

# Teoc native takes reigns as Holmes' area forester

By Matthew Breazeale

As area 24 forester, Blake Jones has a wide swath of land to look after in which Holmes is only a portion.

The Teoc native majored in Forestry at Mississippi State University with a concentration in Wildlife Man-

## Track and Field

### Class AA Central Holmes Trojans

Individual placings for the May 5 state competition were: 100 - 8th, Wy'Kece Johnson; 100 Hurdles - 3rd, Artino Brown; and 6th, Nathan Taylor; 200 - 5th, Wy'Kece Johnson; 300 Hurdles - 4th, Artino Brown; and 7th, Taylor Robinson; 400 - 5th, Noah Steen; and 8th, Taylor Robinson; 800 - 4th, Jurden Engle; 1600 - 8th, Bradley Robinson; 3200 - 3rd, Jurden Engle; and 7th, Noah Steen; Discus Throw - 4th, Pearce Edwards; and 7th, Taylor Robinson; High Jump - 1st, Lake Melton; and 2nd, Wy'Kece Johnson; Pole Vault - 2nd, John William Garrett; and 3rd, Lake Melton; Long Jump - 3rd, Xavier Hammond; and 6th, Nathan Taylor; Triple Jump - 2nd, Nathan Taylor; and 4th, Xavier Hammond; 4 x 100 relay - 4th (Thompson, Johnson, Steen and O'Briant); 4 x 200 relay - (Wyley, Johnson, Steen and O'Briant); 4 x 400 relay - (Hammond, Steen, Robinson and Wyley); 4 x 800 relay - (Hammond, Melton, Robinson and Engle).

agement. Jones has lived in the Acona community since 2015 and has worked in the county office since then as well. His family business is Jones Sign Company in Greenwood.

Jones said he is still getting to know local land owners. "Land owner assistance is a big part of what we do," said Jones. "Other things we do is manage 16th section land...and not just in Holmes County."

Jones serves in region two, area 24, which covers Holmes, Humphreys and Washington Counties.

Recent restructuring within the Mississippi Forestry Commission has stretched fewer foresters to cover more land areas.

"That's also going to

## Durant woman charged with filing fraudulent refund claims

Teresa Chism, 48, a former resident of Durant, Mississippi, was arrested Friday, May 4, on charges of filing fraudulent tax refund claims with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), announced U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst and Ted A. Magee, Acting Special Agent in Charge of IRS Criminal Investigation's New Orleans Field Office.

According to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in January, Teresa Chism was a tax return preparer doing business under the name Lady T Taxes in (Durant) Holmes County, Mississippi. Between February 2013 and April 2015, Chism prepared numerous tax false returns for clients which claimed fraudulent refunds. Chism is also charged with preparing a false tax return for an undercover agent. On the tax return, Chism reported false wages and false education expenses, which caused the claimed tax refund to increase to more than double the correct amount.

Chism appeared for arraignment on Monday, May



BLAKE JONES

change our response time a little bit," said Jones, "but if anyone needs us, don't hesitate to call us."

Jones emphasized the state-wide dispatch number for forestry needs, 1-833-632-3473.

Currently four are staffed at the West office with one

ranger position unfilled.

Jones replaced former Area Forester Keith Boone who was promoted to a regional position.

Jones can be reach at the West office at 662-967-2100, by cell 662-809-9795 or email to [bjones@mfc.ms.gov](mailto:bjones@mfc.ms.gov).

ties and restitution.

The case was investigated by IRS-Criminal Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Helen Wall and DOJ Tax Division Trial Attorney Robert J. Boudreau.

The public is reminded that an indictment merely alleges that crimes have been committed and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

## County man sentenced for breaking into Dollar General

A 20-year-old man who broke into a Dollar General last year pleaded guilty to the crime and will spend two years in jail, announced Attorney General Jim Hood.

Michael Amos, of Goodman, was sentenced Friday by Holmes County Circuit Court Judge Janie Lewis on one count of business burglary. He was sentenced to five years in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections with two of those years to serve, three years suspended, and three years post-release supervision.



MICHAEL AMOS

Amos was arrested by the Pickens Police Department in January 2017 for breaking into a Pickens Dollar General with another person by using a shopping cart. The alarm alerted police to the scene,

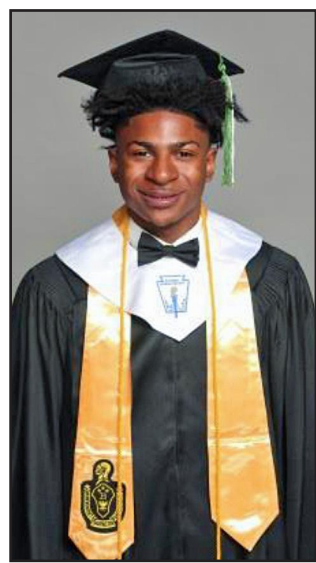
# Valedictorian and salutatorian named at DPHS

Durant Public High School has announced the valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2018. Quamon Newsome was named valedictorian and Darius Sharkey has been named salutatorian.

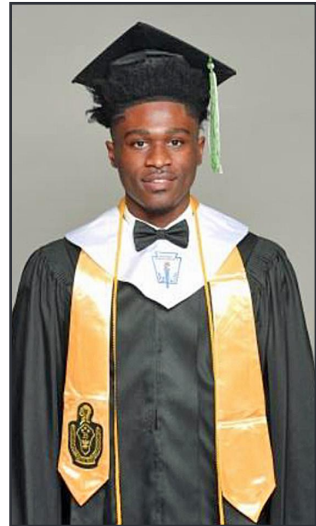
Newsom is the son of Mr. Tamon and Mrs. Cassandra Newsom. He is a scholar athlete, participating in varsity football, basketball and track and field teams, receiving numerous awards for athleticism and academics. Quamon will be continuing his education at East MS Community College, majoring in architectural engineering and joining the EMCC Football Team as a Lion. He plans to ultimately own an international engineering and construction firm, working with government entities.

Darius Sharkey is the son of Mr. Danny and Mrs. Cassandra Sharkey and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Lewis. He is a scholar athlete, participating in varsity football, basketball, and track and field teams. Receiving numerous awards for athleticism and academics, Darius will pursue his education at the University of Southern Mississippi majoring in nursing as a participant of the ACES program (Academic Connections to Enhance Success) which provides selected students with a relatively small community of peers within the larger university as well as direct connections with dedicated faculty and staff. His future aspirations are to be a nurse practitioner and open his own private practice.

Durant Public High School will hold its 2018 commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 17 at 7 p.m. in the school gymnasium. The Class of 2018 includes: Julisa Barnes, Kiara Boyd,



QUAMON NEWSOME



DARIUS SHARKEY

Shaquante Brown, Cordaryl Cobbins, Esau Coleman, Orlexia Farris-Biffle, Maurice Fleming, Amos Hightower, Azariah Hickman, Cori Hopson, Christopher Jordan, Asia Lipsey, Janawa McCaskill II, Jaylon Merritt, Deanna Mitchell, Tameri Myers, Quamon Newsome, Ke'Shaela Parker, Ta'Mara Riley, Rha'Leijah Roberson, Malik'e Roby, Jacorey Roundtree, Laquita Saffold, Darius Sharkey, Jeremy Steverson, Josaretta Trotter, Kavon Winters, Anterious Floyd, Christian Frizell, Randle Campbell and Tiffany March.

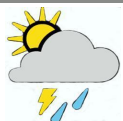
and although Amos and his accomplice were no longer there, police found items missing including ciga-

rettes, wine, and cell phones. A tip led police to Amos that day, at which point he was arrested. (Continued on page 9.)

## Early Deadlines:

In observance of the Memorial Day Holiday, the *Holmes County Herald* will be closed Monday, May 28. Deadline for Calendar of Events and advertising is May 24 by 5 p.m. The legals deadline is May 23 by 12 p.m.

50¢ Single Copy



**Thursday**  
P.M. Thunderstorms  
88/65  
Precip. Chance  
40%



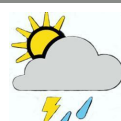
**Friday**  
Partly Cloudy  
90/67  
Precip. Chance  
20%



**Saturday**  
Partly Cloudy  
95/69  
Precip. Chance  
20%



**Sunday**  
Isolated T'Storms  
93/69  
Precip. Chance  
30%



**Monday**  
Scattered T'Storms  
92/69  
Precip. Chance  
50%



**Tuesday**  
Scattered T'Storms  
92/69  
Precip. Chance  
40%



**Wednesday**  
Partly Cloudy  
91/69  
Precip. Chance  
20%

How to reach us

PHONE • 834-1151

FAX • 834-1074

EMAIL

[hcherald@gmail.com](mailto:hcherald@gmail.com)



8 08805 93485 4