



Mr. Norman Phillips celebrated his 105th birthday on January 10, 2020. He has lived in Mississippi all his life. Mr. Phillips was married to the late Eula Moore Phillips. He is the father of seven children and three adopted children.

**\*HCCSD team**  
(Continued from page 1.) and Simona Cobb. Xavier Hilliard, Ciara Jackson, Zion Johnson and Lorenzo Smoot represented S.V. Marshall.

The HCCSD robot performed three rounds. The robot was scored for mission completion and the team was scored for robot design, programming and how well they demonstrated the Core Values of teamwork, inclusion, discovery, impact, innovation and fun.

The Olympians' highest score was 245, which placed them in 5th place overall in their group of 15 teams. The first-place team's winning score was 340. The HCCSD team earned the Core Values Award, indicating their excellence in modeling the Core Values.

Williams-Sullivan student Le'Baudrio Bridgeford said, "We had several trials with the robot. This was to be expected. It was somewhat frustrating at first, but we worked through it. Overall, I loved being there."

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 by Seg-

# County 4-H standout tapped for awards at the Holmes County Livestock Show

**Staff Report**  
The 2020 "Bubba Cunningham Award and Payton Netherland Memorial Scholarship were presented to Pearce Edwards for his achievements in and contributions to the Holmes Coun-

ty Junior Livestock Program, Holmes County 4-H and Mississippi State 4-H, in general. Edwards has been actively exhibiting 4-H swine for the past eight years and more recently Beef Cattle. He has

shown at the state fair, Delta District, Dixie National and other regional/national shows. Edwards has represented Holmes County annually at the past four Mississippi Club Congresses and was a member of the 2019



Pearce Edwards (pictured center) was the 2020 Payton Netherland Memorial Scholarship Recipient at the Holmes County Livestock Show held on Saturday, January 25 in Lexington. Pictured above from left are Lindsey Killebrew, Harper Killebrew, Edwards, Joey Netherland, Jr. and Emma Netherland. (Photo by Julie Ellison)



Carolyn Cunningham Myrick (at left) presented Pearce Edwards with the 2020 James "Bubba" Cunningham Award during the Holmes County Livestock Show held on Saturday, January 25 in Lexington. (Photo by Julie Ellison)

Holmes County 4-H Leadership for Life.

What started first for Edwards with helping and following his big sister to shows, grew into having market hogs of his own. He, then, got a taste of showing Beef Cattle and moved exclusively to developing a Registered Simmental/Percentage Simmental herd of his own. Edwards has participated in numerous 4-H events, from winning his first Beef cookout compe-

tition to being a part of the 2018 second place state winning Livestock Bowl team. Additionally, Edwards has excelled annually in showmanship, assisted numerous fellow 4-H'ers with their own Swine and Beef Cattle project animals. Edwards has shown Champions and Reserve Champions in both Market Swine and Beef Cattle over his 4-H career.

Edwards is the son of Randi and Steven Edwards of Ebenezer.

way inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. FIRST designs accessible, innovative programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills.

According to its website, firstinspires.org, FIRST participation is proven to encourage students to pursue education and careers in STEM-related fields, inspire them to become leaders, innovators and enhance their 21st century work-life skills.

Prior to the City Shaper competition, the HCCSD students researched challenges facing today's scientists and applied real-world math and science concepts while learning critical thinking, team building and presentation skills. They identified and studied an issue of concern in their local city. The Olympians decided to study land pollution created through litter. Because of their learning, they committed to help clean up the city of Durant by volunteering to clean public spaces two Saturdays a month.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. James L. Henderson said, "We are so very proud of our

WSMS and SVME scholars! Our goal is to continue to expose our students to experiences that are challenging yet relate to real life experiences."

The students were proud of their achievement. WSMS student Aaron Davis said, "I feel good! I'm happy and surprised the we earned an award since this was our first time. Next year will be even bigger and better." His mother, Camona Davis, said, "I'm so proud of the stu-

dents! Thank you to their teacher for going the extra mile with them."

Lorenzo Smoot from SVME said that he can't wait for next year's competition and classmate Ciara Jackson said, "I had lots of fun. I wish I could start yesterday over and do today all over again."

HCCSD Gifted Education teacher and The Olympians team coach Kavitha Gandham, said that the results were amazing for a team in

its first competition. She said that this experience really gives her optimism for an even better showing in next year's state-level competition.

District Science Coordinator Dr. Shimelle Mayers was excited and pleased that the first-year team performed so well and increased their confidence. She also looks forward to more learning and increased STEM capacity as the students continue to grow.



Le'Baudrio Bridgeford (second from left) and Lorenzo Smoot (center) launch the robot on its quest to perform its missions as the judges score the round. (Photo Submitted)

HOLMES COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Arbor  
Day Tree  
Giveaway

- Annual tree give-away starts Wednesday, February 12 through Friday, February 14
- Free trees include: Persimmons, Sawtooth Oaks, Chickasaw Plum, Pawpaw Trees (While supplies last) Limit one of each per person.
- We will have extra fruit trees for sale.

Holmes County Soil and Water Conservation District

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