

►Class Night

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“We are encouraged to follow this call and stand strong in what we know and believe is our purpose.”

Rylie Turner continued the devotion by saying, “Each one of us are uniquely formed to make a difference in this world, whether it be now or 10 years from now.” Turner said Paul’s advice to Timothy was to hold fast to sound words, and that over the last 18 years, there were many sound words spoken to them by parents, family, friends and teachers.

“Each person who is here supporting you tonight has played a part in shaping who you are,” Turner said. “Remember their words. Hold them tight and take them with you as you embark on your future.”

“Above all, remember that you were created for a purpose. God has big plans for you. Stay true to yourself and the good things you have been taught, and you will be blessed for it.”

Before offering the invocation, Robertson took the opportunity to reflect on how honored he was to have served as Class President and to be able to thank God and ask him to bless the school once again with His presence at the event.

Class Reporter Rachel Pridgen was next to the podium and thanked those who she said had played a part in helping the class reach this milestone in their lives.

Pridgen began by acknowledging Supt. of Education Charles Breland, members of the Greene County Board of Education and the GCHS administrators. On behalf of her classmates, she thanked the faculty and staff of the school and the Greene County Vocational Center for “making our last four years so special” and also acknowledged the impact of the teachers and staffs at the respective elementary and junior high schools.

“Thank you so much for helping to build our educational foundation,” Pridgen said in regard to Leakesville Elementary, Leakesville Jr. High, Sand Hill School and McLain Attendance Center. “Last, but certainly not least, we would like to say a very special thank you to our parents, grandparents, guardians

and family members. We would not be here today without all of your love, support and guidance.”

Principal Scott Bray then moved to the podium and began the introduction of awards. Bray called the Class of 2021 an “outstanding” group and said he and Assistant Principal Richard Dickson were honored and proud to present awards and recognized the efforts of the class.

The presentation began with the recognition of class’s academic Top Ten.

Brandon Ladner was recognized as Valedictorian of the Class of 2021, followed by Salutatorina Ali Eubanks and Class Historian Caleb Stanford.

The remaining top 10 were named in order, beginning with Brittany Brown who finished fourth in the class. Edee Havard (No. 5), Makyah Denson (No. 6), Anna Kate Wood (No. 7), Abigail Carney (No. 8), Da’Kyriah Garrett (No. 9) and Rylie Turner (No. 10), each took their turn being congratulated.

Deputy Supt. of Education Dusty Turner, a GCHS Hall of Famer himself, moved to the podium to recognize the Class of 2021 Hall of Fame inductees. Turner said the chosen students embody the Wildcat Spirit and “represent the school in a way that is sure to be fondly remembered for years to come.” Each new Hall of Fame member selected a Hall of Fame teacher that positively impacted their time at GCHS. The following students are this year’s inductees (and their respective HOF teacher):

Brittany Brown (CharLee Cook), Abigail Carney (Tylina Chatham), Ali Eubanks (CharLee Cook), Edee Havard (Linda Havard), Brandon Ladner (Deborah Neel), Zayne Robertson (Marty Herring), Rylie Turner (Bill Ricks), Graceanne Walters (Kandie Ham) and Anna Kate Wood (Kay Holloman).

Turner then presented the winner of this year’s Hall of Fame Scholarship, which is funded by Hall of Fame members. This year’s Hall of Fame Scholarships were presented to Brittany Brown and Abigail Carney.

Bray returned to the podium to announce the recipients of the school’s Citizenship, Leadership and Best All-Around Student Awards. Bray said these students (one male and one female) were chosen for being consistently amiable, polite, well-mannered, selfless and compassionate. One male and one female are selected for these awards.

Dugan McClelland and Abigail Carney were chosen for the Citizenship awards; Zayne Robertson and Brittany Brown received the Leadership awards; and Rylie Turner and Anna Kate Wood were named as the Class of 2021 Best All-Around students.

Next to be recognized was a group of over 30 seniors who had completed the qualifications to be recognized as Mississippi Scholars. The Mississippi Scholars Initiative is an education program managed by the Public Education Forum of Mississippi, to motivate students to complete a rigorous course of study in high school, along with other requirements, such as high ACT scores and cumulative GPA, community service hours and high attendance ratings.

Those recognized as 2021 Mississippi Scholars were Nicholas Adolf, Brittany Brown, Tiana Caver, Jennifer Creel, Abigail Carney, Makyah Denson, Ali Eubanks, Kahayla Eubanks, Annsley Franks, Da’Kyriah Garrett, Madison Hathorn, Edith Havard, Haliagh Helton, Brandon Ladner, Brooklyn Lee, Levi McArn, Devon McClelland, Jacob McLeod, Trevor McLeod, Kelsie Mitchell, Christian Pope, Zayne Robertson, Claire Scarbrough, Zoe Scarbrough, Gerrin Shaw, Landon Smith, Caleb Stanford, Rylie Turner, Makaila Valentine, Kayla Volovecky, Marci Walley, Graceanne Walters and Anna Kate Wood.

Bray then recognized Brandon Ladner “for his effort, achievement and outstanding performance throughout his high school career”, which led the prestigious honor of being selected as a National Merit Scholar Program Finalist.

The National Society of High School Scholars recog-



Photos by Russell Turner/ Herald Editor

Madi Pipkins (Shown above) was all smiles as she and her classmates exited the GCHS gym at the end of their Class Night celebration.

nize students for their high academic achievement, drive to succeed and a desire to change the world for the better. GCHS students named as members into the National Society of High School Scholars were: Lyla Jordan, Kelsie Mitchell and Molly Roberts.

Greene County Vocational Director Lesha Lott moved to the podium to announce Career and Technical (CTE) awards. Several students were recognized as Mississippi Scholars Tech Masters, a sister program to Mississippi Scholars that recognizes high achieving vocational students. This year’s Tech Master honorees were Madison Hathorn, Brandon Ladner, Jacob McLeod, Christian Pope, Gerrin Shaw, Landon Smith, Rylie Turner and Marci Walley.

Lott next recognized Lyla Jordan as the recipient of the National Association of Women in Construction - Gulf Coast Chapter’s scholarship. Jordan also received a Mississippi Construction Education Foundation scholarship.

Bobbie Hicks with the Garrett Hicks Memorial Foundation recognized several seniors who had completed the welding program at the vocational school. Hicks noted that the Foundation, which was established in memory of her late son, also provided the students with toolbox and specialty welding hood to help them as they prepare to enter the workforce. Students recognized by Hicks and longtime welding instructor Dale Box were Jeremy Tyler Lott, Brandon Sumrall, Lyla Jordan, Levi McArn, Dugan McClelland, Trevor McLeod, Mattox Radcliff, Stance Smith, Johnathan Turner, Patrick Turner and Austin Turner.

After the CTE awards, Kinley Thornton and her nephew Jett Thornton presented the Chase Thornton Memorial Scholarship to Rylie Turner.

Sheena Harvison presented the Brylee June Memorial Scholarship to Ali Eubanks.

Principal Scott Bray, on behalf of the Dearman family, presented Isabella Kittrell with this year’s Dave

Dearman Memorial Scholarship.

On behalf of the Brewer family, Bray presented the Carli Brewer Memorial Award to Amberlyn Holifield.

On behalf of the Anthony Crabtree Family, Bray presented the scholarship named in his honor to Christian Pope. This scholarship is awarded to a band student who has excelled in music.

On behalf of the Clark family, Bray presented the Mason Clark Memorial Scholarship to a Jones College welding student. This year’s recipient was Levi McArn.

Rylie Turner was presented the Mississippi Association of Federal Education Program Directors Johnny Thornton Scholarship for \$2,500. Turner also received a scholarship from the Mississippi Professional Educators Scholarship Program.

Reagan Reid and Alyssa Eubanks presented the first annual Greene County Softball Alumni Association Scholarship to Tiana Caver.

See AWARDS

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All the Best

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