

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end."  
Ecclesiastes 3:11

**HERALD  
BRIEF**

**Bulldogs trump Trojans in 11th straight win**

By HCC Communications

The Holmes Community College Bulldogs made it 11 in a row in Goodman Thursday night with an 81-68 win over the Mississippi Delta Community College Trojans.

With the win, the Bulldogs improve to 11-1 overall and 2-0 in the North Division. Holmes hosts Northwest on Tuesday night at 8 p.m. Watch live at holmesccmedia.com.

Holmes led Delta 42-33 at halftime and outscored the Trojans 39-35 in the second half.

The Bulldogs shot 52 percent from the floor and 40 percent from the three-point line.

Treva Spencer led the Bulldogs with 23 points while Kassim Nicholson had 17 and Winford Ross had 14. Spencer hit six three-pointers in the game. Javon Franklin had nine rebounds and Nicholson had eight.

**Lady Bulldogs improve to 2-0 in win over Delta**

The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 2-0 in the North Division after picking up a 68-56 win over the Mississippi Delta Community College Lady Trojans in Goodman Thursday night.

With the win, the Lady Bulldogs improve to 7-4 overall.

Holmes led 20-13 after one period of play and 31-25 at halftime. Delta outscored Holmes 18-11 in the third period before the Lady Bulldogs outscored the Lady Trojans 26-13 in the final period for the win.

Aneisha Evans led the Lady Bulldogs with 21 points while Nina Carpenter had 13. Carpenter led with seven rebounds.

**Town of Tchula can't pay its bills**

Mayor Vann says town funds have not been spent appropriately

By Matthew Breazeale

In a statement for Tchula Mayor General Vann, the town in northwest Holmes County is about broke.

Vann said previous Tchula administrations have not handled the towns' funds appropriately nor has the city clerk, Annie Horton.

Vann, who was elected Tchula mayor last July, said a state audit from the office of Stacy Pickering was referred to Pickering after Tchula attempted to pay a \$3,000 bill to Crime Stoppers (The Mississippi Department of Public Safety) and could not come to any terms in regards to payment.

A 2016 routine audit conducted by a private CPA firm, revealed "that the Tchula owes the IRS \$54,250 in employee taxes, with penal-

ties and interests that number will double the amount," according to Vann. "In addition, the city owes the State of Mississippi \$68,000 is assessments stemming from tickets and fines dating back to 2011, which covers the Sharkey Ford and Zula Patterson administration respectively."

Several aldermen that wished to remain anonymous say that they approved the claims docket and approved paying bills each month.

"They assumed that all of the city's monetary obligations were being paid and whenever they asked the clerk about the assessment," according to Vann, "they were told that it has been taken care of. The city clerk said the money was used to pay salaries and other bills.

No one knows where the disconnect is at this time.

Vann said Horton reported that the money that should have been used to pay for assessments, was used to pay bills and salaries.

"The question was asked, 'How the clerk still has her job?' However, no one could answer that. One former mayor stated that, 'they knew the bills were approved to be paid and that they assumed they were being paid. The city clerk made the decision on her own as to who was to be paid, and that they never saw any of the bills. The clerk was the only one that had a key to the mailbox and they relied on her to pay the bills that they approved.'"

The \$3,000 Tchula owes to Crime Stoppers dates back to 2010.

"Additional issues include no heat in (city hall) for years," said Vann, "and its being repaired at a cost of \$10,000." On Tuesday morning, January 16, Vann said they majority of repairs on the heating and cooling system at city hall were almost finished.

"The system had been rigged by taking shortcuts and the majority of heating and air companies would not touch it (in years past).

"Upon leaving office," Vann continued, "the previous administration paid \$17,000 for a lot to build a fire station. The money came out of the water fund rather than the fire fund, which set the water department back from doing some needed repairs."

During the December meeting, the board of aldermen approved a claims docket totaling \$116,000 and claims docket of \$84,000 at

January's board meeting.

"None of those claims have been paid," according to Vann.

As of the January board meeting, Tchula had \$7,000 in the general fund.

"So, for all intents and purposes, the city is on the brink of bankruptcy," said Vann. "Unless some steep cuts are made the city will not survive."

Vann added that Tchula is looking to setting a four-day, thirty-two hour work week and cut salaries pending board approval.

"Nobody wants a pay cut," said Vann. "I haven't gotten any cooperation from them (Tchula's Board of Aldermen)."

Vann said he is continuing to sort through the gross negligence and misappropriations.

"We can't continue on this course," said Vann. "I didn't create this mess."

**PICKENS' MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARADE**

Photos by Matthew Breazeale



**Correction**

Last week's article "PBS documentary highlights Vietnam service of county native" should have read "MPB program highlights Vietnam service of county native."

50¢ Single Copy

<b>Thursday</b> Sunny 44/23 Precip. Chance 0%	<b>Friday</b> Partly Cloudy 50/36 Precip. Chance 0%	<b>Saturday</b> Partly Cloudy 64/47 Precip. Chance 10%	<b>Sunday</b> Mostly Cloudy 66/45 Precip. Chance 20%	<b>Monday</b> Sunny 55/36 Precip. Chance 10%	<b>Tuesday</b> Sunny 60/41 Precip. Chance 32%	<b>Wednesday</b> Showers 58/41 Precip. Chance 50%	

**How to reach us**  
PHONE • 834-1151  
FAX • 834-1074  
EMAIL  
hcherald@gmail.com

