

Adult learners master skills through night classes

Press Release

The Holmes County Career and Technical Center (HCCTC) of Holmes County Consolidated School District has completed its Adult Education (Night Classes) Fall 2018 session.

The completion ceremony was held on Thursday, December 13, 2018, with Lynn Newman of the Delta District's Division of Workforce Development serving as the keynote speaker.

More than 35 adult learners mastered new skills that led them to obtaining 60 hours of technical training in such areas as: basic computer literacy, welding, auto-body paint/repair, residential wiring (electricity) and high school equivalency certificate/GED.

Director Shintri Hathorn stated, "Our adult learners have made an invaluable investment in their future success and progression. We are here to provide technical training to our high school students, as well as our community adults who are looking to make a change in their current employment status or seeking to enhance their self sustaining skill set. We will continue to work with area employers and workforce development agencies to determine what skills they are seeking in potential employees, so that we may customize our courses specific to meet the needs of the surrounding workforce and community employers."

Adult students were trained in specific skill areas and they were also in-

troduced to and established professional contacts with area industry professionals. The industry professionals (Hunter Engineering, Inc. and WIN Job Center, met with the recent Adult Education students and shared with them what skills and qualifications they, and other hiring agents, are seeking in potential employees.

This educational opportunity was strengthened through the HCCTC's collaborative efforts and partnerships with Holmes Community College's Adult Education Program, Earlene Russell Smith, and their Workforce Development Department, Mandy Clayton Burrell.

Together we are working to ensure that Holmes County has a trained workforce to support economic development within our community.

Hathorn stated that the career center has received overwhelming response from the Holmes County community in continuing to offer adult training classes in the future.

The HCCTC is in the process of collaborating with additional partners to provide learning opportunities for the community.

Companies or businesses seeking specific training needs, are invited to contact Hathorn and the Holmes County Career and Technical Center staff at 662-834-3052.

The tentative date to register for Adult Spring Classes 2019 will take place in February.

Humphreys County Chancery Clerk arrested for embezzlement

Press Release

On Tuesday, January 15, Special Agents from the Office of State Auditor Shad White arrested current Humphreys County Chancery Clerk Lawrence Browder after he was indicted for submitting false documents by a grand jury assembled by District Attorney for the 21st District Akillie Malone-Oliver. Browder was issued a demand letter for \$279,764.16 at the time of his arrest. Interest and investigative expenses are included in the demand amount.

Browder is accused of fraudulently obtaining money from the county by forcing his staff to create false court records from January 2016 to January 2017. Chancery clerks collect fees for filing certain court proceed-

ings, and Browder allegedly pocketed money after reporting his office filed cases that did not exist. Using this scheme, Browder allegedly obtained \$31,350 from falsified Humphreys County youth court and lunacy case proceedings.

In addition to fraud charges, Browder was issued a civil demand to repay more than \$200,000 in compensation illegally given to him. The salary of a chancery clerk in Mississippi is partially composed of fees charged for services provided by each office, but no chancery clerk can be compensated more than \$90,000 in fees in any one year. Browder exceeded the maximum allowable salary by \$205,724.14. By law, the excess fees should have been returned to Humphreys



Pictured above, Autobody Paint and Refinish Class (from left): Shintri Hathorn, director; Tarvis Cooper, Angela Hodges, Teri McKibben, Curtis Garrette, Tim Greer, Cujaeous Grant and Thomas McKibben, instructor. (Photo submitted)



Pictured above, Welding Class (from left): Hathorn, Damario Young, DeVante Williams, Patrick Sellers, JaTae Dixon, Daniel McBride, Arthur Newman, Julius Montgomery, Larry Anderson, Ahmand Johnson, Margaret Pate, and John Sample, instructor. (Photo submitted)



Pictured above, Residential Wiring (Electricity) Class (from left): Hathorn, director; Danny Johnson, Sammy Johnson, Pearlene Jones, Amos Hightower, Thomas Vaughns, Frederick Wright, John Branch and Co-Instructor Henry Jordan, Sr; Not pictured: Donnie Patterson and Co-Instructor Michael Kirkwood. (Photo submitted)



Pictured above, Basic Computer Literacy Class (from left): Willie Nalls, Joseph Anderson, Jenesha Junior, Earnestine Robinson, Norma Donelson, Sharon Patton, Causey Johnson, Ruby Howard, Artimease McLaurin, Chris Williams, Instructor Reather Anderson, Jennifer Grant and Shintri Hathorn, director. (Photo submitted)

County each year.

Browder has served as chancery clerk since 1996. In this position, he is covered by a \$100,000 surety bond. This bond will help improve the chance for taxpayers to recover the money that has been stolen and misspent.

State Auditor Shad White said, "It's disheartening to see such a long-serving elected official taking advantage

of the taxpayers and the voters who elected him. There is zero tolerance for those who knowingly steal taxpayers' money as Mr. Browder did in this case. My office will continue to uphold the law in these circumstances, with no exceptions."

If convicted, Browder faces up to five years in prison, \$10,000 in fines, and removal from office.

Fall honor roll at JCJC announced

Jones County Junior Col-

lege has announced the 2018 fall semester honor roll scholars. Full-Time students with 15 hours or more and who maintain the following grade-point averages will make the honor roll: President's List--4.0; Dean's List--3.99-3.5; Faculty List--3.49-3.0.

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FALL 2018 HONOR ROLL DEAN'S LIST
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