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**HOLMES COUNTY**

# HERALD

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021 ONE SECTION LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095 VOLUME 63 - NUMBER 21

## Re-Elect Robin McCrory for Lexington Mayor

## Scholarships awarded to area students

The *Holmes County Herald* has been authorized to release the following paid political announcement.



**MAYOR ROBIN MCCRORY**

I, Robin McCrory, am seeking re-election for Mayor of the City of Lexington in the June 8, 2021, election. Having a deep, abiding love for Lexington and a strong work ethic, I am asking for the opportunity to continue serving you in this capacity.

It has been my distinct honor to serve three terms as your mayor, working alongside our Board of Aldermen, county, and state officials to bring much needed resources to our City. In my past three terms, over \$14 million in grants and secured funding has been received in Lexington. The Board of Aldermen and I work tirelessly each and every day to acquire this funding.

I realize that the utmost priorities of the citizens are a safe community; improvements of the infrastructure, including streets, water, and sewer; housing; beautification of the city; and recreational opportunities, especially for the youth. Every

day I work to address those priorities.

In my past four years as mayor, we have secured a total of \$6.4 million dollars in funding. Projects totaling \$2.7 million dollars have been completed. More importantly, however, there are other major projects, totaling \$3.7 million, that are funded, but not completed. Advertisements for bids will take place in April, May, and June for these projects.

One of the most visible, recent projects during my third term was the beautification of the Highway 17 South entrance to the Square. Funded by MDOT at a cost of \$653,000, the project provided new side-

walks, historic lamppost lighting, benches, waste receptacles, crosswalks, and treescaping. This project greatly enhanced the approach into Lexington from the south.

Another grant of \$61,989 allowed the City, through Delta Design Build, its blight partner, to purchase and remove three unoccupied, derelict properties. The restoration of the downtown magnolia mural and installation of LED lighting on the Court Square, exterior of the library, and baseball field were also accomplished through grant funding totaling \$30,622.74.

Through health and wellness grants a splash pad for children was constructed at Milton Olive Park. Also, included in these grants were a shade canopy, benches, picnic tables, waste receptacles, fencing, security gates, and parking lot improvements. The splash pad was made possible by a MDWFP Land and Water Conservation Fund grant totaling \$58,774.00 and a \$50,000 matching grant from

(Continued on page 3.)

**Staff Report**

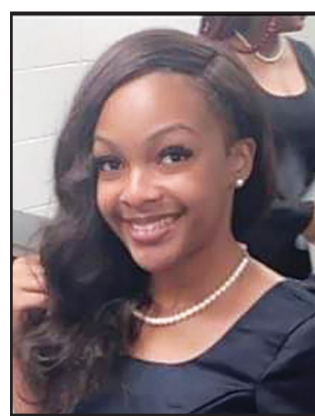
The REAL Christian Foundation partnered with Lexington Colts Youth Sports, Incorporated to award several scholarships to deserving students from the Holmes County/Lexington area.

The scholarships awarded this year went to four area students, including Charity Smith, Quandarion Winters, Daekwon Stewart and Jeremiah Williams.

Charity Smith is the daughter of Mrs. Kandra Nash. She is a 2020 graduate of Holmes County Central High School (HCCHS). She is currently a freshman at Tougaloo College, majoring in Biology. She was awarded the Coach Willie Reeves Memorial Scholarship, with a stipend of \$1,500.00.

Quandarion Winters is the son of Ms. Sheena Hampton. He is currently a senior at HCCHS. He will be attending Holmes Community College in the fall. He will be majoring in Welding Technology. Quandarion was awarded a scholarship, with a stipend of \$1,500.00.

Jeremiah Williams is the son of Mrs. Susan Williams.



**CHARITY SMITH**



**JEREMIAH WILLIAMS**



**DAEKWON STEWART**



**QUANDARION WINTERS**

Jeremiah is currently a senior at HCCHS. Jeremiah will be attending Jackson State University in the fall. He will be majoring in Kinesiology. Jeremiah was awarded a scholarship, with a stipend of \$1,000.00.

Daekwon Stewart is the

son of Ms. Octavia Stewart. He is currently a senior at HCCHS. He will be attending Hinds Community College in the fall. He will be majoring in Automotive Engineering. Daekwon received a scholarship, with a stipend of \$1,000.00.

## Holmes County schools, failing and under investigation, hires new superintendent

**Mississippi Today**  
By Kate Royals

The Holmes County Consolidated School District, one of the state's most troubled districts that is under investigation by the state education department, has a new superintendent — a former principal who has never held a district-level position and has been in Holmes County less than two years.

Debra Powell, the new superintendent, is also a col-

league of former Holmes County Superintendent James Henderson, whom she worked with in St. Louis Public Schools for several years. Henderson, who was Powell's boss in St. Louis and hired her as a middle school and high school principal in Holmes County, came under fire in a scathing report by the state auditor's office that revealed widespread problems in the district, including a lack of

background checks for employees and misappropriation of funds.

The audit resulted in the appointment of a financial adviser by the Mississippi Department of Education to take over the district's finances. The district is also the subject of an investigative audit to ensure its complying with state and federal law in addition to accreditation standards.

The Board of Trustees last

week voted 4-1 to appoint Powell as the superintendent beginning in the fall of this year. Before coming to Holmes County in 2019, Powell worked as the principal at Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri. Before that, she was principal of Vashon High School in St. Louis. The longest she ever served as principal at one school is two years.

Board President Louise

Winters said she is not concerned by Powell's connection to Henderson, and that the board chose the best candidate based on responses it received from a community survey.

"Dr. Powell was the closest to what the survey (responses) and our stakeholders wanted," Winters said, noting there were over 20 candidates brought forth by the Mississippi School Board Association. The association conducted the search on behalf of the district, Winters said.

Powell will earn an annual salary of \$125,000 to

oversee the district of about 2,600 students, according to her contract. She is also eligible for a pay raise if both a state-approved teacher pay raise and "a performance-based measure of growth and student achievement" occurs.

She will also be provided a car "for her use in conducting the business of the district."

Rayford Horton, the one "no" vote for Powell, said he believed other candidates had stronger records of improving struggling schools and districts. Holmes County

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50¢ Single Copy



<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	
Isolated T-Storms	Scattered T-Storms	Scattered T-Storms	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	
88/72	84/66	79/59	83/61	87/66	87/69	87/68	
Precip. Chance	Precip. Chance	Precip. Chance	Precip. Chance	Precip. Chance	Precip. Chance	Precip. Chance	
32%	42%	35%	10%	22%	21%	24%	

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