jean Massey said the K-12 diploma overhaul aims to ensure high school graduates are ready for postsecondary work. High schools are also trying to reduce remedial work needed by incoming freshmen by placing some seniors in special English and math courses. Massey said research shows that student performance suffers if they interrupt their math studies, part of the reason for pushing a fourth year of math in high school.

Massey said students earning a career-tech endorsement should be able to get into community college or high school as well. And students don't need any endorsement at all. "You can still get into college without earning an endorsement as long as you take the right courses," Massey said.

Performance

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Caden Lunsford, Cameron Deakle, Caleb Strickland, Timothy Moody, Mason Prentiss, Mackenzie Prentiss, Camron Boone, Wesley Harvison, Lauren Coleman, Noah Johnson, Scarlett Pope, Braxton Byrd, Reese Green, Kalyn Dial and Garrett Hicks.

Let's go off to the Grad!

We would like to join our employees who have children or other family members who have graduated from GCHS by saying

Class of 2018

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CONGRATULATIONS

Skylar *Savannah*

We Love you both, and are so proud of the remarkable young women you two are becoming. As you continue into your futures, remember that life isn't about finding yourself, but it's about discovering who God created you to be. You are His masterpieces, and He will always lead you if you will follow Him.

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6

We Love You Both! Your Family