



PBL Award Winners

Phi Beta Lambda members take home top honors. **PAGE 20**

The Tom-Tom

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SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Justin Ray Adcock of Conehatta (right) and Virginia Faye "Jenny" Holyfield of Little Rock were recently selected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College by a vote of the student body.

Adcock, Holyfield Selected Mr., Miss EC

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The student body of East Central Community College recently elected Justin Ray Adcock and Virginia Faye "Jenny" Holyfield, Mr. and Miss East Central Community College, respectively.

Adcock, the son of Ronnie and Kristi Adcock, is a 2009 graduate of Newton County High School and is a psychology and music business major. He is a member of the East Central Environmental Club and was a member of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band his freshman year.

He is a member of Hudson Chapel Church of God and enjoys playing the guitar and bass and working on cars.

He said of East Central, "My favorite thing about EC is the friendly faculty and small campus. Football games are my favorite on-campus activity."

His future plans include becoming a music producer in Nashville.

Holyfield is the daughter of John and Patsy Holyfield and is a 2009 graduate of Newton County High School.

A business administration major, she serves as vice president of the sophomore class and is a member of the ECCC Concert Choir, Phi Theta Kappa, President's Council and Warrior Corps.

She is a member of Hopewell Baptist Church and enjoys painting as a hobby.

Holyfield received the Kinnoth and Ella Mae Thornton Scholarship, Ona Mae Ethridge Scholarship and an ACT scholarship. She was also selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges.

When asked about ECCC, she said, "I love the abundance of friendly faces and there are always opportunities to make new friends. Spring Spree is my favorite on-campus activity."

Her future plans include becoming a CEO of a top corporation and retiring to own a business full of her own artwork.

Spring Spree '11 set for April 25-29

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Spring Spree 2011 is set for the week of April 25. The week will include a variety of events including volleyball games, Spring Formal Dance, crawfish boil, scavenger hunt and the highly-anticipated relay games which will be held on April 28.

"Last year we had over 150 students participating in the spring spree games," said Marcie Pinson, Director of Housing/Student Activities and SBA Sponsor. "We hope this year to add even more to the roster. This is a good time for students to unwind before they begin focusing on finals!"

The SBA has worked hard on planning Spring Spree 2011 and hopes to have a great outcome, according to Pinson.

"The event is sure to be lots and lots of FUN!," she added.

Student Body Association President Lindsey Bishop said, "Spring Spree is THE most fun event that EC hosts!! The games, competition, and entertainment provides all students with a way to end the year with unforgettable celebration and fun!"

The Spring Formal Dance is scheduled for 8 p.m. on Monday, April 25 in the South

See SPREE, Page 10



FILE PHOTO

Spring Spree 2010 participants Anna Alexander, Lindsey Bishop and Marissa Gordy make a splash following the tug of war event.



POLLY VAUGHN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ECCC hosts EC's Got Talent: EC's Got Talent's Grand Prize Winner, Layna Shackelford, a freshman liberal arts major from Columbus, sang and played "Loving You is Easy," to claim the first place award. Placing second in the competition were acapella duo sophomore Computer Networking major Carolyn Young of Philadelphia and freshman liberal arts major Avery Ward of Morton and third place winner was Austin Dye of Carthage, a sophomore engineering major, who played guitar and sang.

ECCC to host Senior Days March 30, 31

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College will hold its annual Senior Days for area high school seniors on March 30 and 31, 2011, announced Randall Lee, Vice President for Student Services.

"We are excited to have over 1,200 prospective high school students on campus for Senior Days on March 30 & 31!," Lee said. "It is a day filled with great entertainment, informative displays, and good food! No one does Senior Days like ECCC does!"

Activities begin with registration at Huff Auditorium from 9 to 9:30 a.m. and end with a complimentary lunch at noon at Bailey Stadium. All campus clubs and organizations will have information booths set up in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building and advisors from academic, career and technical programs will also be available.

In addition, students will be entertained by the Jazz Band, Collegians and Percussion Ensemble during the welcoming ceremony in Huff Auditorium and AcCents show choir and Centralette dance line from 12 until 12:45 at Bailey Stadium.

Schools scheduled to attend on Wednesday, March 31 are seniors from All Saints Academy, Choctaw Central, Forest, Lake, Leake Academy, Morton, Newton, Philadelphia, Pine Grove Academy, Scott Central, Sebastopol, Union and Winston Academy.

Those scheduled to attend on Thursday, March 31, include Carthage, Carthage Christian, Edinburg, Grace Christian, Louisville, Morton Christian, Nanih Waiya, Neshoba Central, Newton County, Newton County Academy, Noxapater, South Leake and Thomastown.

For more information, contact the Office of Student Services at 601-635-2111, ext. 375, or toll free 877-462-3222, ext. 375. The e-mail address is rlee@ecc.edu

EC Gold Room Named for Longtime Staff Member

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The Gold Room in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria on East Central Community College's campus has a new name: it's now known as the Molly McGee Gold Room, in honor of the longtime cafeteria staff member, announced ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin.

The name change was officially approved at the Dec. 14, 2010, meeting of the ECCC Board of Trustees, which unanimously endorsed the measure as proposed by the College's Committee to Study and Recommend Names for Campus Buildings and Facilities.

Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, executive director for foundation and alumni relations, is credited with making the recommendation to the ECCC Board.

"Ms. Molly has served the College for 34 years and remains a loyal and beloved member of the EC family," said Dr. Hollingsworth. "She has greeted countless numbers of students, faculty, staff and visitors as they enter the cafeteria."

"As an EC alumna and a lifetime member of the Alumni Association, she

continues to contribute her financial support to the College through various fundraising activities, and as always, her contributions to the College are given from the heart. If money is needed to support an athletic team's trip to a national tournament or to support a special fundraising project on campus, Ms. Molly is always one of the very first individuals to give to the cause."

Dr. Hollingsworth said the College and Valley Services, Inc., which operates the cafeteria, announced plans to make various renovations to the Molly McGee Gold Room. A fundraising drive is also planned to assist in the project.

Valley hosted a reception honoring "Ms. Molly" on March 1. Numerous faculty, staff, alumni, community members, family and friends attended the reception in celebration of McGee's honor.

McGee said, "words can not describe the joy I feel," in regards to the dedication.

For more information, contact Dr. Hollingsworth, 601-635-6327 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 327. The e-mail address is sholling@ecc.edu.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Mrs. Molly McGee (center) of Hickory was honored for her 35 years of service on the cafeteria staff at ECCC during a ceremony held March 1. The Gold Room in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria was officially named in her honor during the special program. George M. Ardelean (left), executive vice president for dining and health services at Valley Services, Inc. is shown presenting a commemorative clock to the longtime cafeteria staff member. At right is EC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin.

Page Two



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Sophomore Class Favorites: Sophomore class favorites at East Central Community College include (front row, from left) Chad Mangum of Aberdeen, Tamara McPhail of Pelahatchie, Anna Alexander of Little Rock and Ben Stewart of Grenada; and (back row, from left) Josh Jarriel of Philadelphia, Polly Vaughn of Decatur and Matt Griffin of Union. Not pictured is Brittany Parker of Decatur.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Freshmen Class Favorites: East Central Community College freshman class favorites include (front row, from left) Tyler Reeves of Decatur, Alyse Webb of Noxapater, Nicole Bounds of Newton, Hannah Clay of Lake and Katie Reeves of Decatur; and (back row, from left) Austin Stewart of Nanih Waiya, Tyler Barrett of Decatur and Dustin Cullen of Carthage.

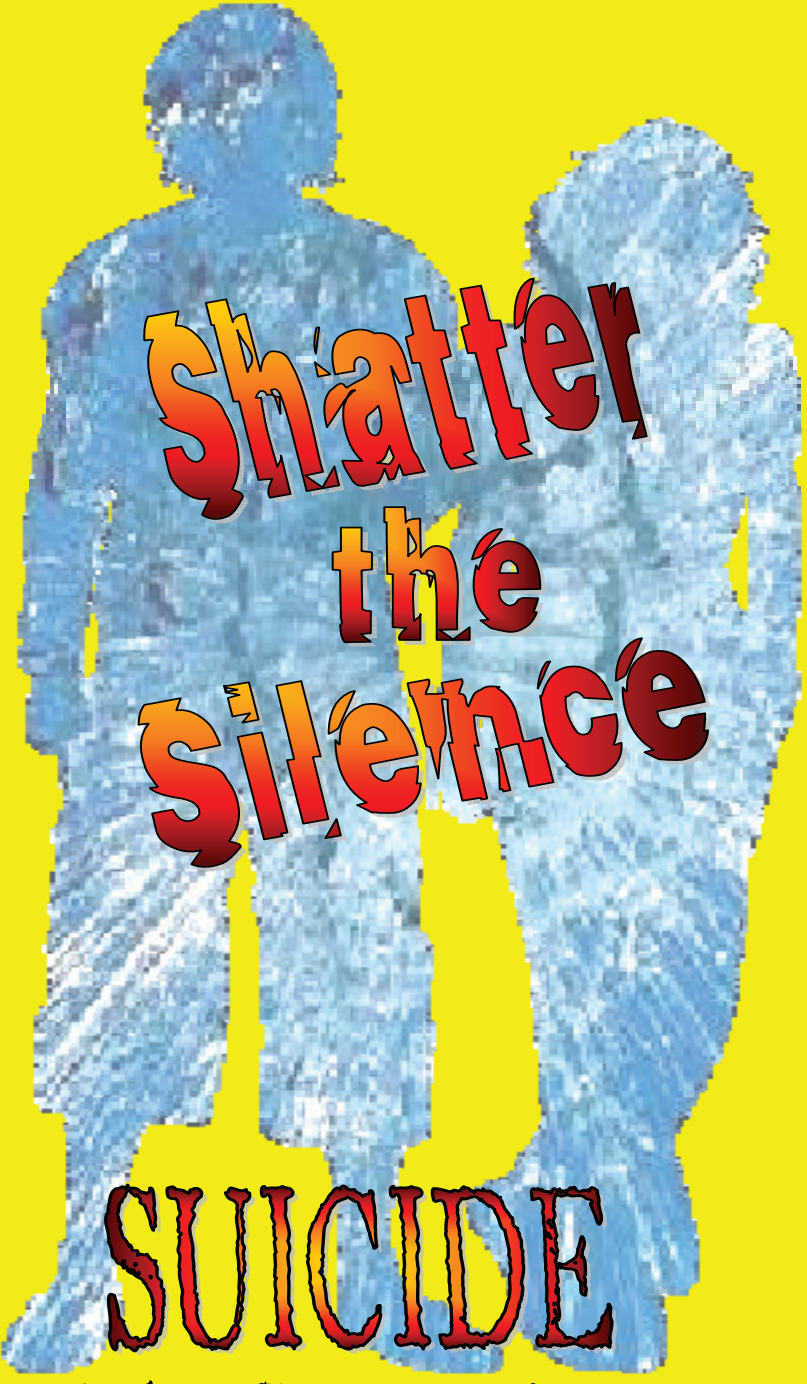
First year nursing students visit CMRC

BY RACHEL RAMIREZ
Tom-Tom News Editor

On January 21, the first year nursing students went to Central Mississippi Residential Center (CMRC) for orientation. CMRC is not an institution but a place that people can attend when they are in crisis or have mental illnesses. CMRC also has an adult day care that older adults can attend instead of being at home alone. The staff at CMRC go all over the Mississippi area and teach young people and other's about suicidal problems or drug addiction, which is a popular subject in adolescents.



First year Nursing Students visiting CMRC included: front row, from left, Christy Savell, ADN instructor and Rachel Ramirez; second row, from left: Jessica McDonald, Angie Price, Brandon Thompson, Betty Tucker, Marilyn Howell, Dianne Andrews, Audrey Haralson and Brooke Allen; third row, from left: Nurse Angie, Keri Martin, Karen Smith, Ashley Stone, Megan Boswell, Kadie Hailey, Samantha Holdiness, Ashley Walker, Kristen Sistrunk, Allison Rogers, Lexi Prisock, Hailey Cumberland, Julie Shepherd, Jean Pfeifer, Jessie Flake, Amanda Huit, Morgan Strickland, Paula Parker and Jodie Roberts; and fourth row, from left, Michaela Lee, Darlene Beckham, Rachel Smith, Roger Moore, Drew Smith, Beau Rhinewalt, Kim Harvard, Phillip Watson, Devin Gordan, Adriane Vann, Alexis Watson, Katie Gardner, George Sciple, Terry Lightheart, Kellee Still, Jessica Roberts.



If you or someone you know is

Talking about suicide

Writing about suicide


Thinking about suicide

Don't keep it a secret shatter the silence!

For help call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK or the Mississippi Department of Mental Health at 1-877-210-8513 or visit www.dmh.ms.gov for more information.

Funding for this project was made available through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Hurricane-Katrina Related Youth Suicide Prevention Grants. The views and opinions contained in the publication do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and should not be construed as such.

Supporting a Better Tomorrow...Today



Mississippi Department of Mental Health

Clublicity



ECCC's Award-Winning PBL Students: These Phi Beta Lambda members at East Central Community College won various honors at the 2011 State PBL Leadership Conference held recently in Natchez. All ECCC participants received first - or second-place awards in at least one area of competition and qualified for the National PBL Conference scheduled this summer in Orlando, Fla. Fourteen of the 19 competitors captured first-place awards and EC's Theta Chi placed in 24 of 27 events and was one of only two chapters in the state designated as a Gold Seal Chapter. Club members also placed fourth in raising funds for the March of Dimes. Award-winners include (seated from left) Kim Amerson of Newton, first place awards in Statistical Analysis and Parliamentary Procedures; Tyeisha Meeks of Lawrence, first place, Desktop Publishing; Chelsea Gilmer, first place, Free Enterprise Project, Alexis Graham, first place, Free Enterprise Project and second place, Local Chapter Annual Business Report, Rachel Alexander, first place, Justice Administration and second place, International Business, and Belinda Alexander, first place awards in Public Speaking and Future Business Executive, all of Philadelphia; and Chance Hall of Forest, first place, Community Service; fourth, Marketing Concepts; and Who's Who; and (standing from left) Bryan Wiseman, first place, Network Design, fourth place, Web site Design and Who's Who; Johnny Jones, first place, Parliamentary Procedures and second place, Marketing Analysis and Decision Making; Ryan Gillis, first place, Parliamentary Procedures, second place, Justice Administration and Who's Who, and Joe Morgan, first place, Parliamentary Procedures and second place, Client Service, all of Newton; Tracy Triplett of Philadelphia, first place, Parliamentary Procedures; Caleb Raines of Little Rock, second place awards in Information Management and Small Business Plan; Tina Pittman of Forest, second place, Business Preparation and third place, Financial Analysis and Decision Making; Mia Claiborne of Newton, second place, Business Presentation, third, Economic Analysis and Decision Making and Who's Who; Christina Nollie of Carthage, first place awards in Word Processing and Desktop Publishing; Lisa Jay of Newton, second, Small Business Plan; Janie Mayfield of Union, second place, Small Business Plan and third place, Management Concepts; and Zach Gibbs of Forest, first place awards in Cyber Security and Network Design.

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM



ASNEC officers: Pictured to the left are East Central Community College ASNEC officers for 2010-11. Front row, from left, are: Jessica Roberts, secretary; Tracy Kilpatrick, president; Rachel Ramirez, reporter; and back row, from left, are: Samantha Coleman, vice president; and Loren Atkinson, treasurer.

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The ECCC Native American Club is selling club T-shirts in sizes XL-5XL at a price of \$12-\$16. A photo of the T-shirt's design is to the right. Anyone interested in purchasing a shirt should contact Mr. Hughes or Ms. Minter at the library or Club President Nigel Allen. The club motto is "Enhancing Cultural Thoughts & Embracing Cultural Differences."

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM



We Want Your News!


E-mail information about your club/organization to gphillips@eccc.edu. Send photos with identification and any happenings.


William Carey University

Hattiesburg ~ Biloxi ~ New Orleans


WCU offers the following healthcare related degrees:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing • Master of Science in Nursing
- Master of Biomedical Science • Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine





“Not to be served... but to serve.”
Matthew 20:28



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Warrior Viewpoints

FROM THE EDITOR

Thoughts on making ECCC smoke-free

A smoke free campus? This is a controversial issue that has been asked but never really resolved.

In January, during EC's monthly President's Council Meeting, this issue was brought to the attention of students by Dr. Phil Sutphin.

Dr. Sutphin asked, "What do you think about a smoke-free campus?" To my amazement nobody agreed or disagreed. Most students said it would not be fair to make East Central a smoke-free campus because smoking is an addiction. They also pointed out the fact that if they cannot smoke on campus then they will end up going to a local business in Decatur and smoke there. Unfortunately, this would become an issue among the local businesses and smokers. Some pointed out that Jones County Junior College has designated areas to smoke (that do not have a "no smoking," sign over the ash tray) and really enforces smoking violations. These rules are enforced by fines up to one hundred dollars or more. Some rules enforced by other colleges are:

- ▶ Smokers cannot smoke in non-designated areas, walking to class, on the sidewalk, or in the parking lots
- ▶ Smoking is prohibited in ALL residence halls
- ▶ Cigarette butts should be discarded in the appropriate container (ash tray), if thrown on the ground this will be considered littering.

The reason why this is such a huge issue is because there are non-smokers who are at risk of getting lung cancer from second hand smoke and some are allergic to the smoke. When a person breathes in the smoke from the cigarette it paralyzes the cilia, broom-like hairs that keep your bronchial walls clean, for a good thirty minutes. Not only that, but these involuntary smokers (non-smokers) breathe in up to at least 4,000 chemicals that come from the cigarette. With that being said, smokers should be considerate of non-smokers and vice versa.

Yes, everybody knows smoking is bad for you, but when it becomes an addiction then it really does not matter if it is good or bad for you. It is just as bad as going to the tanning bed or drinking. However, by quitting smoking you can enhance your workouts by 45 minutes, your immune system is better, and the way your body reacts to medication is better. Also, it keeps your cilia from being paralyzed.

In conclusion, East Central has not found a solution to this problem so if you would like to put in your opinion talk to your student body president, talk to the president of your club or simply just write a letter to the newspaper.

—Rachel Ramirez, News Editor



RACHEL RAMIREZ
News Editor



BY TARA MARTIN, CARTOONIST

WORDS OF A WARRIOR

BY RAYCHAL REED

Do you believe the state should ban texting while driving?

Brandon Boulton
Decatur • Music
Sophomore
"People should not be allowed to text while driving. Anything can happen when you're behind the wheel of a car."

Haylee Roberts
Enterprise • Physical
Therapy
Freshman
"I do think texting while driving should be banned. Even though almost everyone is guilty of texting while driving, this can be very dangerous."



Dominique Murrell
Newton • Elementary
Education
Freshman
"I think they should pass a law for people who text and drive."

J. R. Gould
Paradigm Charter
School •
Business
Freshman
"Yes and no. I have seen many serious car accidents that have resulted in one or more fatalities. Texting while driving is a very hazardous habit to have because it takes your mind off of operating your car safely and even staying in the right lane."



Jorie Long
Neshoba •
Education
Freshman
"Text messaging is one of the most convenient ways of contacting someone. However, it can be dangerous, especially while driving. Therefore, a law should be enforced to ban texting while driving."

Cole Harris
Newton • Liberal Arts
Sophomore
"Texting while driving is very dangerous. Anything that can be done to keep people from texting while driving should be done."



Do you think smoking should be banned on campus?

Tyler Dalton
Louisville • Banking
Sophomore
"As much as I would like a smoke-free campus, that doesn't seem very realistic. I think that our campus needs to change the smoking areas where non-smokers will not be affected, and campus police should enforce the rules of where people are allowed to smoke."

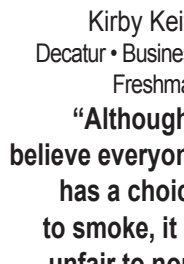
Halee Adams
Philadelphia •
Sophomore
"I do not think they should ban smoking on campus. This is an atmosphere involving young to middle-aged adults, and if they want to smoke between classes, they should be able to."



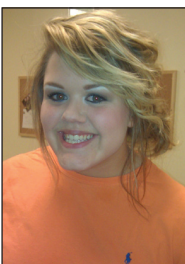
Jacob Luke
Philadelphia •
Education
Freshman
"I'm against smoking in any place on campus."



Bailee Viverette
Union • Liberal Arts
Freshman
"No, smoking should not be allowed on East Central's campus, or at least not everywhere."



Kirby Keith
Decatur • Business
Freshman
"Although I believe everyone has a choice to smoke, it is unfair to non-smokers to have to inhale second-hand smoke."



Kelsey Hill
Nanhi Waiya • Education • Sophomore
"I think EC should better designate smoking areas. I don't mind the smoking, but I don't want to walk through it every time I go to class."

FROM LEE'S DESK

Graduation is quickly approaching

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the academic year! Many of you have worked hard for two years and are getting ready for the memorable walk on May 14, 2011, the date of ECCC's graduation. Congratulations!

Graduation should be your ultimate goal at ECCC. So persist and earn that diploma! You need it in today's world. Graduates, you may have changed your major so research to see if there are other courses you can stay at EC and take. Transferability is seamless and the cost is so much more at four-year institutions. If you have questions about this please come by Student Services and see an Academic Counselor.

We are open 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Friday.



VICE PRESIDENT LEE

Freshmen –Advance Registration begins on April 25. REGISTER THE FIRST DAY! You will want to register to get the classes you need to graduate.

The rest of the spring semester will fly by! Take advantage of all the various events and activities, but keep your grades and class attendance as top priorities.

So many events are scheduled, but I do want to highlight Senior Days and Spring Spree.

Senior Days are on March 30 & 31 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Help our guests feel welcome. Spring Spree is a jam-packed, end-of-year week of activities April 25 through 28, so get your teams together to compete and have fun!

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know. You can reach me at 601-635-6375 or e-mail rllee@eccc.edu. The student services' offices are located in the Eddie M. Smith Student Union.

Sincerely,

Randall E. Lee

Randall E. Lee
Vice President for Student Services

WORDS FROM THE STUDENT PREZ

SBA prepares for Spring Spree 2011

What do volleyball, crawfish, and dancing have in common? For those of you who think it's Alix Klineman (Volleyball Magazine Player of the Year) competing in So You Think You Can Dance held in New Orleans, I hate to tell you, but you're wrong. It's SPRING SPREE time!!

As the weather gets warmer, it gives students the extra bit of energy to push through the last few weeks of school. So why not use some of that energy to compete in the most fun event that EC hosts? If you don't know, Spring Spree is a week in April set aside to hold tons of fun activities. More information on the events and schedule can be found in this edition of *The Tom-Tom*.



BISHOP

You may be wondering what the requirements are to be on a team or get a team together. This will give that stress a rest, because there are none!! As long as you are a student of EC, you can be on a team, or get one together yourself. I highly encourage all students to participate!

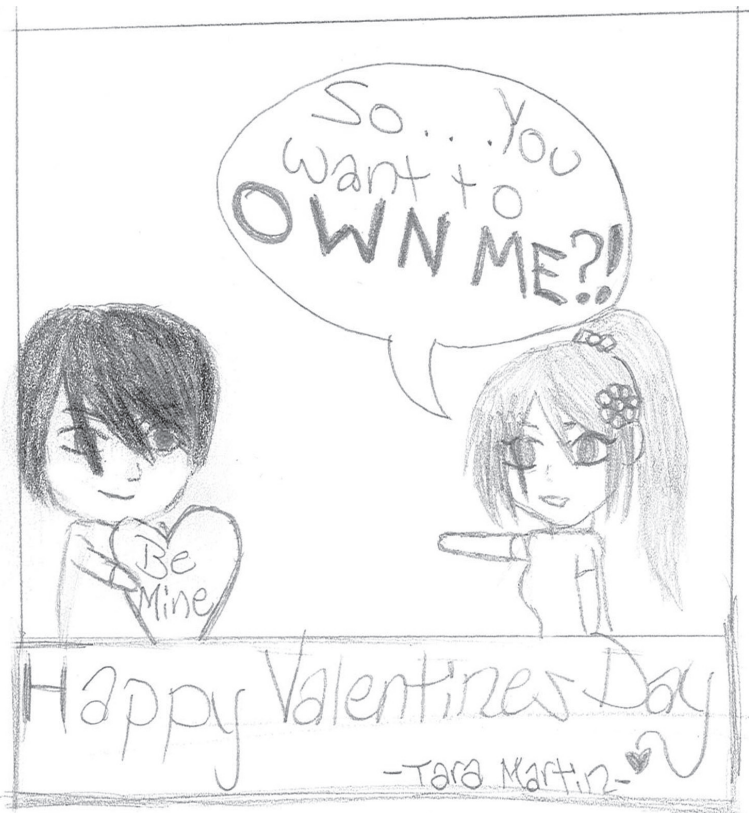
Last year, this event was my most favorite and by far the most fun. Freshmen, try it out!! And Sophomores, if you didn't compete last year, you don't need to leave until you have experienced it!! I hope that all goes well and everyone enjoys the last semester of 2011!

And just so you know, BSU is still going on at 8:31, lunch is still free on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month, and College Worship is at 8:30 on Wednesdays at Clarke Venable!! Hope to see you there!!

—Lindsey Bishop, Student Body President

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS & IDEAS!

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor, question for Dr. Phil or a guest column, please e-mail them to gphillips@eccc.edu.



BY TARA MARTIN, CARTOONIST

The Tom-Tom is a student publication of East Central Community College in Decatur, Miss. It is published by the Office of Public Information.

For more information, contact the staff at P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS, 39327 or by phone at 601-635-2111, ext. 364, or toll free at 1-877-462-3222.

Accreditation
East Central Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the Associate Degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of East Central Community College.

Notice of Non-Discrimination
East Central Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. Compliance with Section 504 and Title IX is coordinated by Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, Vice President for Instruction, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6202, Fax: 601-635-4011, e-mail: lsarkman@eccc.edu.

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Warrior Viewpoints

FROM THE HOUSING OFFICE



PINSON

Apply Early for Housing for Fall 2011

Living on campus is very popular at East Central Community College. If you are a current student and plan to live on campus in the fall and have NOT already applied for housing, you need to do so NOW! Last year we have record en-

rollment in housing. Several rooms ended up with three students to a room. Please prevent this by applying early. Incoming freshmen also need to apply NOW! We have limited housing available. Housing is on a first come first serve basis.

To apply, you need to fill out an application for housing and submit it with a \$60 room deposit, which is refundable with a written request by August 1. If you have a friend that you want to live with, simply list them as your room mate prefer-

ence on the housing application and make sure they list you and send in your applications close to the same time. Don't be left without a place to stay on move in day! Apply now to reserve your room for Fall 2011.

The number for the housing office is 601-635-6213. Sincerely, Marcie Pinson, Director of Housing/Student Activities

OTHER OPINION

Gamber shares story of survival with ASNEC

On February 18, ASNEC, had a guest speaker come in and leave us with tears in our eyes and gave organ donation a new meaning to us all. This guest speaker is Angela Gamber. She is a second year nursing student at Meridian Community College. She explains how a man she never knew could not only change but save her life forever. This is her story of survival and I hope that this story gives you inspiration to be an organ donor.



RACHEL RAMIREZ
News Editor

"In fall of 2009, my life took an unexpected turn with medical problems and life-changing decisions that I never expected at my age. I am a 35-year old wife, mom and nursing student. During that time, God placed some awesome people in my life to encour-

age me, bless me, pray for me and help heal me. I wouldn't be writing this letter today if it weren't for them and for an incredible, unselfish act of generosity by someone I never met: my organ donor. "During the few minutes that it takes you to read my story, another name will be added to the national transplant waiting list. "My second semester of nursing school started off normal. I was worrying over tests, homework, clinicals and criticals. Everything came to a screeching halt on September 8, 2009. I had gone to the doctor and they had done some lab work. The labs showed that my liver enzymes were elevated. I was admitted to the hospital and had gallbladder surgery, which they thought was initially my problem. I had surgery on Sept.11, 2009, and everything went well. On Sept. 14, 2009, I was admitted back into the hospital with a GI bleed. I received eight units of blood and many units of fresh frozen plasma over the next week. My liver enzymes continued to rise. "On Sept. 21, 2009, I was transferred to UAB in Birmingham where I was eventually put on the UNOS

transplant list. On Sept. 30, I had to tell my then 10-year-old daughter that I might never see her again after that day. That was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. My name was listed on Sept. 30, 2009, and on Oct. 2, 2009, I received my liver. I was so sick that they told my husband, Shawn, that I would probably not survive to receive my liver. Shawn was led to read Romans 5:1-5, which talks about suffering producing perseverance, character and hope. It also says hope does not disappoint us. It was confirmed the next day in a card given to him by my aunt and uncle. Romans 5:1-5 was



GAMBER

printed on the inside of the card. I was very blessed to receive a liver so very quickly. According to MORA (MS Organ Recovery Agency), 18 people die each day waiting to receive organ transplants. God worked things in my favor to allow me to continue to live. "Oct. 3, 2009, brought all new problems. I started bleeding again from the same place as before. They opened me back up and repaired the bleed. Unfortunately, my organs began to swell and my incision could not be closed. I stayed open with a device called a Bogot  Bag over my open abdomen. A Bogot  Bag is an IV bag cut open and sewn into your abdominal wall. It was covered with "medical saran wrap". I stayed open for four days. I was medically paralyzed and kept in a coma-type state for those days. "I woke up on Oct. 9, 2009. I have been extremely blessed through this whole situation. God has placed awesome people in my life to bless me and pray for me during this time. Prayers are the only reason I am still here. The doctors actually say that they really have no idea why I am still alive. I tell them all the time that it is due to prayers!! I thank God every day

that I had to have a liver transplant. He showed Himself to me in ways I would have never experienced had I not had a transplant. "I am now back in school and doing well. My liver is functioning perfectly and I have never had any rejection issues. I don't know much about my donor but I do know a few things. He was a 57-year-old man from Florida named Scott. He was shot and killed during a robbery. He was a designated donor and was able to save 7 other lives besides mine. I am always sure to share what I know about him because he is a big part of my life now. If it weren't for his gift, I would have died. I thank God for him every day." You can visit www.donatelifems.org to enroll in the Mississippi Organ, Tissue & Eye Donor Registry. You can also designate your wish to be a donor when you renew your drivers' license. Be sure to tell the attendant at the DMV to place a red heart on your license to indicate donation. Finally, tell your family how important this decision is to you. —Rachel Ramirez, News Editor

OTHER OPINION

Love Never Fails: The 10 ‘Nevers’ of a Relationship

Love presents itself in many forms. In a relationship, whether it involves romance, family or friendship, love is best presented through communication. Communication proves to be a key factor in any loving relationship. The following are 10 "nevers" concerning communication in a relationship. 1. "Never raise your voice." In a relationship, disagreements are inevitable. However, yelling accomplishes nothing. Discussing the topic of disagreement in a calm, reasonable manner saves a great deal of hurt feelings in a relationship. 2. "Never publicly embarrass your friend, family member or special someone." Public humiliation usually leads to harbored anger, which causes a great deal of pain now and later.

3. "Never touch in anger." In essence, never hit or physically harm a loved one. 4. "Never call names." However elementary this may sound, calling names can destroy any relationship. 5. "Never get hysterical and call into account a wrong suffered." As the old saying goes, "What's past is past," and dragging past wrongs only causes more pain, no matter how justified it may seem. 6. "Never use the in-laws or friends to win (or start) an argument." Bringing up friends or in-laws in an argument tends to cause more harm than good. 7. "Never freeze out a loved one." In a relationship, communication is key. When it is lost, a relationship disinte-

grates. 8. "Never let the sun go down upon harbored anger and give the devil an opportunity to destroy a relationship." Always work to resolve a disagreement as soon as possible. Every second spent angry at a loved one is a second that will never be gotten back.



JENNIFER MOORE-POPE
Staff Writer

9. "Never reverse an argument." This particular "never" parallels with dragging past wrongs suffered into an argument. Resolve the argument as quickly as possible. If no compromise can be made, simply agree to disagree. 10. "Never fail to listen to a loved one." After all, one-half of communication involves listening. However, hearing is very different from actually listening. The old adage, "We were given two ears and only one mouth for a reason" directly applies to this particular "never". Love is not perfect because human beings are perhaps the most imperfect creations on the planet. However, as human beings, we are able to work at our imperfections. The preceding

10 "nevers" of communication are a product of a month-long Bible study of the Song of Solomon that I completed with my church. What a high standard! It is my prayer that readers will take these tips and apply them to each of their relationships. I would like to leave readers with the following verse from the Holy Bible: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a —Jennifer Moore-Pope, Staff Writer

OTHER OPINION

How to Keep the Peace Between Roommates, Secure Friendships



MEGHAN MCINTOSH
Staff Writer

We all get a little annoyed every now and then with our roommates. Some of them can be slob, too clean, or some just annoy you after a long period of time with them. Here are some ways a few people keep the peace between their roommates. "We just give each other space and try not to annoy the other one," said Lindsey Adams. "Learn to laugh at yourself and have something to do all the time. Find things yall like to do together," said Ethan Rus-

sell. "Split chores and take turns cleaning the bathroom and compromising between difficulties," said Erin Moore. "It can be hard living in such a small area with someone, but my roomie and I have been around each other long enough to know when one needs to give the other space. We also ask each other before we make any drastic changes to our room," said Latia Peavy. "Communicate with them, let the small

things roll off my shoulders, and if there is trouble let them cool down and talk about it when the time is right," said Famie Wilis. "Well I don't punch him, eat his food without asking, or call his momma bad names, and that seems to work," said Dale Alberts. "Discuss any issues you have right on the spot," said Chris Ficklin. "We gradually learn to know what each other likes and dislikes," said Brianna

Windham. "If little things bug you about your roommate don't get too upset. Everyone is getting used to the transition of living at home alone own your own terms to living with people who aren't going to be just like you. If something really upsets you about your roommate then talk it out. Communication is key," said Ashley Moore. —Meghan McIntosh, staff writer

We Want Your News!

E-mail information about your club/organization to gphillips@eccc.edu with identification and any happenings for the May edition by April 15.

College 101

FASHION FRENZY

Spring Fashion is in Full Swing



RAYCHAL REED
Staff Writer

BY RAYCHAL REED
Staff writer

Ugg boots, scarves, head wraps, Patagonia jackets, earmuffs, and knit toboggans were all popular trends for the 2010 winter season, but it's time to ditch the bundled layers of clothing and get ready for a spring season of fashion!

The trends in 2011 include; florals, vivid patterns, and colorful prints. Some items are making a blast from the past! The craze on the runways is for the seventies style

clothing. High waisted jeans and bell bottom jeans are becoming very popular. Although the bad hair-dos and the disco music haven't made their way to 2011, retro colors and fabrics are everywhere!

Colorful patterns are very trendy for 2011, but be careful not to mix and match too many designs of prints and patterns. Try to stick to one to two colors in order to steer away from a crazy outfit combination.

To accessorize outfits with jewelry, add bangles or big earrings. Flashy rings are also a must-have in 2011.

Instead of killing those feet with stiletto heels, try a pair of wedges instead. These shoes are a new trend for the spring season, and they save your feet from lots of pain!. Toms are very popular shoes. With the wide variety of colors and patterns, Toms are very versatile shoes that can be worn with a dressy outfit or a basic tee shirt.

For a quick and simple outfit, throw on a pair of comfy shoes and grab an over the shoulder purse! Over-the-shoulder bags and cute clutches are much easier to manage than bulky purses.

To explore unique clothing in the fashion world, go for a relaxed look with an oversized sweater and leggings. Military jackets are also coming into style. Try a pair of cargo shorts or gladiator sandals. To keep an outfit cute and classy, stick colors such as navy and red to show that you know how to dress to impress.

With Spring Break quickly approaching, this is a great time to flaunt these new fashion trends!

THEATER TAKE

'Tangled,' 'I am Number 4,' Dilemma hit the big screens

TANGLED

As a Disney fanatic I have got to say Tangled is absolutely one of my favorites. Disney Animation has really out done themselves this time.

The story revolves around a girl who has never left the tower in which she is a prisoner, even though she does not know she is a prisoner. Her "mother" Gothel, Donna Murphy, kidnapped Rapunzel, Mandy Moore, when she was a toddler. Rapunzel has been given the gift, when she sings amazing things happen. Gothel has taken Rapunzel



MEGHAN MCINTOSH
Staff Writer

to keep herself young. But one day a thief by the name, Flynn Rider, Zachary Levi, finds her tower and takes her on an adventure.

The two of course fall in love, I mean it is Disney after all.

I won't give away anymore but the story is definitely a keeper and one to add to any Disney movie lovers' collection. I give this movie five out of five stars!

—Meghan McIntosh, staff writer

I AM NUMBER 4

Being a typical student can get pretty boring sometimes. However, imagine that your entire life was spent running from an alien species whose only mission is to make sure that you are killed.

This is the life of John Smith. He and eight other teenagers are the only surviving warriors of an alien species who were all killed when their home planet was destroyed. Now, living on earth, they are being hunted one by

one. The first three are dead and John is the next in line. His life of frequent running and staying out of the public eye quickly changes when he moves to a small town in Ohio and meets the girl who will make him question his way of life. Now with his powers manifesting and the enemy getting closer it is only a matter of time before John must choose to run or fight.

Starring Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant and Dianna Agron, this movie is definitely one to go see. Its story line will leave you on the edge of your seat.



COLBY HARVEY
Staff Writer

Filled with action, romance and science fiction this movie has something for everyone.

—Colby Harvey, staff writer

THE DILEMMA

This movie is about a man who discovers that his best friend's wife is having an affair. This man's name, Ronny Valentine (Vince Vaughn), and his best friend, Nick Brannen (Kevin James). They met in college and have been close ever since. Ronny finds out that what you don't say to a friend is just as important as what you do. His world is turned upside down when he inadvertently sees Nick's wife, Geneva, out with another man and makes it his mission to get answers. As the amateur investigation dissolves into mayhem, Ronny learns that Nick has a few secrets of his own. Now, with the clock ticking and pressure mounting on the biggest presentation of their careers, Ronny must decide what will happen

if he reveals the truth to his best friend.

Overall, I think this was a good movie. I got aggravated with some of the things Ronny did and did not do. I think that Ronny should have told his girlfriend that he saw her best friend (Nick's wife) with another man, but that's just my opinion. What I was impressed with is that women get an inside glimpse of the logistics of the "bro code" and that every conflict was rationalized and further strategized by football terminology. I give this movie four stars.

—Christina Nollie, assistant editor



CHRISTINA NOLLIE
Assistant Editor

FROM THE SHELF

'The Agency,' 'Uncle John's Bathroom Reader' offer interesting reads



STEPHANIE LUNSFORD
Staff Writer

THE AGENCY: A SPY IN THE HOUSE

Y. S. Lee

Set in Victorian London, A Spy in the House follows Mary Quinn, a young woman orphaned at a young age, sentenced as a thief and rescued from the gallows in order to attend Miss Scrimshaw's Academy for Girls, the only school for girls at the time.

After graduating from school, she becomes a teacher there, but quickly becomes bored with the

simple life. That is when the elusive group called The Agency recruits her. The Agency is an organization of women trained in the art of spying.

Now an apprentice spy, Mary receives her first mission, to infiltrate and spy on the household of a local merchant. Unbeknownst to Mary, this house is full of secrets and the people are not what they seem, not even Mary.

Can Mary find what she needs about the missing cargo ships in

time to get out alive?

—Stephanie Lunsford, staff writer

UNCLE JOHN'S CURIOUSLY COMPELLING BATHROOM READER: 19TH EDITION

The Bathroom Readers' Institute

For every person who has ever had a thirst for useless knowledge comes the 19th edition of Uncle John's Bathroom Reader.

In Curiously Compelling, readers

will find an array of interesting (and not so common) topics such as bathroom lore, myths and legends, politics, and TV or not TV. In the topic "Americana", a short article called "Spirit of '76" details the costs of things during 1976.

Under the subject "Bathroom Lore", a medium article entitled "Uncle John's Stall of Fame" discusses different honorees and their creative ways to get involved with bathrooms, toilets, toilet paper

and the like. Another theme, named "Forgotten History", highlights Hiram Bingham, a U. S. State Department employee who secretly helped thousands of Jews escape Europe during World War II in a long article titled "Bingham's List".

No matter what a person fancies, he or she is bound to find the useless knowledge in one of Uncle John's Bathroom Readers.

—Stephanie Lunsford, staff writer

GAMERS' GATHERING

Call of Duty, Donkey Kong Country Returns, Golden Eye 007 entertain gamers with action, multiplayer ability, long-lasting levels

CALL OF DUTY: BLACK OPS

This first person shooter for the Xbox is a one of a kind. One main way is that it is the first, first person shooter to ever take place in the time period of the Cold and Vietnam wars.

You play as an elite "Black Ops" soldier going around the world performing difficult missions reserved only for the best of the best. In addition to the storyline, there is also four player multiplayer, and a massive online community to play with as well.



TYLER YATES
Staff Writer

Having on average about 7.5 million players online at any part of the day.

This is a hardcore game that anybody that likes shooting can get into, but is recommended for more mature audiences.

—Tyler Yates, staff writer

DONKEY KONG COUNTRY RETURNS

Nintendo has been bringing back the "Old School" and has been doing it well. This is the return of the original, Donkey Kong Country, and has been platformed on the Wii this go around. It is similar to New Mario Bros. in some ways, but unlike New Mario Bros. it has extreme difficulty.

From brutal levels throughout the game to secret unlockable levels that offer almost unbeatable obstacles.

Even though it is about two gorillas going through the jungle trying to get their bananas back, it is a great game for all ages, fun and entertaining, and will keep you preoccupied for a very long time; at least

until the next installment.

—Tyler Yates, staff writer

GOLDEN EYE 007

Perhaps the best game to ever come about in the days of the Nintendo 64, Nintendo decided to bring it back for the Wii.

With an awesome storyline that is based upon the movie and multiplayer that will keep you and your friends busy for most of the week. It lives up to its predecessor.

With guns ranging from snipers to machine guns and everything in between it, including the legendary one shot kill "Golden Gun," it gives you plenty of weapons to win over your opponent with. One of the most unique things about this game is that it is on the Wii, no more joysticks to aim, you aim with the Wii Mote, which is what sets this game apart from many before it.

All in all a great game and definitely worth the buy.

—Tyler Yates, staff writer

TUNING IN

New releases worth hearing

BY TYLER YATES
Staff Writer

THE CREEP

This is the latest installment from "Lonely Island," and as usual it is funny and has a star guest appearance. This time it is Nicki Manaj, a rising star on the hip hop scene.

This song is not a much musical as it is entertaining as it is funny. It basically tells you how to go around in public and look like a creep by doing the dance "The Creep." But, it is a joke not meant to be actually done in public, just for entertainment. Nicki Manaj is a great guest in the song and has some "creepy" stuff of her own.

But out of all the weirdness of the song comes it hilarious plot.

HYMN FOR THE MISSING

This is a song by the Christian band "Red," a usually heavier band, however this song is more melodic. With an Orchestral and piano accom-

pament and amazing singing, this song is one of the most beautiful you will hear coming from a rock band.

The lyrics are more powerful than the music behind them, talking about losing a loved one and trying to cope without them, they touch everyone on a certain level, because everyone has lost someone dear to them.

So if you want to hear a beautiful song and remember a past love one this song is for you.

FIREWORK

This song is by Katy Perry and has been one of her most popular hits yet. It is a great song but it also has a great message behind it, be who you want to be and don't let society get you down. It has a certain level of inspiration to it that you don't see in most songs of the pop genre.

I don't usually listen to pop but this I would make an exception for, you can't beat a great message with great music behind it.

College 101

East Central on American History

By **STEPHANIE LUNSFORD**
Staff Writer

Most everyone now days is familiar with the popular video sharing website Youtube.com. Currently on Youtube is a video titled “California on America.” I advise everyone to watch this video to see where the idea for this article came from. The idea behind this article (and that video) is the declining standards of public schooling. In the video, Kassem G, the guy who created the video, went to the beaches of California and interviewed several people on American history. Sadly, the answers were more comedic than factually correct. The following is several of the question Kassem G asked those he interviewed accompanied with answers that I received after interviewing 50 randomly chosen people, students and faculty. While some answers were right on the mark, others proved a serious lack in the knowledge retained after high school. Enjoy this fun little survey and the answers that were given.

**Note: Caution should be taken when viewing videos by Kassem G.*

Certain aspects of his videos, including language, is not suitable for all viewers.

WHAT YEAR DID 9/11 HAPPEN?
Correct Answer: 2001
Top Answer Received: 2001
Most Notable Answer Received: 2K1

WHAT IS THE CAPITAL OF NEW YORK?
Correct Answer: Albany
Top Answer Received: New York City
Most Notable Answer Received: N and Y

WHO WON THE CIVIL WAR?
Correct Answer: The Union/the North
Top Answer Received: The Union/the North
Most Notable Answer Received: The South

FINISH THIS STATEMENT:
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are _____

Correct Answer: Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. (from the Declaration of Independence)
Top Answer Received: I don't know
Most Notable Answer Received: The right to bear arms. (from the Bill of Rights, part of the Constitution)



IF IRAQ IS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHERE IS THE MIDWEST?
Correct Answer: In the United States
Top Answer Received: Europe
Most Notable Answer Received: In the Midwest

WHO IS THE CURRENT VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES?
Correct Answer: Joe Biden
Top Answer Received: Joe Biden
Most Notable Answer Received: Some white guy Obama picked

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln
Top Answer Received: I don't know
Most Notable Answers Received: People
Your mother
Presidents

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM?
Correct Answer: Star Spangled Banner
Top Answer Received: Star Spangled Banner
Most Notable Answers Received: Liberty
The National Anthem

WHO WAS THE SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES?
Correct Answer: John Adams
Top Answer Received: I don't know
Most Notable Answer Received: Abraham Lincoln

WHO ARE ON MOUNT RUSHMORE?
Correct Answer:

WHICH PRESIDENT WAS INVOLVED IN WATERGATE?
Correct Answer: Richard Nixon
Top Answer Received: Richard Nixon
Most Notable Answer Received: Ronald Regan (correct spelling: Ronald Reagan)

Spring Break is quickly approaching, plans underway



BY **ASHLEY MOORE**
Staff writer

Spring break is coming quickly whether you believe it or not. Most people head for the beach for the entire week and come back drained.

I have a few getaway hot spots and also some other ideas on how to relax during spring break!

Many people think spring break is a time to get away to relax. That's what I always thought. Usually I head for the beach and come back late Sunday to head back to school just in the nick of time. Something I'm going to try

this year is to plan my trip on a weekend before spring break.

I think a weekend getaway to Mardi Gras will be enough for me, plus, I will have a whole week to do a number of other fun, relaxing things!

If you're thinking this sounds like a good idea, but you're worried you'll be bored, I have a few suggestions. Most churches plan spring break activities for youth and college students alike. My church usually hosts a party for all the teens one night, schedules a trip to the movies and also plans a progressive dinner. This takes up a few days of the week

and it isn't as tiring as being away from home ALL week.

Another suggestion would be to plan a day out! Get your group of closest friends and have a movie night at your house. Movie nights rock; though, I don't suggest Sharks vs. Octopus (that was one of the worst movies ever; though it was great to make fun of). I have movie nights all the time, and we usually have a better time at my house than if we had gone out.

Shopping days are also great to plan if you don't want to have a lot of people over at your house.

If you are the die-hard spring

break fanatic, I would suggest somewhere other than the cliché of Florida. I mean seriously, can we not discover a new spring break wonder vacation? I've done my research, and I've found a few hot spots for this year! South Padre Island, Texas, home to the Coca Cola Spring Break stage isn't too far away. This would prove to be a great road trip!

Another closer to home trip would be Gulf Shores, Ala. It is home to a beautiful beach and awesome shopping outlets in nearby Foley.

If you're not looking to travel outside of Mississippi, I've found

a few fun- filled outings. The Gulf Coast has great shopping and dining. Natchez hosts a spring pilgrimage. This is a tour of beautiful homes that emphasize on flowers.

If you would prefer a day celebrating Mississippi history, I would highly suggest the Vicksburg Military Park. They have great monuments and information about the Civil War days.

Whatever you choose this spring break, remember to have fun and celebrate with friends!

OTHER VIEWS

Blaylock influences student, friends future with education

I quit school because I thought I was ready to go to work and begin a family. Five years after quitting school, a friend talked me into getting my GED. Throughout life, I would hear my friends talk about college and what a great time they had. In addition, many jobs I applied for only accepted a college degree. I knew I would never have one and without it, I could never better myself.

So I took it just to see if I could pass. It was not easy after all those years of being out of school, but it was the best decision I have ever made. Deep inside, I've always wanted to go to college, but never had the courage. I always thought I wouldn't be able to study or learn new things.

After mentioning my insecurities to my friend, Vicki, one summer, with the blink of an eye, she had me enrolled in college.

I just agreed to whatever she said and let her get me started with classes. I had 18 hours my first semester, but didn't really know exactly what that meant. It wasn't long before I realized it was a lot of work along with working a full



BLAYLOCK



JAY

time job and having two kids that were involved in several activities. I also became involved in activities of my own, such as, Phi Theta Kappa.

Under the stress of it all, I had meltdowns once or twice a week, but I made it.

After going to college full time for three semesters, and the summers in between, I am proud to say that I will have a college degree. It is something I always dreamed of and cannot believe it is really happening!

Of course Vicki had to push and tug on me a few times to keep me going at my worst times but I am proud to say that I made it! I feel I owe her so much but she says I owe her nothing.

I really do not think Vicki realizes just how she has made me inspire to be more and how happy I have become to know I will have a college degree. It was just her inspiration and kindness leading the way for me. Not just me; she would have done that for anybody, but for her to motivate me just really amazes me. I have always been outgoing and I try to get along with everybody.

With Vicki, I have found the best friend I

could ever find! She taught me that it's never too late to pursue your dreams. If you really want it, you can make it happen.

—Lisa Jay,
Computer Networking major

STOP BEFORE you DROP ...that Class

- Be aware of Refund dates. If you drop a class, you will still have to pay for it!
- Dropping a class may affect your financial aid status for Pell grants and student loans now and in future semesters. Ask a Financial Aid Office employee to be sure!
- Dropping a class may affect scholarships, VA benefits, and other aid programs. Be aware that in most cases you will lose money, and you may lose the entire scholarship or benefits. Ask the VA representative in the Admissions Office how dropping a class will affect your VA funds. Ask someone in the Financial Aid Office to be sure how dropping classes will affect you and your scholarships or other aid programs!
- Dropping to less than full-time status (12+ hours) may adversely affect automobile or medical insurance coverage.
- Have you talked to your instructor about dropping the class? Ask your instructor for advice!
- Is the class a prerequisite for another class you need? Will dropping this class delay graduation or transfer plans? Ask your advisor to be sure!
- Are you working too many hours? If so, is there another solution? More work hours often leads to lower grades.
- If after careful consideration you decide to drop a course, please complete the appropriate paperwork.

PAGES OF THE PAST



TYLER YATES
Staff Writer

FEBRUARY 1981
East Central Community College or ECJC back when it was a junior college has had many things happen over the years.

In February of 1981, enrollment had risen 17 percent from the previous year, Ted Pope and Vicky Hamrick had been elected Mr. and Miss ECJC, and 68 people had earned academic honors the previous semester.

FEBRUARY 1991
In 1991, EC now considered a community college instead of a junior

college had just announced a record enrollment for the spring semester; February had been claimed community college month and Michelle Mitchell and Ashley Barrett were elected Mr. and Miss ECCC.

Looking back at the past reminds us of fond memories, and also makes you wonder what the future will hold, if things continue for EC as it has in the past, we will surely see more people making President's and Dean's lists, and we will see more record-breaking enrollments!

—Tyler Yates, staff writer

Faculty Corner

EXTRAORDINARY STAFF

Phillips shares love of teaching and Warrior spirit

BY JENNIFER MOORE-POPE
Staff Writer

As a child, everyone can recall having a hero of some form. Some of the heroes may have been Power Rangers, NFL Superstars or the Dukes of Hazard. As people grow older and begin planning out career paths, heroes become mentors. Mentors are people who often stand apart from the crowd and leave a lasting impression. They go the extra mile to make others



JENNIFER MOORE-POPE
Staff Writer

feel welcome in a new place, and give help even without being asked. One such person is Ms. Gennie Phillips, the head of Student Publications here at East Central Community College.

In addition to her publications work, she assists the public information office by taking photos, covering campus events, and writing and proofing news releases. She also fills in for the women's housing department when needed. During the 2009-2010 school year, Phillips served as the dorm relief supervisor. She stated, "I enjoyed this because it helped me get to know more of the students on campus."

Phillips bleeds black and gold, and loves to cheer on her Warriors. "I love supporting Warrior athletics and fine arts department. Seeing and helping our students is what I love most about my job," Phillips revealed.

She is also known as her publication students' "EC Mom". Her door and heart is always open to those who

call upon her, and she truly lives up to that title.

One of her students, super-sophomore Ashley Dumas, stated "Ms. Phillips is a very kind teacher who gives 110 percent in everything she does. She is full of "Warrior Spirit" and loves to show it off. She will change your life if you get to know her. EC's Tom-Tom and Wo-He-Lo staff is very lucky to have her." I could not agree more!

A graduate of Forest High School, Phillips received an associates of arts



PHILLIPS

degree from Jones County Junior College, where she also served as year-book co-editor. She went on to earn a bachelor of science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, majoring in journalism with an emphasis in public relations and a minor in business administration. Phillips said she always held a special place in her heart for working with people: "Teaching students about telling people stories is something I have always dreamed of doing. When I first sought my bachelor's degree I went into the field of public relations to do just what I am doing now..." She was greatly inspired by her own student publications coordinator at JCJC, Rebecca Patrick.

Phillips parents are David Phillips and the late Glenda Calhoun Phillips. She has four chihuahuas, also known as her children: Izzie B, Dennie, Chili and Dena Pearl. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, especially on trips with her college roommates and trips

to Destin, Fla. She loves spending time with her family and friends, reading, fishing and listening to live music. Some of her more interesting hobbies include attending auctions and collecting cookbooks. Another exciting fact: Phillips sang at Carnegie Hall in New York City in high school with the Mississippi Honor Choir!

Phillips is truly an amazing person! She literally brightens up the darkest room with her laugh and smile. Her school spirit and love for others are wonderful traits to be admired.

When asked about EC, she stated, "I am truly blessed to be a part of the ECCC family and work with such a loving and caring work family." ECCC is blessed to have such a wonderful person like Gennie Phillips as a part of its staff.

The Tom-Tom and Wo-He-Lo publication staff would like to express their deepest condolences to Phillips during the loss of her mother, Glenda Phillips.

Scarborough Joins ECCC Staff

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Abigail A. Scarborough of Newton is a recent addition to financial aid department at East Central Community College, announced Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, ECCC president.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Scarborough served as an employment services interviewer with the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.

She is a 2003 graduate of Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg and received a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication with an emphasis in News-Editorial Journalism in 2008 from the University of Southern Mississippi.

She is married to Jeremy Scarborough of Meridian. He teaches general music at Newton County High School.

Scarborough is the daughter of Michael and Karan McMullen of Hattiesburg.



SCARBROUGH

McCleon Named Police Chief

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Mitchell (Mitch) McCleon of Starkville was recently selected Chief of Police at East Central Community College, announced Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, ECCC president.

"We are very fortunate to have someone with Chief McCleon's skills and experience as our Chief," said Dr. Sutphin.

McCleon, whose selection was approved at the Dec. 14 meeting of the ECCC Board of Trustees, begins his new duties on Jan. 4, 2011.

A Little Rock native, McCleon currently serves as school resource officer for the Starkville School District. He is a former deputy sheriff with the Oktibeha County and Newton County sheriff's departments and previously served as assistant chief of the Hickory Police Department. He is also a former school resource officer for the Newton County School District.

He is a 1971 graduate of Beulah Hubbard High School



McCleon

and completed law enforcement courses at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead in 2004.

McCleon received his law enforcement certification from the Mississippi Board of Minimum Standards and Training and also holds school resource officer certification from the Mississippi Department of Education.

He has also completed training in basic firearms, defensive tactics, survival systems, school violence and taser.

Jackson Named Adult Recruiter for Home Saver Program

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Matthew B. Jackson of Petal was recently selected to serve area community colleges as Adult Recruiter for the federal-funded Home Saver Program.

In the new position, Jackson is responsible for targeting, recruiting and enrolling adult students who are home owners, unemployed or underemployed and financially struggling to pay their mortgages. He will also provide progress reports of program participants and assist them with graduating from college.

His area of service includes three community college districts: East Central Community College; Meridian Commu-

nity College; Jones County Junior College in Ellisville; and the Mississippi Home Corporation as an advocate for the Home Saver Program.

Jackson previously served as Resource Development and Communications Manager for the Hatties-



JACKSON

burg Area Habitat for Humanity and is a former account manager for WHLT-TV CBS 22 in Hattiesburg. He is also a former recruiter for the Mississippi Air National Guard, based in the Hattiesburg area. In addition, he has several years experience as a support manager at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., in Hattiesburg.

A military veteran, Jackson served in the United States Air Force from 1997-2002.

He is married to ECCC alumna Dr. Nykela (Horne) Jackson, who serves as Education Department Chair at William Carey University. Dr. Horne is a 2000 ECCC graduate and graduated from Neshoba Central High School in 1998.

We Want Your News!

E-mail information about your club/organization to gphillips@eccc.edu. Send photos with identification and any happenings.



ECCC Alumni Association Officials Plan Busy Year: Making plans for the annual Warrior Golf Classic, scholarship awards luncheon, homecoming and other activities are the above East Central Community College Alumni Association officials who held their spring semester meeting recently on the Decatur campus. The Warrior Golf Classic, which provides funding for student scholarships, will be held Thursday, June 30 at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club in Choctaw. The annual AT&T Scholarship Awards Luncheon is scheduled June 16, on campus. Homecoming activities are set for Saturday, Oct. 8. Alumni officials include (seated from left) Dr. Bob Tom Johnson of Forest, immediate past president; Bob Posey of Philadelphia, vice president; Jerald Everett of Clinton, president; Lois Cooper of Decatur, secretary; and Jeanette Thrash of Decatur, recently selected Newton County representative; (middle row, from left) Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, executive director for foundation and alumni relations; Amanda Walton, career-technical counselor; Flo Henley of Starkville, out-of-district representative; Martha Blanton of Carthage, Leake County representative; Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, vice president for instruction and Dow Thomas of Louisville, Winston County representative; and (back row, from left) Bill Freeman of Forest, Scott County representative; Paul Chamblee of Carthage, Leake County representative; Harvey Trapp of Newton, past president; Matt Alford of Forest, Scott County representative; and Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, ECCC president. For more information on alumni activities, contact Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, 601-635-6327 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext 327. Her e-mail address is sholling@eccc.edu.

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT

Young guitarist makes a joyful noise

By BILL GRAHAM
The Newton County Appeal

It's a cold January night at ECCC and the Collegians, the college's rock group, are playing to a packed Huff Auditorium.

Early in the set, as the band is in full swing, guitarist Jordan Vance steps from the shadows for a solo.

His hands run up and down the neck of his white Fender Stratocaster, skipping strings, until he tries a trick.

Hitting the low E string, he grabs the neck from behind, and bends the note, grimacing.

It's a bold move, one usually reserved for the pros, but the young guitarist makes it work, as the solo culminates in a duel with bandleader Tom Carson.

"I've never reached the point where I thought I was good," Vance says later, during a break between an organic

chemistry lab and late afternoon weightlifting session at the college.

The 20-year old started playing guitar in seventh grade, at his father's urging, then took lessons from Carson, the local guitar guru.

"He taught me chords and everything...I just worked my way up," Vance recalls.

Eventually, it clicked.

"Once I finally started learning the chords, and I got to where I could switch between them pretty quick, I realized I was a quick learner."

Jordan cites blues king Stevie Ray Vaughan as a major influence on his playing.

"He's probably the first real guitarist that I loved," he says. "For any blues player, you've got to have soul-feel more than anything. I like the intensity he played with. He had that feel but yet he was still really technical with his playing. He didn't



VANCE

play like any other blues player, but he had a little bit of every other blues player in him."

Making Faces

Speaking of intensity, the tall, soft-spoken red head is known for his high-energy performances, highlighted by his odd facial expressions. He looks like he means it.

"I can't help it," he says, breaking into laughter.

"Everybody makes fun of me...at first it kind of bothered me...then it got to the point where if I try not to do it, I can't concentrate on playing."

"When I practice, I try to make sure I'm getting everything right," he continues. "But when I'm out there playing live, I don't focus as much on being technical, I focus on feeling it more than anything."

Long Days

"Every day is a long day," Jordan says: between classes (Calculus and

other pre-pharmacy courses), part-time shifts at Wheeler's Drugstore, and rehearsals for the Collegians and the praise band at Clarke-Venable Baptist Church, he stays busy.

Vance plans to finish ECCC this semester, then hopes to head to Ole Miss, where he has another year of coursework before enrolling in pharmacy school.

And even though Jordan's not planning on a career as a professional musician, he plans to stick with the guitar playing for the long haul.

"As far as football-that's fun, but when I'm 50 years old, I'm not going to be out in my backyard tackling my friends," he says, adding that he'd like to have a band to play with on week-ends.

"But yea, if there was a tour bus that came through Decatur needing a guitarist," he says, his smile broadening. "I'd hop on in a heartbeat."

Simmons Scholarship Established at ECCCC

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

A scholarship in memory of Dr. Omar Simmons was recently established at East Central Community College in Decatur.

The annual award pays tribute to the late physician for his more than 35 years of medical practice to the Newton community.

Dr. Simmons began his medical practice in family medicine and general surgery in Newton in 1931. He

also served as the Newton Hospital administrator from 1940 to 1967.

He received numerous honors throughout his distinguished career.

In 1969, Dr. Simmons was named Doctor of the Year by the Mississippi State Medical Association and was presented the Robbins Award for his contributions to community service.

He served as president of several organizations, including the Mississippi State Medical Association, Mississippi Hospital Association and East Mississippi Medical Society.

He was a director of the Mississippi Division of the American Cancer Society and board member of the Commission on Hospital Care.

Dr. Simmons was a former president of the Newton Chamber of Commerce and served as elder, Sunday school superintendent and Clerk of Sessions in the Presbyterian Church.

When he retired in 1967, he was honored by the City of Newton with Dr. Omar Simmons Day.

A native of Louin, Dr. Simmons received his undergraduate degree

from the University of Mississippi and earned his medical degree at the University of Tennessee.

He was married to Ruth Toole Simmons.

Dr. Simmons died in 1986 at age 89.

Applicants for the Dr. Omar Simmons Memorial Scholarship must be a resident of Newton County; a pre-med major; have an ACT composite score of at least 25; and be enrolled at ECCC as a freshman or sophomore student.

The amount of the scholarship award will be based on the interest earnings from the endowment corpus.

Scholarship recipients will be selected by the ECCC Scholarship Committee.

For more information, contact ECCC Student Services, 601-635-2375 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 375. The e-mail address is rlee@ecccc.edu.

ECCC Alumnus Childress Holds Book Signing

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Cartoonist and author Andy Childress of Louisville visited his alma mater, East Central Community College, for a book signing on Feb. 1, 2011.

Childress, who attended ECCC from 1987-89, signed copies of his eight self-published books in the Gordon Room of Mabry Memorial Cafeteria during the event.

His work includes collections of his multiple comic strip titles from his "BUBBAWORLD COMIX site," in addition to humorous spins on Halloween and work he described as "Horror Graphic Novel Anthologies." Fellow ECCC alumnus Shane Sullivan of Louisville also contributed stories for the publication.



CHILDRRESS

Childress' books vary in price from \$15 to \$20 in print form. The publications can also be downloaded for \$5 each from his Web site.



Register for ECCC's Cosmetology Program: Among new students enrolled in spring semester classes at East Central Community College in Decatur are Lashana Stevens (left) of Heidelberg and Johnice Taylor (right) of Louisville, who are shown receiving assistance in planning their class schedules from Amanda Walton, career-technical counselor. Both have enrolled in the College's cosmetology program.

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

We Want Your News!

E-mail information about your club/organization to gphillips@eccc.edu. Send photos with identification and any happenings.

Shatter the Silence

SUICIDE

The Secret You Shouldn't Keep

If you or someone you know is

Talking about suicide
Writing about suicide
Thinking about suicide

Don't keep it a secret
shatter the silence!

For help call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK or the Mississippi Department of Mental Health at 1-877-210-8513 or visit www.dmh.ms.gov for more information.

Supporting a Better Tomorrow...Today

Funding for this project was made available through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Hurricane-Katrina Related Youth Suicide Prevention Grants. The views and opinions contained in the publication do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and should not be construed as such.

Hearing the Harm of Headphones

BY COLBY HARVEY
Staff writer

Pretend that you are on a family vacation. While you are riding in the backseat of the car your parents have complete control over the radio. They refuse to listen to the station that you want to hear. Eventually, they turn it to music that you are not exactly interested in and although you beg them to turn the station it's obvious they are not going to. What do you do? For most young adults in the United States the answer would be, "Listen to my mp3 player." Seems like a pretty simple thing to do. However, listening to your mp3 player might, eventually, take its toll on your hearing.

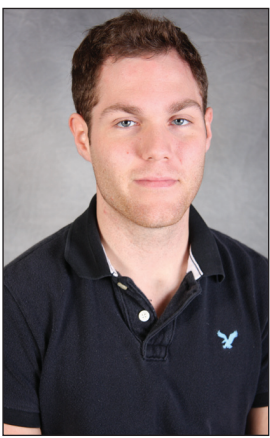
According to the Clarion Ledger, "A stunning one in five teens has lost a little bit of hearing, and the problem has increased substantially in recent years, a new national study has found."

Researchers are not saying that you will completely lose your hearing from loud music from your mp3 player but there can be slight hearing loss in those that continue to listen to their music at a high volume. Researchers say that even though only slight hearing loss is common, slight hearing loss can result in a person losing the ability to detect a whisper or hear all vowel sounds clearly.

In a study by Brian Fligor, an audiologist at Children's Hospital Boston, he estimated that about 200 college students in New York listen to their music at 85 decibels or louder. Eighty-five decibels is about the same as standing three feet from a blender. Now, try standing by a running blender for four minutes and see if it doesn't leave your ears ringing. Researchers are trying to develop headphones that can help reduce the amount of damage to the listeners hearing. Some countries

are even putting safety sensors in mp3 players so they cannot reach dangerous sound levels.

Most teenagers still continue to ignore the dangerous facts about headphones. I myself listen to my iPod with my headphones when I am running or exercising and occasionally the volume is higher than it should be. When asked the question "Do you ever consider the harm your music is doing to your hearing?" East Central sophomore Hannah Peoples replied, "I do not listen



COLBY HARVEY
Staff Writer

to my music very loud. But to all those sitting in class listening to their iPods so loudly that I can hear it clearly at the back of the class, not only is it aggravating but severe long term damage is being done to your hearing!"

Until scientists invent an amazing way to protect your hearing from the harm of headphones, here are a few tips that you can use to help prevent hearing loss. The first tip is to monitor the amount of time you spend wearing headphones, an hour a day should be the limit. The second tip is to never listen to your mp3 player at full volume. Putting your volume level on half of the maximum limit will still allow you to enjoy your music without causing any permanent damage. Just remember, scientists are not saying that you cannot continue to listen to your mp3 player, just take the volume down a level or two.



METROCREATIVECONNECTION

Centralette Tryouts Set for April 14, Mandatory Workshop March 24

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College will hold tryouts for the Centralettes, the dance line for the Warrior Wall O' Sound Marching Band, at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 14 in the South Campus Gymnasium.

A mandatory pre-tryout clinic will be held from

5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 24. Only those auditioning may attend tryouts.

All Centralettes receive full tuition scholarships.

For more information, contact Thomas Carson, Director of Bands, at 601-635-6228. The e-mail address is tcarson@eccc.edu.

SPREE

From Page 1

Campus Gym. "Formal is the key word," Pinson said.

"We are asking students to wear dress clothes such as sundresses, khakis and dress shirts (button up or polo), skirts, etc.," Pinson said. "We do not want students to show up in pajamas or sweats."

Photos will be taken during this event.

The Annual Volleyball Tournament will begin on Monday as well. Times will be announced at a later date.

On Tuesday, April 26, SBA is planning for a type of entertainment to take place in Huff Auditorium. Plans are still incomplete at this time, Pinson said. The Volleyball Tournament will still be going on during this day

as well.

The Annual Crawfish Boil will be held Wednesday, April 27 on the band practice field next to the baseball complex. The crawfish will be served beginning at 4:30 p.m. ECCC Warrior Baseball will be hosting the last scheduled home games at 3 and 6 p.m.

The Annual Spring Spree Games beginning at 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 28 and will be held on the Bailey Stadium. "Games will consist of physical challenges that could result in the participant leaving wetter, messier and gooier than when they arrived," Pinson said.

The annual Campus-Wide Scavenger Hunt will be held Friday, April 29. Each participating team will get a list of clues of things to do or find around campus and the team with correct results with the fastest time will be the winner.

Students are encouraged to begin forming teams for this annual Warrior event. Registration deadline is at noon on Friday, April 22.

To participate in the Spring Spree Games, Volleyball Tournament and Scavenger Hunt, current ECCC students must develop a team consisting of six females and six males with two alternates and a team sponsor. Students can pick up team sign-up sheets in the Housing/Student Activities office after they return from spring break. On Monday, March 21, the signup sheets will be available. Students participating in Spring Spree Games are also required to purchase a Spring Spree T-shirt. T-Shirts will be \$15 and will be available after Spring Break. They may be purchased from a Student Body Association member, Pinson, or any student services staff member.

STOP BEFORE you DROP

...that Class

- Be aware of Refund dates. If you drop a class, you will still have to pay for it!
- Dropping a class may affect your financial aid status for Pell grants and student loans now and in future semesters. Ask a Financial Aid Office employee to be sure!
- Dropping a class may affect scholarships, VA benefits, and other aid programs. Be aware that in most cases you will lose money, and you may lose the entire scholarship or benefits. Ask the VA representative in the Admissions Office how dropping a class will affect your VA funds. Ask someone in the Financial Aid Office to be sure how dropping classes will affect you and your scholarships or other aid programs!
- Dropping to less than full-time status (12+ hours) may adversely affect automobile or medical insurance coverage.
- Have you talked to your instructor about dropping the class? Ask your instructor for advice!
- Is the class a prerequisite for another class you need? Will dropping this class delay graduation or transfer plans? Ask your advisor to be sure!
- Are you working too many hours? If so, is there another solution? More work hours often leads to lower grades.
- If after careful consideration you decide to drop a course, please complete the appropriate paperwork.



SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP DAY

MARCH 26, 2011

Please join us for an amazing day on the Ole Miss campus! Community College Scholarship Day will include campus tours, financial aid sessions, student panel discussions, an academic browse fair, and lunch with University administrators. Scholarship interviews also will be conducted for the following scholarships:

- Community/Junior College Lyceum Scholar Award, valued at \$11,869 over two years (up to 10 scholarships awarded)
- Community/Junior College Leadership Award, valued at \$2,000 over two years (up to 30 scholarships awarded)

To be eligible for these scholarships, students must transfer to Ole Miss directly from a community college for the 2011-12 academic year. Students also must participate in the competitive interview at Community College Scholarship Day, and have at least a 3.0 GPA. A minimum of 48 community college hours must be accepted for transfer. The GPA calculation will include grades from all prior colleges attended.

To register or for more details, visit <http://www.olemiss.edu/admissions> or contact Community College Admissions Counselor Jason McCormick at 662-915-7226.

We Want Your News!

E-mail information about your club/organization to gphillips@eccc.edu. Send photos with identification and any happenings.

ECCC Should Size Healthy with Society

By DANA MCKEE
Staff Writer

It is common knowledge that Mississippi is, according to research, the most obese state in the most obese country in the world. According to CNN.com, in 2009, Mississippi was ranked as the most overweight state with “32.5 percent” of the adult population considered obese by medical standards. Research also yielded that “44.4 percent of Mississippi children ages 10 to 17 are classified as overweight or obese.” A more recent study conducted in June of 2010 that can be found at [http://healthymericans.org/reports/obesity2010/](http://healthymamericans.org/reports/obesity2010/), reports that “33.8 percent” of adults in Mississippi are now considered obese. That means that one out of three people in Mississippi are obese. Due to the fact that obesity can cause many physiological and psychological problems such as heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and depression, everyone should take the initiative to get in shape and try to be as healthy as possible.

Although the task of losing weight seems almost impossible to some people, there are those out there trying their best who inspire us all. ECCC student, Ashley Horne is thirty years old and has five children at home, but has stepped up to the plate and tried to become more healthy. Horne confesses that time is her greatest enemy when it comes to exercising, which is understandable when you consider having to squeeze in time between school, work and five children. In order to achieve her goal, Ashley has signed up for a fitness class here on EC’s campus. These classes are a great asset to students trying to lose



DANA MCKEE
Staff Writer

weight because it provides a time and place that they are required to attend in order to get credit for the class. Horne’s advice to traditional students (ages 18 to 23) at East Central is to try and lose weight right now when it is less strenuous. Ashley claims, “The older you get, the harder it is to lose weight, especially for women.”

Michael Avalon, assistant baseball coach, has recently taken on the role of fitness instructor in the absence of Ms. Lucille Wood. It is his suggestion that anyone trying to lose weight set up a weekly routine of cardio three times a week, as well as, lifting a minimum of two times per week. Coach Avalon also advises that people starting off should go at their own pace until they are comfortable doing more. To his fitness and conditioning students, Coach Avalon suggests a five minute walk or jog to warm up before stretching in preparation for lifting weights.

Dr. Phillip Crenshaw, instructor here at EC, not only sponsors the 5K run every year during EC’s homecoming and wrote his dissertation on “The Motivational Readiness To Change Leisure Time Physical Activity Behavior of Mississippi Community College Students” while working on his degree at Mississippi State University, but he also “walks the walk” so to speak in regards to living a very healthy lifestyle. For example, his weekly routine involves working out six to seven days a week which is recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Every morning Dr. Crenshaw does 50 “perfect push-ups” with a device designed by the Navy Seals and 50 dumb bell curls. In the afternoon, he doubles the morning exercise and also uses his airDYNE machine bike for 10 miles burnining 500 calories. Next, he stretches with leg weights that are 10 pounds each and punches on the punching bag for 20 minutes. He then runs with his Springer Spaniel, Napoleon, for one mile. On Saturdays, he does one hundred push-ups, runs four miles with Napoleon, cuts grass, rides his bike for 10 miles, and then does 100 to 150 curls. Every



DANA MCKEE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students in Coach Michael Avalon’s Fitness and Conditioning class start off every meeting with a five minute walk or jog around the gym.

Sunday, he rides his bike for 20 miles. At the age of 46, Crenshaw promotes physical fitness because it helps avoid several mental and physical illnesses.

“Also, it improves self confidence and even makes you a better employee,” said Dr. Crenshaw. His advice to students and faculty is to “Start slow! Never start out running a 5K without any prior training.” He suggests getting a partner to exercise with and trying to do what is fun. He says, “The ultimate goal is to make it habitual.” The 5K run that Dr. Crenshaw sponsors every year is not just a run but a walk as well and takes place every year on Homecoming Saturday.

Suggestions on losing weight:

- 1.) Hit the gym. EC offers a gym in the Activity Center, located in the Student Union building, that is open to all students on presentation of student I.D.
- 2.) Take a walk. The fitness trail is located next to EC’s football field. This is a great place to go with a partner or maybe just an ipod for company. At the beginning of the trail, there are signs that show different stretches and exercises to increase the intensity of the walk.
- 3.) Eat healthy. Eating at the Grill or a fast food restaurant may be the most convenient route for college students in a rush, but in order to really lose weight, one should consider eating the more healthy foods that the cafeteria offers such as salad, vegetables, and fruit. Another way to try and eat healthy is to keep the dorm stocked with healthy snacks like fruit, yogurt, and pistachios.
- 4.) Take a fitness class. Fitness and Conditioning classes are currently offered at EC. Adding one of these classes will help students to have a designated time to work out during the week, and an extra credit added to his or her degree.
- 5.) Take time. If working out at the gym or taking a fitness class cannot be arranged, set aside a specific time to work out after class at home or if you stay on campus, in your dorm room. Doing simple exercises with a friend such as crunches, push-ups and lunges, along with eating healthier, can still help improve your overall physical fitness.

Crenshaw Nursing Scholarship Established

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

A scholarship honoring Frances Brown Crenshaw of Newton for her more than 43 years of nursing service was recently endowed at East Central Community College.

Crenshaw began her nursing career in 1957 at Newton Hospital, where she served until 1961. She later joined her husband, Dr. Charles N. Crenshaw, Jr., in opening a general practice clinic in Morton in 1963. The couple relocated to Newton in 1977 where they served residents of the Newton community for 23 years.

Mrs. Crenshaw remains an active member of the Newton community. At Newton United Methodist Church, she serves as a Sunday school teacher, member of Faith Circle and Ultreya. She also organizes community blood drives for

NUMC and volunteers with the Wesley Foundation at ECCC.

A native of Meridian, Crenshaw is a 1949 graduate of Enterprise High School. She completed the Rush Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in 1952 and married Charles N. Crenshaw the same year.

Applicants for the Frances Brown Crenshaw Nursing Scholarship must be a pre-bachelor of science in nursing or associate degree nursing major; reside in Newton County; and have a 3.0 grade point average during freshman year at ECCC.

The scholarship will be awarded to ECCC students for their sophomore year. The amount of the scholarship award will be based on earnings from the endowment corpus.

Scholarship recipients will be selected by the ECCC Scholarship Committee.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Frances Brown Crenshaw (third from left in front) of Newton is shown with family members who helped establish a scholarship in her honor at East Central Community College in Decatur. Front row, from left, are Kim Brown Crenshaw, Charles Naurice Crenshaw III, Mrs. Crenshaw and Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, executive director for foundation and alumni relations at ECCC. Back row, from left, are Howard Thomas Crenshaw, Louis Pickett Crenshaw, Jan Crenshaw Frady and Joellyn Crenshaw Brelsford.

ECCC Scholarship Honors Former Student Jessica Cager

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

A scholarship in memory of East Central Community College alumnus Jessica Cager was recently established at the College by Piggly Wiggly of Union.

Cager was an employee of the grocery store when she lost her life in automobile accident in Oct. 17, 2010.

She was a 2004 graduate of Union High School and 2008 graduate of ECCC, where she was a member of the Wall O’ Sound Marching Band’s Color Guard, Concert Choir, Ac’cents Show Choir and Gospel Choir.

The scholarship will be



CAGER

funded in the amount of \$600 per year by Piggly Wiggly of Union, Inc. Any additional donations made to the scholarship fund will be added to the total and awarded in the fall semester each academic school year. The scholarship recipient will be selected annually by the ECCC Scholarship Committee.

To qualify for the Jessica Cager Memorial Scholarship, candidates are required to meet the following criteria: graduate of Union High School; an incoming ECCC freshman participating in band or choir; show financial need; and have a minimum 2.5 grade point average.



Area Guardsman Enrolls at ECCC: Mike Hamrick (left) of Newton is among new students who enrolled in spring semester classes at East Central Community College. Hamrick, a 2010 Newton County Academy graduate, is a member of the Mississippi Air National Guard in Meridian. He is shown receiving assistance in planning his class schedule from Lanette Hanna, academic counselor.

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Warrior Athletics

EXTRAORDINARY COACH

Holliman goes above, beyond

**By RACHEL RAMIREZ
News Editor**

The word “extraordinary,” in Webster’s dictionary means “beyond what is ordinary or usual: highly unusual or exceptional or remarkable.” Neal Holliman, coach for the East Central Community College Warrior Baseball Team, calling him extraordinary would not give him justice.

Actually I do not believe there is a word in Webster’s Dictionary that can describe Coach Holliman. Neal Holliman puts his all into the game that he has played since little league. On and off the field Coach Holliman is nothing but business, with the exception of family time. It is rare to find a coach that is dedicated to a sport and balances out his family along with it. The game of baseball is not just a sport to him, but an art that must be nothing more than perfect. Just like Michaelangelo and the Sistine Chapel, when people look at the Sistine Chapel they see perfection, and Coach Holliman sees the imperfections and makes it his Sistine Chapel.

Coach Holliman is the son of Pam and Charlie Holliman and brother of Charles Holliman. He is a native of Aliceville, Ala. and graduated from Pickens Academy in Carrollton, Ala. Holliman was an Academic All- Conference third baseman and pitcher at University of West Alabama (then known as Livingston University), where he received a bachelor’s degree in physical education in 1995. He earned a master’s degree in sports administration from the University of Southern Mississippi while playing professional baseball for the Meridian Brakemen of the Independent Big South League. Coach Holliman was a first- year assistant to then head Coach Jamie Clark when the Diamond Warriors won the state title in 1998. East Central also qualified for the Region 23 Tournament during all three seasons Holliman served as Coach Clark’s assistant. Prior to becoming head coach of the Diamond Warriors, Coach Holliman was an assistant baseball coach at the University of West Alabama and helped the Tigers to the 2005 Gulf South Conference Championship and a berth in the NCAA Division II South Central Regional before finishing with a school record 45 wins. The 2006 squad finished runners-up for the Gulf South Conference Championship and also advanced to the NCAA Division II South Central Regional. Coach Holliman led his first squad in 2007 to the MACJC State Tournament title and a 31-23 record. In recognition of his team’s success, Holliman was chosen

MACJC Baseball Coach of the Year. The 2010 squad finished runners-up in the MACJC State Baseball Tournament and advanced to the Region 23 Tournament before completing season action with a 39-20 record. The Diamond Warriors were ranked as high as 10th in the NJCAA poll during the 2010 campaign. His overall record is 115-95 and 11th academically in the country.

Some people are looking at these statistics and ask, “What do they mean?” Well you do not have to know statistics or about the game to acknowledge that Coach Holliman has achieved. His love and passion for the game go deeper than most men could and would ever dream of. As Darmaal Moore (sophomore) explains it, “Intensity.”

When asked, “What motivated you (Coach Holliman) to become a baseball coach?” Holliman said, “I enjoy watching and helping other individuals achieve their goals. I like to see people put in the work and effort to become successful and see the result to take place. I always wanted to be a professional baseball player, as most college players do, but my abilities were not as such to allow me to play as long as I desired. However I can truly say that I get more enjoyment out of helping others achieve their goals than I did achieving my own as a player. It is always tremendous to watch a group of players work hard to reach a common goal. It does not matter who gets the credit as long as they push forward, and it is special because it does not happen on a yearly basis.”

According to Jesus Aleman, “Coach Holliman is a great coach. He gets the most out of his players. He is hard working, passionate about the game and would take his shirt off his back for you.”

Coach Holliman’s assistant coaches Michael Avalon and Hunter Vick both agreed, “Coach Holliman is a very driven and dedicated person. He strives to achieve perfection not only in the Warrior Baseball Program, but the college itself. He has worked extremely hard to make EC Baseball a nationally recognized program.”

Coach Holliman is recognized as a driven, hard-working individual that has more than earned the respect from his staff members and team.

He likes to spend time with his family during his free time, including: his wife, Tracy Holliman, the former Tracy Blackburn of Decatur, and their children, Levi, four and Hayes, one.

Coach Holliman’s advice to one wishing to become a coach. “Marry a good wife that is very understanding of the time spent away from home.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Coach Neal Holliman is married to Tracy Holliman the former Tracy Blackburn of Decatur. They have two sons: Levi, four and Hayes, one.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Coaching the Diamond Warriors to a victory is what Neal Holliman focuses his attention on. He strives to make the right call each and every play of the game to ensure a victory for his team.

is here we will see the outcomes of a great program that have been shown to have high expectations by many fans, parents, faculty and students.

Also, be willing to start off in whatever role you can find. Almost all coaches that get in college baseball have to start at very basic levels of pay and duties and work themselves up the ladder. Sometimes it is a long road, but there are benefits to coach-

ing that you cannot find in other professions.”

Coach Holliman has demonstrated measures of being more than extraordinary. The work and dedication that he has given this sport have been more than enough. As baseball season

Former Lady Warrior Mystee Dale Honored

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Former East Central Community College basketball standout Mystee Dale has continued her success on the hardwood at the University of West Alabama.

Dale was named the 2010-11 Women’s Basketball East Division Player of the Year by the Gulf South Conference in addition to her selection on the All-GSC Women’s Basketball Team.

The 5-8 guard leads the Gulf South Conference in scoring with 21.2 points per game, second in the nation. She also tops the conference in free throw percentage by connecting on 86.9 percent of her attempts from the charity stripe. She also ranks in the top 10 of



DALE

seven other categories.

Dale has been honored six times as the Gulf South Conference Player of the Week, more than any other player this season.

Dale averaged 19.8 points, 5.1 assists, 7.3 rebounds and 2.4 steals in helping lead East Central’s 2008-09 Lady Warriors to state and regional competition en route to a 17-10 record.

In recognition of her success, Dale received second team NJCAA All-American, All-Region 23, first team MACJC All-State and All-Star honors. She was also named to the All-Region 23 Tournament Team for the second-straight season.

Dale averaged 19.3 points for the 2007-08 Lady Warriors who won the Region 23 Tournament and advanced to the NJCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Tournament in Salina, Kan. EC finished the successful campaign with a 22-8 record.

Dale is also a former standout at Choctaw Central High School and helped lead the Lady Warriors to two consecutive State Class 3A championships.

Dale is the daughter of Kenneth and Wendy Dale of Pachuta.

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Warrior Athletics

Diamond Warriors Take Pair from Bevill Fayette

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Sophomores Richie Long and Vincent Kortbawi helped lead East Central Community College's baseball squad to pair of victories over Bevill Fayette Community College March 1 in Fayette, Ala.

Long went three-for-four at the plate and drove in two runs as the Warriors rallied for a 5-1 decision in the opener.

Long, a product of Carthage High School, was credited with a double and two singles in the nine-inning battle.

Other hitters were Carlos Leal, of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, two doubles and one RBI; Charles Hill of Carthage, double and single; Tyler Brant of Southaven, double; and Jeremy May of Newton County, single.

Right-handers Tyler Dalton of Winston Academy and Joel McKee of Neshoba Central were on the mound for EC. Dalton allowed one earned run on four hits through six innings and fanned two batters. McKee hurled three scoreless innings and fanned three batters.

In the second contest, Kortbawi, a product of Hale County High School in Moundville, Ala., belted a two-run homer and added a single to lead the EC offense in a 4-3 victory.

Kortbawi's two-run shot came in the fifth inning and tied the contest at 3-3. EC scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning when Hill's double scored Darmaal Moore from second.

Moore, a product of Stone County High School, registered his second single earlier in the inning and stole second, setting up Hill's game-winning RBI.

Other hitters were May and Brant, who had singles each.

Southpaw Bobby Bryan, right-hander Mitchell Wooten and lefty Colton Mitchell were on the mound for EC. Bryan allowed three earned runs on four hits and fanned six batters. He also walked a batter. Bryan is a product of Crossett (Ark.) High School. Wooten hurled a scoreless inning and allowed one hit. He also walked a batter. Wooten is a product of Edinburg High School. Mitchell pitched two scoreless innings. He fanned four batters and walked two.

The Diamond Warriors are led by head coach Neal Holliman and assistants Michael Avalon, Hunter Vick and student assistant Jesus Aleman.

ECCC Diamond Warriors, Northwest Split Decisions

East Central Community College's baseball squad rallied for a 7-2 decision in the nightcap to split a doubleheader with Northwest Mississippi Community College Saturday at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex. The Diamond Warriors were outscored 12-6 in the opener.

East Central (7-5) used a four-run, first inning to take the second contest.

Richie Long of Carthage led the EC offense with a single and three RBIs. He also scored a run.

Other hitters were Jerrod Myers of Jackson St. Andrews, Hill, Kortbawi, May and Tanner Noakley of Ocean Springs, singles each.

Kortbawi, May, Noakley and B.J. Martin of Franklinton High School in Mt. Hermon, La., were each credited with an RBI.

Southpaw Pervis Mann of Carthage picked up the win. Mann allowed two earned runs on five hits through six innings. He also fanned eight batters. Right-hander Wooten hurled a scoreless seventh inning. He fanned two batters and walked one.

In the opener, the visiting Rangers broke open a close battle by scoring six runs in the eighth inning for a 12-4 advantage. EC rallied for two runs in the ninth to end the scoring.

Long had two doubles and two RBIs to lead the offense.

Martin and Tyler Brant of Southaven contributed a double and single each, and Hill also doubled.

Noakley, Kortbawi, May, Myers, Moore and Leal had singles each.

Hill, Martin, May and Moore each had an RBI.

Diamond Warriors Rally for Split with Shelton State

After falling 9-3 in the opener, ECCC's baseball team rallied for a 10-3 decision in the nightcap to earn a split of their doubleheader with Shelton State Community College February 23 in Tuscaloosa.

In the first game, East Central (6-4) managed just five hits – a double by Moore, and singles from Leal, Moore, May and Parks.

May and Kortbawi were each credited with an RBI.

Bryan took the loss. Bryan allowed three earned runs on six hits through four innings. He fanned a batter and walked one.

In the second contest, the Diamond Warrior bats came alive during an eight-run sixth inning, highlighted by Kortbawi's two-run double. A double by Richie Long of Carthage also brought home a run and runs scored following singles by Moore, Noakley and Myers.

Myers led EC with a double and two singles. He also collected two RBIs.

Long had a double and single; May, two singles; Kortbawi and Brant, doubles each; and Moore, Kyle Moore and Noakley, singles each. Kortbawi finished with three RBIs, and Myers and Noakley had two RBIs each.

Mitchell was the winning pitcher. Mitchell hurled five scoreless innings and allowed just two hits. He fanned seven batters.

Diamond Warriors Win Both Matchups in Rush Tourney

East Central Community College's baseball team improved to 5-3 on the young campaign after winning both matchups Saturday in the annual Rush Invitational held Feb. 18-20 at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex.

The Diamond Warriors posted a 5-1 decision over Andrew College of Cuthbert, Ga., in the first game and followed with a 2-1 victory over Lincoln Land Community College, located in Springfield, Ill., in the nightcap.

Brant powered the EC offense in the opener with a home run, two singles and two RBIs. He also scored two runs. Also collecting three hits was Fred Hampton of Nanih Waiya, who belted a double and two singles. Noakley also had a productive outing by pounding a double and a single. He was also credited with an RBI and scored a run.

Kortbawi continued his success at the plate with a first-inning home run, which gave EC the lead for good. Other hitters were May, Long and Martin, singles each.

Bacon held Andrew College scoreless for 6 1/3 innings to earn the victory. Bacon allowed four hits fanned five batters.

Cossich hurled the final 2 2/3 innings of the nine-inning battle and allowed one earned run on two hits. He fanned three batters.

In the second contest, southpaw Mann and right-hander Dalton combined for seven strong innings in leading the Diamond Warriors to the one-run victory.

Mann, who was credited with the win, allowed one earned run (home run) on four hits. He fanned seven batters and walked three. Dalton pitched three scoreless innings and allowed one hit. He fanned four batters and walked one.

Hitters for EC were Myers, Moore and Martin, who had singles each.

Kortbawi was credited with an RBI and scored a run. Moore also scored.

Diamond Warriors Split Decisions at Wallace

After cruising 9-4 in the first game, ECCC's baseball team was unable to maintain a late two-run advantage in the nightcap and fell 9-8 to host Lurleen B. Wallace Community College in doubleheader action Feb. 15 on the Andalusia, Ala., campus.

With the split, the Diamond War-



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Diamond Warriors: Members of the 2011 East Central Community College baseball team and their respective high schools include (seated, from left) manager Scott Ming, Louisville; right-handed pitcher/infielder Tyler Dalton, Winston Academy; outfielder Jerrod Myers, St. Andrews; infielder Taylor Parks, Manchester Academy; catcher/infielder/outfielder Jeremy May, Newton County; infielder Tanner Noakley, Ocean Springs; right-handed pitcher Mitchell Wooten, Edinburg; outfielder Darmaal Moore, Stone County; left-handed pitcher Bobby Bryan, Crossett (Crossett, Ark.); infielder/catcher/outfielder Charles Hill, Carthage; and manager Jake Frasier, Carthage; (second row, from left) head coach Neal Holliman, assistant coach Michael Avalon, right-handed pitcher Joel McKee, Neshoba Central; infielder Kyle Moore, Southaven; right-handed pitcher Casey Wells, West Jones; right-handed pitcher Seth Kidd, Enterprise; right-handed pitcher Brock Ward, Louisville; outfielder Tyler Neal, Edinburg; right-handed pitcher Evan Humphries, Louisville; left-handed pitcher Pervis Mann, Carthage; graduate assistant Jesus' Aleman and assistant coach Hunter Vick; and (back row, from left) infielder B.J. Martin, Franklinton (Mt. Hermon, La.); catcher Carlos Leal, Colegrp San Igancio (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico); third-baseman Vincent Kortbawi, Hale County (Moundville, Ala.); outfielder Fred Hampton, Nanih Waiya; outfielder Tyler Brant, Southaven; left-handed pitcher Colton Mitchell, Lake; first-baseman/pitcher Richie Long, Carthage; left-handed pitcher Willard Bacon, Choctaw Central; and right-handed pitcher Cal Cossich, Ocean Springs.

riors' record stands at 3-3 on the young campaign.

In the opener, Hill homered and singled and Kortbawi contributed two doubles and two singles to lead the ECCC offense.

Other hitters were Long and Martin, doubles each; and May, Moore and Noakley, singles each.

Clinging to a 5-4 lead through seven innings, EC tallied four runs in the eighth to take control of the non-division battle. Key hits during the frame included Martin's two-run double and Moore's run-scoring single.

Bryan and right-handers Ward and Wells handled pitching duties for EC. Bryan hurled five innings and allowed one earned run on seven hits. He fanned eight batters. Ward pitched three innings and allowed one earned run on one hit. He fanned one batter and walked two. Wells hurled one scoreless inning and allowed no hits. He fanned one batter and walked two.

In the second contest, EC scored two runs in the ninth to take an 8-6 lead but Wallace State rallied for three runs in the bottom of the frame for the 9-8 victory.

Neal homered and doubled to lead EC hitters. He also collected three RBIs and score three runs.

Moore, Kortbawi, Martin, Long, Moore, Noakley and Myers, recorded singles each.

On the mound for EC were right-handers Wooten, Dalton, Bacon, Brant and McKee. Wooten hurled 4 1/3 innings and allowed one earned run on five hits. He fanned three batters and walked two. Dalton pitched a scoreless inning and allowed two hits. He fanned one batter. Bacon hurled 2/3 of inning and allowed one hit. He fanned two batters and walked one. Brant also hurled 2/3 inning and walked a batter. McKee pitched 1 2/3 innings and allowed one hit. He fanned one batter.

ECCC Diamond Warriors Edged in Weekend Battles

After a 2-0 start, ECCC's baseball team dropped decisions to Wabash Valley College (9-7) and Meridian Community College (5-3) in games held Saturday at Scaggs' Field on the MCC campus.

In the first contest, the Diamond Warriors held a 6-5 advantage over Wabash Valley until the bottom of the

seventh when the visitors from Mt. Carmel, Ill., rallied for four runs and held on for a 9-7 victory.

EC grabbed an early 1-0 lead in the second when Martin scored on a fielder's choice with the bases loaded.

After Wabash Valley tallied single runs in the second and third innings for a 2-1 advantage, EC rallied for two runs in the fifth on Kortbawi's two-run double.

Wabash Valley responded with three runs in the six for a 5-3 advantage.

EC regained the lead at 6-5 in the seventh, thanks to Moore's two-run double and a sacrifice fly by Long, which scored Hill.

Wabash Valley erupted for four runs in the eighth to take the lead for good at 9-6.

EC closed the gap to 9-7 in the ninth when Long tallied on a fielder's choice to end the scoring.

Hill and May had three singles each to lead East Central sluggers. Martin, Neal and Brant contributed two singles each. Kortbawi and Moore each blasted doubles and Noakley contributed a single. Kortbawi and Moore also led in RBIs with two each.

East Central out-hit Wabash Valley by a 15-9 margin.

Mann and Cossich were on the mound for EC. Mann fanned five batters through 5 2/3 innings and allowed five earned runs on two hits. Cossich pitched 2 1/3 innings and gave up four runs on seven hits. He fanned four batters.

In the matchup with MCC, the Eagles took a 1-0 lead on a third-inning homer by Brian Donohoe of Papillion Lavista South.

Kortbawi tied the contest at 1-1 with his solo blast in the fourth.

EC grabbed a 2-1 advantage in the seventh when Brant scored from third on an infield error.

East Central scored a single run in the ninth when Moore tallied on an Eagle miscue.

Kortbawi homered and singled, May added a triple and single, and Moore collected two singles to lead Warrior hitters. Other sluggers were Long and Martin who had singles each.

MCC also had eight hits.

Mitchell and right-handers Dalton and Bacon were on the mound for EC.

Mitchell hurled four innings, allowing one run on one hit. He fanned six batters and walked two. Dalton pitched 2 1/3 innings and gave up four earned runs on five hits. He struck out two batters. Bacon hurled one and two-thirds scoreless innings and allowed two hits. He fanned one batter.

Diamond Warriors Sweep Jeff Davis in Season Opener

After rallying for a 3-2 decision in the first game, ECCC's Diamond Warriors cruised to a 13-1 victory in the nightcap and swept the season-opening series with Jefferson Davis Community College at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex.

A walk-off walk from Kortbawi brought home the winning run in the opener, capping a two-run rally in the bottom of the seventh.

After Moore singled, Hill hit into a fielder's choice and May singled, the score was tied at 2-2 when Kortbawi came to the plate against JD hurler Stephen Scoggins with one out and the bases loaded. Kortbawi walked, scoring Moore from third for the winning run.

Martin led EC at the plate with two singles.

Hill, May, Moore and Myers had singles each. May and Kortbawi were credited with an RBI each.

Bryan went the distance in registering the victory. Bryan fanned six batters and allowed seven hits in the seven-inning matchup.

A nine-run fourth inning – highlighted by Long's three-run homer and a two-run blast by Leal - led to EC's easy victory in the second contest, which was called after five innings.

Long also doubled and led in RBIs with three.

Other EC hitters were Kortbawi, triple and double; Hill and Martin, two singles each; and Brant, double; and Myers, Moore and Noakley, singles each.

Kortbawi and Leal had two RBIs each. Brant also knocked in a run.

Dalton was the winning pitcher. Also on the mound were right-handers Wooten and McKee. Wooten hurled 3 2/3 innings, fanning five batters and walking two. He allowed one earned run. McKee pitched one inning and fanned a batter.

Warrior Athletics

ECCC Warrior Netters Clip Co-Lin

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The East Central Community College men's tennis team registered a 5-4 victory over the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Wolves March 3 in Wesson.

Warriors winning their respective singles matches included Matt Griffin of Union, who defeated M. Hart, 6-4, 7-5, (8-6); Walt Stinson of Neshoba Central, a 6-3, 6-1 winner over J. McLeod; and Josh Blackburn of Morton, who beat C. Haley, 7-5, 6-2.

In men's doubles, Griffin and Danny Smith of Carthage defeated Hart/J. Shelton, 8-5 and Stinson and Blackburn toppled Haley/McLeod, also by an 8-5 score. Zac White of Union and Jason Loris were blanked 8-0 by M. Huljev/M. Knezevic.

The Lady Warriors were not as fortunate and fell 9-0 to the Lady Wolves.

In women's doubles, Cassie Munn and Lauren Lurk, both products of Newton County High School, fell to A. Lea/K. Case, 8-4, and Madison Nowell of Winston Academy and Carrie Rushing of Newton County lost to M. Case/A. Schimmel, 8-1.

In women's singles, Munn lost to Lea, 7-5,3-6, 1-0 (10-8); Nowell fell to Case, 6-1, 6-0; Lurk lost to Schimmel, 6-1, 6-1; Rushing fell to C. Whitaker, 6-1, 6-1; and Anna Alexander of Little Rock lost to N. Magee, 6-0, 6-0.

Dianne and Pat O'Neill and Kyle Watson serve as ECCC tennis coaches.

ECCC Tennis Squads Fall to Northeast

ECCC's tennis teams dropped decisions to Northeast Mississippi Community College following matches held March 2 on the Booneville campus.

The Lady Warriors fell 8-1 and the Warriors were outscored 7-2.

Munn and Lurk picked up the sole win for the Lady Warriors as they defeated C. Beasley/M. Sykes 8-4 in doubles action.

In other doubles results, Nowell and Rushing lost to E. Burk/C. Whitaker 8-4, and Danielle Pierce of Union and Anna Alexander of Little Rock fell 8-4 to M. Pruitt/A. Rorie.

In women's singles, Munn lost to Beasley, 2-6,6-2,1-0 (11-9); Nowell fell to Pruitt, 6-1, 6-4; Lurk lost to Rorie, 4-6, 6-4, 1-0 (10-6); Rushing fell to Whitaker, 6-3, 6-3; Pierce lost to Burk, 5-1, 6-1; and Alexander lost to Sykes, 6-1, 6-2.

The Warriors garnered two wins in men's singles, as Zac White of Union beat P. Wade 7-6, (12-10), 7-5 and Loris defeated Leo Prudencio 3-7,6-0, 1-0 (12-10).

In other singles results, Griffin lost to B. Nhek, 6-2, 6-1; Smith fell to B. Ferrell, 6-4, 6-4; Richie Ferguson of Newton County lost to W. Bynum, 6-3, 6-2; and Blackburn fell to B. Gardner, 6-2, 6-2.

In men's doubles, White and Smith lost to Wade/Nhek, 8-6; Griffin and Loris fell to M. Murphy/Gardner, 8-4; and Walt Stinson of Neshoba Central and Blackburn lost to Ferrell/Bynum, 8-1.

ECCC Netters Clip Holmes

The home opener proved successful for ECCC's tennis teams, which registered victories over Holmes Community College on Feb. 17.

The Lady Warriors posted a 7-2 win and the Warriors cruised to an 8-1 decision.

In women's singles, Munn defeated J. Holland, 6-2, 6-1; Nowell defeated C. Applewhite, 7-6, (7-5), 6-3; Lurk defeated T. Morgan, 6-2, 6-0; and Alexander defeated M. Petit, 6-0, 6-1.

Rushing and Danielle Pierce (Union) were defeated in their respective matches. Rushing lost to K. Evans, 6-7, (7-9), 6-7 (5-7) and Pierce was edged by M. Lott, 4-6, 4-6.

The EC women won all three doubles matches, as Munn/Lurk beat Holland/Morgan, 8-4; Nowell/Rushing clipped Applewhite/Eaves, 8-6; and Alexander/Pierce defeated Lott/Pettit, 8-4.

In men's competition, Warriors winning their respective singles matches included Loris over K. Walker, 6-0, 6-1; Griffin over H. Herrington, 6-1, 6-3; Smith over M. Parkman, 6-3, 6-3; Ferguson over B. Williams 6-1, 6-0; and Stinson over J. Lyons, 6-1, 6-0. White was defeated in his match with C. Macumber, 7-5, 4-6, 6-10.

The Warriors were also victorious in all three doubles events, as White and Loris blanked Macumber/Walker, 8-0; Griffin and Stinson clipped Herrington/Parkman, 8-3; and Smith and Ferguson blitzed Williams/Lyons, 8-0.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Lady Warrior Tennis Team: Members of East Central Community College's Lady Warrior tennis team for 2011 include (from left) Madison Nowell, a product of Winston Academy; Lauren Lurk, Cassie Munn and Carrie Rushing, all of Newton County High School; and Danielle Pierce, Union. Not pictured is Anna Alexander, a home-schooled student from Little Rock. Dianne and Patrick O'Neill and Kyle Watson serve as coaches.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Warrior Tennis Team: Members of East Central Community College's Warrior tennis team for 2011 include (from left) Danny Smith, a product of Carthage High School; Matt Griffin, Union; Josh Blackburn, Morton; Walton Stinson, Neshoba Central; Zachary White, Union; Richie Ferguson, Newton County; and Jason Loris, Moss Point. Dianne and Patrick O'Neill and Kyle Watson serve as coaches.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC's Khalid Wilson Signs with USM: Khalid Wilson (seated left), a defensive standout the past two seasons at ECCC, signed a letter of intent with the University of Southern Mississippi during National Signing Day Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2011. At right is ECCC head football coach Brian Anderson, who said of the future Golden Eagle: "Khalid is one of the most mature young men I have ever coached. He has always represented himself, his family and East Central with class and humility on and off the playing field. His presence will be missed on our team and on the campus of East Central Community College." Wilson, a 6-2, 295-pound defensive end, registered 123 tackles – including 47 stops for minus yardage – as a member of the 2009 and 2010 Warrior squads. He was also credited with eight quarterback sacks and four blocked field goals. Wilson was chosen the Warriors' defensive team captain in 2010 and received second team MACJC All-State honors. He is a product of OP Walker High School in New Orleans. His parents are Fernell and Barbara Wilson of New Orleans. The signing ceremony was held in the lobby of the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education on the ECCC campus.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Former ECCC Diamond Warriors Now Major Leaguers Honored: Former East Central Community College Diamond Warriors and now professional baseball players Donnie Tabb (second from left) of Philadelphia and ZeErica McQueen (third from left) of Carthage received special recognition at the College's annual First-Pitch Dinner held Friday, Feb. 4, 2011, in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. Both are members of the New York Mets organization and are shown displaying awards signifying their accomplishment. Tabb, an outfielder, was drafted in the 43rd round following his freshman year in 2010, during which he posted a .345 batting average with three home runs, two triples and 16 doubles. The Neshoba Central High School product also collected 49 RBIs and scored 59 runs. He received second team MACJC All-State honors. McQueen, also an outfielder, was a member of the 2008 and 2009 Diamond Warrior squads and was drafted in the 29th round. During the 2009 campaign, McQueen batted .369 and led EC in doubles (21) and stolen bases (22) and runs scored (48). He was also credited with 34 RBIs and four triples. He was an MACJC First Team All-State selection. Hall is a product of Carthage High School. At left is Mac Seibert, regional supervisor for the New York Mets, who served as guest speaker. Also pictured is Diamond Warrior head coach Neal Holliman, who presented awards.



McAdory Tapped by ECCC Diamond Warriors: Louisville High School baseball standout David McAdory (seated center) is shown signing a national letter of intent to continue his career as a Diamond Warrior at East Central Community College. McAdory, a 5-10, 170-pound catcher, batted .412 with two home runs, a triple and eight doubles in 2010. He received All-Division honors and was named the Wildcats' most valuable offensive player following the successful campaign. Also pictured are (seated from left) Justin Reed, Louisville head baseball coach, and Neal Holliman, ECCC head baseball season. Also attending McAdory's scholarship signing ceremony included family members (standing from left) Jackson Hall Dorm Supervisor Mrs. Mae McAdory (grandmother), Jonathan McAdory (brother) and Kristine and Paul McAdory (parents). The signing ceremony was held Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011, in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Warrior Athletics

EC Lands Record Number of Football Signees

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College head football coach Brian Anderson had a big smile on his face after reviewing the record number of players who signed letters of intent Wednesday, Feb. 2 on National Signing Day.

Anderson said he is “very pleased” that 47 high school standouts chose to continue their careers on the Decatur campus.

“This was our first full recruiting season here at East Central, and I’m very pleased with the results,” said the second-year head coach. “We not only focused our efforts on football players but good people and good families. I cannot emphasize character enough as we try to build a program here at East Central Community College. We (coaches and players) are very hungry for ‘Warrior Football’ to be a winner.”

Joining the Warriors in 2011 are quarterback Shelby Moseley (6-0, 190), a product of Southeast Lauderdale; running back Jabir Stephens (5-10, 190) and linebacker Trey Wynn (5-11,

230), both of Tuscaloosa Hillcrest (Ala.); defensive back Ben Brooks (5-8, 175), Northeast Lauderdale; running back Terrance Dentry (5-10, 180) and offensive lineman Park Stevens (6-6, 315), both of New Hope; Brock Hall (6-3, 190) and defensive lineman Josh Martin (6-5, 225), both of Tuscaloosa Bryant (Ala.); linebacker Joey Hamilton (6-3, 240), Tuscaloosa Northridge (Ala.); punter/kicker Dillon Alford (6-0, 170), Leake Academy; linebacker Tarus White (6-1, 210), defensive lineman LaK-



ANDERSON

enneth Weidman (6-5, 250) and wide receiver/defensive back Demetri Sheppard (6-0, 190), all of South Leake; offensive lineman Alexander Lee (6-0, 275), Newton County; offensive lineman Brandon Milner (6-5, 320), Pillow Academy (Greenwood); linebacker Jeremy Morgan (5-11, 225) and defensive back Bobby Boler (6-2, 175), both of Philadelphia; wide receiver/defensive back Steven Gray (5-11, 170) and running back/defensive back Freeman Gray (6-1, 170), both of Tunica Academy; linebacker Courtney Mitchell (5-10, 225), Oak Grove; quarterback Mitch Manley (6-4, 200), Pittsburg (Tex.); offensive linemen Paul Kuirman (6-1, 285) and Remund Jackson (6-4, 300) and defensive lineman Vod Lucious (6-5, 270), all of Tuscaloosa County (Ala.); linebacker Austin Conn (6-1, 225) and defensive end/tight end Zack Conn (6-1, 245), both of Mize; wide receiver Cameron Stowers (6-2, 180), Forest; defensive back Tim Oster (6-0, 190), Ocean Springs; running back Forzetra Ealy (5-10, 200), Union; wide receiver Keivondre Watford (6-4, 200), Tuscalo-

osa Central (Ala.); wide receiver/defensive back Josh Montgomery (6-0, 180), defensive back Za Reese (6-1, 170) and linebacker Larrin Kincaid (5-9, 170), all of Morton; defensive back Dylon Warren (6-1, 160), defensive lineman Jacob Gilbert (6-1, 260), running back/linebacker Martin Wilson (6-0, 200), offensive lineman Dustin Tubby (6-3, 300) and running back/wide receiver Terrance Steele (6-0, 180), all of Neshoba Central; linebackers Johnny Kight (6-5, 240), Zack Vandevender (5-11, 170) and defensive back/wide receiver Dominique Carter (6-2, 180), of all Nanih Waiya; defensive lineman Maha Bradford (6-3, 240), defensive back Joe Brown (6-3, 180) and offensive lineman Shaquille Patrick (6-5, 320), all of Scott Central; and defensive lineman Parker Jones (6-3, 275) and punter Rob Moffitt (5-11, 190), both of Winston Academy.

East Central’s Warriors begin the 2011 campaign by traveling to Northeast Mississippi Community College Thursday, Sept. 1.

Defensive Coordinator leads MS All-Stars

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Blake Frazier, defensive coordinator at East Central Community College, served as head coach of the Mississippi All-Stars in the inaugural Who’s the ‘Mann’ Annual High School Football Classic held Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011, in Baton Rouge, La.

Kickoff for the battle between Mississippi and Louisiana All-Stars was at 3:30 p.m. at Memorial Stadium. The much-anticipated event was billed as “Louisiana the Boot” vs. “Mississippi the River.”

“It’s an honor to be selected to coach in the ‘Who is the ‘Mann’ All-Star Classic with Team Mississippi versus Team

Louisiana,” said Frazier, who joined Brian Anderson’s staff in March 2010 following a successful stint at Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia.

“I would also like to thank Coach Anderson, Dr. Phil Sutphin (ECCC President) and Chris Harris (athletic director) and the rest of the East Central family for the wonderful support they have shown me, and the hard work they have put into East Central Community College. It is also an honor to represent the State of Mississippi in an All-Star game against the State of Louisiana.”

Frazier quickly found success in guiding the Warrior



FRAZIER

defense in 2010, as the squad finished second in team defense (279.2 yards), third in rushing defense (105.5 yards)

and sixth in passing defense (173.7 yards).

Coach Frazier’s staff included several Warrior assistants, including defensive backs coach Keith Houston, who will serve as defensive coordinator; offensive line coach Kyle Watson, who will serve in the same capacity in addition to run game coordinator; wide receivers coach Derek Pouncey, who will serve as quarterbacks and running backs coach and pass game coordinator; and student assistant Jarvis Cole, who will direct special teams. Frazier will also serve as linebackers coach.

Other staff members were Leake Academy head coach Brian Pickens, defensive line;

Wilmington College defensive backfield coach Brandon Lynch, defensive backs; and Brandon High School defensive coordinator Wyatt Rogers, wide receivers.

Representing ECCC’s five-county district on the Team Mississippi roster were wide receiver Cameron Stowers of Forest, defensive end LaKenneth Weidman of South Leake, return specialist Cameron Paschel of Winston Academy, and wide receiver Josh Montgomery and defensive back Za Reese, both of Morton.

Serving as head coach of Team Louisiana was Vincent Mann, Sr., who has 20 years coaching experience on the professional, college, high school

and minor league levels. The 2006 Hall of Fame inductee was coached by Archie “Gunslinger” Cooley, Jr., known as the originator of the spread offense.

A Louisiana vs. Mississippi “Battle of the Bands” was included in the pre-game show which began at 1 p.m. at the stadium.

The all-star game is sanctioned by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association. Former New Orleans Saints running back and Morton native Deuce McAllister is a primary sponsor.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Receive ECCC Baseball Awards at First-Pitch Dinner: These members of the 2011 East Central Community College baseball team received various honors at the annual First-Pitch Dinner held Friday, Feb. 4, in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. From left are freshman outfielder Tyler Neal, a product of Edinburg High School, winner of the pre-season competition, “Warrior Challenge,” and freshman pitcher Brock Ward of Louisville, credited with this year’s slogan, “Practice As If You Are the Worst; Play As If You Are the Best.” Also pictured are award winners from the 2010 season, utility player Charles Hill, most improved player and first baseman/pitcher Richie Long, most valuable offensive player, both of Carthage. Long was also named All-Region 23 and MACJC All-State. At right is sophomore third baseman Vincent Kortbawi, a product of Hale County High School in Moundville, Ala., winner of the annual Home Run Derby competition held during pre-season activities. Other award-winners from the 2010 season but not pictured include catcher/outfielder Quinn Stokes of Carthage, All-Region 23, MACJC All-State and academic award; infielder Allen Johnson of Leake Academy, most valuable pitcher; pitcher/outfielder Ernie Triplett of Louisville, most valuable player; and infielder/outfielder Andre Yates of Grenada, most valuable defensive player. Johnson and Triplett are continuing their careers at Belhaven University and Delta State University, respectively. Diamond Warrior head coach Neal Holliman presented awards. Mac Seibert, regional supervisor with the New York Mets, was guest speaker.

ECCC to Hold Cheerleader Tryouts April 9

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College in Decatur will hold tryouts for the 2011-12 Cheerleading Squad at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 9 in the South Campus Gymnasium.

Pre-tryout clinics are scheduled in the South

Campus gym from 5 to 7 p.m. on the following dates: March 22 and 29; and April 5, 6 and 7. The April clinics are mandatory for all participants.

For more information contact cheer coach Shelley Thoms at 601-635-5355. The e-mail address is shelleythoms@yahoo.com.

NOTICE!

Safety Memo: Natural Gas Safety

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable, efficient, and environmentally friendly fuels in use today delivering natural gas for heating, water heating, and cooking as well as other natural gas appliances. Natural gas for East Central Community is delivered through a jurisdictional natural gas pipeline system. Like any form of energy, though, it must be handled responsibly. East Central Community College is known as a Master Meter Operator and has valves, regulators, and pressure stations on campus. Always remember safety first when operating natural gas appliances of any kind.

Natural gas is a nontoxic, colorless, and odorless fuel that is lighter than air. This lighter-than-air quality is an important safety factor. If a leak occurs, natural gas will mix readily with air and rise into the atmosphere. As a safety measure the natural gas that is piped to your home or business has a harmless odor similar to rotten eggs so that you can easily detect even the smallest amount of gas that might escape.

From design and construction to operations and maintenance, natural gas utilities like ours set high standards to keep natural gas pipelines incident-free.

Damage Prevention

Although safe, tested, and regulated, the system’s most common hazard is from 3rd party damage from excavation. Before any excavations are done, contact Dig Safety - Mississippi One-Call System, Inc. 1800-227-6477 or 811 and call East Central Community College at 601-635-6266. Always call before you dig. It’s as easy as dialing 8.1.1., and it’s the law!

Detecting A Natural Gas Leak

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable, and environmentally friendly fuels in use today, but leaks can occur. There are three key ways to recognize a natural gas leak.

- ~ Look. Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants also may indicate a natural gas leak.
- ~ Listen. An unusual hissing sound near gas lines or appliances may indicate a natural gas leak.
- ~ Smell. In its raw state, natural gas is colorless and odorless. Natural gas utility companies add a substance called mercaptan to create the familiar, rotten-egg-like odor usually associated with natural gas. You should take action even if you detect only a faint odor of natural gas in the air.

Natural Gas Safety Tips:

- Here are some key words to help you remember what to do if a natural gas leak is suspected:
- ~ Leave. Leave the area immediately. Do not try to find or stop the leak.
 - ~ Don’t Touch. Do not smoke, use a cell phone, flashlight, turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any kind of vehicle or equipment that could create a spark.
 - ~ Dial. Immediately notify us. If a leak is suspected call the following number 601-635-6266 or 601-917-6119.
 - Remember - Never try to find the leak yourself!!!
 - To Report a Gas Leak call East Central Community College at 601-635-6266 or 601-917-6119 or Campus Police at 601-527-8939.
 - For additional information, contact East Central Community College 601-635-6266 or 601-635-6298.

Warrior Athletics

Softball Team Splits Pair with Jones County

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

A six-run, first inning propelled East Central Community College's softball team to a 9-2 victory over Jones County Junior College in the first game of a Sunday doubleheader, but the visiting Lady Bobcats rallied for a 5-2 decision in the second contest to earn a split of the MACJC South Division battle.

Brittany Pounders led the first inning, scoring onslaught when her three-run homer gave EC a 5-0 advantage. Summer Alexander and Abbie Joiner also produced run-scoring singles in the inning.

Pounders, a freshman infielder from Southeast Lauderdale High School, added two singles in the opener for a perfect 3-for-3 performance at the plate. She was also credited with four RBIs and scored twice.

Joiner, who also belted a triple and added two singles, finished 4-for-4 with two RBIs and scored two runs. The freshman outfielder/infielder is a product of Neshoba Central High School.

Alexander added a single to her performance. She finished with the one RBI and scored once. Alexander is a sophomore outfielder/catcher from Newton County High School.

Other EC hitters included Lauren Nicholas of Neshoba Central, Taylor Bailey, a product of Bowie High School in Austin, Texas, Haylee Roberts of Enterprise and Kelsi Watson of Smithville, singles each.

Bailey picked up the win, allowing no earned runs on two hits through seven innings. She fanned seven batters and walked one.

In the second contest, Jones County jumped out to a 3-0 lead after two innings and held on for the victory.

Kasie Buckley, a sophomore infielder/pitcher from Newton County, led the EC offense with three singles.

Nicholas was credited with two singles and scored EC's two runs. Bailey and Watson had singles each.

Buckley took the loss, as she allowed four earned runs on eight hits through five innings. She fanned three batters and walked one.

Jones County improved to 15-5 overall and 1-3 in league action following the split.

The Lady Diamond Warriors (8-5, 2-2) travel Tuesday, March 8 to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Game times are 4 and 6 p.m. on the Perkinson campus.

EC's softball program is led by head coach Scott Hill and assistant Kristin Chaney.

ECCC Softball Squad Splits Decisions at Co-Lin

ECCC's softball team began MACJC South Division competition by splitting a doubleheader March 2 at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson.

The Lady Diamond Warriors took the opener by a 3-1 decision and fell 5-4 in extra innings in the nightcap.

Joiner led the offense in the first game with a double and two singles.

Also having productive outings were Buckley, home run and single; Bailey, double and single; and Watson, two singles.

Alexander contributed a double and Nicholas and Roberts had singles each.

Bailey tossed a three-hitter to notch the win. She fanned two batters and walked two in the seven-inning contest.

In the second contest, the score was deadlocked at 2-2 after seven innings. EC scored two runs in the top of the eight and the host Lady Diamond Wolves responded with two runs in the bottom of the frame. Co-Lin scored the game-winning run in the bottom of the ninth.

Joiner and Alexander led the offense with three singles each. Joiner

was also credited with an RBI.

Other hitters were Laurel Burnett of Neshoba Central, two singles; Nicholas and Watson, doubles each; and Bailey, single.

Buckley took the loss, although she allowed no earned runs on six hits through 8 1/3 innings. She fanned seven batters and walked five.

ECCC Softball Team Grabs Two Wins in NEMCC Tourney

East Central Community College's softball squad won two of five matchups in the Northeast Mississippi Community College Tournament held Feb. 25-26 on the Booneville campus.

The Lady Diamond Warriors began competition by hanging on for a 1-0 decision over Josh Logan Community College February 25.

Bailey picked up the win and was also credited with the eventual game-winning RBI when her single scored Brittany Pounders in the third inning.

Bailey allowed just two hits and fanned nine batters in the shutout victory. She was also credited with two hits in addition to the game-winning RBI.

Alexander also had two singles.

Pounders and Nicholas had a single each.

In the second contest Friday, the Lady Diamond Warriors sustained their first loss of the season with an 8-2 setback to Indian Hills.

EC jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning but Indian Hills rallied for four runs in the bottom of the frame and added three runs in the second and one in the third to clinch the victory.

Hitters for EC were Alexander, double; and Nicholas, Joiner and Buckley, singles each.

Buckley took the loss in the five-inning contest. She allowed two earned runs on eight hits through four innings. She also fanned six batters and walked one.

East Central began tournament play February 26 by defeating Southwest Tenn. by a 5-1 margin.

Joiner and Roberts had two hits each to lead the offense. Joiner doubled and singled and had an RBI, and Roberts belted two singles and was credited with two RBIs.

Other hitters were Alexander, double; and Buckley, Pounders and Bailey, singles each.

Bailey was the winning pitcher, as she allowed just one earned run through six innings. She also fanned four batters and walked one.

In the second matchup Saturday, EC was unable to maintain a 5-1 lead after three innings and fell 7-6 to Northwest Shoals, which rallied for six runs in the fourth and held on for the victory.

Nicholas led the offense with two singles and two RBIs.

Singles each were recorded by Pounders, Alexander, Roberts and Watson. Pounders also had two RBIs and Buckley knocked in a run.

Buckley took the loss on the mound, allowing five earned runs on nine hits through six innings. She fanned four batters and walked one.

ECCC completed tournament competition by falling 8-4 to Itawamba Community College.

Joiner belted four singles and Buckley and Pounders each homered to lead the offense. Buckley also singled and was credited with two RBIs. Joiner and Pounders each had an RBI.

Singles each were registered by Alexander, Roberts and Watson.

Bailey took the loss on the mound. She allowed seven runs on seven hits through seven innings. She fanned three batters.

ECCC Softball Team Sweeps Holmes

East Central Community College's softball team improved to 4-0 on the young season following a doubleheader sweep of Holmes Community College.

The Lady Diamond Warriors cruised 10-2 in the opening contest and 11-3 in the nightcap. Both contests were called after five innings due to the eight-run rule.

Pounders' two-run homer in the first inning began the scoring in the opener.

Roberts also homered for EC and led in RBIs with three.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Softball Squad: Above are members of East Central Community College's softball team for the 2011 campaign. Seated from left are catcher Haylee Roberts, a product of Enterprise High School; pitcher Taylor Bailey, Bowie High School, Austin, TX; infielder Chelsea Jones, Enterprise; outfielder/catcher Abbie Joiner and infielder Lauren Nicholas, both of Neshoba Central; outfielder Olivia Maher, East Ascension High School, Gonzales, LA; infielder/outfielder Lena Land, Milton (Fla.) High School; infielders Eden McGee and Laurel Burnett, both of Neshoba Central; and outfielder Haelie Allen, Leake Academy. Standing from left are managers David Galvin of Long Beach, Sarah Breland of Neshoba Central and Jay Ethridge of Newton County; outfielder/catcher Summer Alexander and infielder/pitcher Kasie Buckley, both of Newton County; infielder Brittany Pounders, Southeast Lauderdale; infielder/catcher Kelsi Watson, Smithville; Kristin Chaney, assistant coach; and Scott Hill, head coach. The Lady Diamond Warriors are the defending Region 23 Tournament champions.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Pounders' Homerun Greeting!: Brittany Pounders is welcomed to the plate by her East Central Community College teammates following her two-run homer in the first inning of the Lady Diamond Warriors' home opener with Holmes Community College Wednesday. EC easily won the first contest by a 10-2 margin and cruised 11-3 in the nightcap to complete the sweep. Pounders is a freshman infielder from Southeast Lauderdale High School.

Other hitters were Joiner, triple and single and Nicholas, two singles, both of Neshoba Central; Alexander, double and single; and Jones, single.

Bailey went the distance in earning the victory. Bailey allowed two hits and fanned five batters. She walked one batter.

EC's hot bats continued in the second contest and Pounders once again led the offense with three singles and three RBIs.

Buckley contributed two singles and also collected three RBIs.

Other sluggers were Nicholas and Joiner, two singles each; Burnett, triple; and Alexander and Roberts, singles each.

Buckley went the distance in earning the victory. She allowed one earned run on four hits. She fanned four batters and walked two.

Softball Squad Sweeps Delta

East Central Community College's softball squad began the 2011 campaign in impressive style by taking a pair of contests from Mississippi Delta Community College Feb. 17 on the Moorhead campus.

In the opener, the Lady Diamond Warriors cruised 6-0 behind Bailey's strong pitching performance and completed the sweep with a 6-2 decision powered by a 12-hit attack from the defending Region 23 champions.

Bailey allowed only two hits and fanned five batters in the seven-inning match to notch her first season win.

Roberts led EC's offense in the opener with a triple, double, single



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Burnett Hustles for Triple: Lady Diamond Warrior Laurel Burnett slides safely at third base after belting a triple in the nightcap of East Central Community College's doubleheader sweep of Holmes Community College. EC won the second contest by an 11-3 margin after cruising to a 10-2 decision in the opener. Burnett is a freshman infielder from Neshoba Central High School.

and two RBIs.

Also having productive outings were Pounders, home run and single; Joiner, triple and single; and Alexander, double and single. Jones contributed a single.

The Lady Diamond Warriors jumped out to a 5-0 lead after two innings in the second contest and cruised for the easy win.

EC was paced by Buckley, who earned her first victory on the mound and contributed two singles and two

RBIs. Buckley went the distance in the seven-inning battle and allowed one earned run on seven hits. She fanned three batters and walked one.

Burnett led the offense with three singles and an RBI.

Pounders registered her second homer of the day and also had two RBIs.

Other sluggers included Alexander, double and single; and Joiner and Watson, two singles each.

Warrior Athletics

ECCC Golfers Participate in Co-Lin Invitational

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College's golf team participated in the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Invitational held March 6-7 on the Wolf Hollow course and at Brookhaven Country Club.

The Warrior linksters finished eighth with a 644 (341-323) total. Host Co-Lin took top honors by carding a score of 614 (315-299). Also participating were Miss. Gulf Coast, 616 (320-296); East Mississippi, 619 (315-304); Jones County, 620 (306-314); Northwest Miss., 624 (317-304); Hinds, 627 (323-304); Northeast Mississippi, 633 (331-302); Itawamba, 664 (341-323); and Holmes, 708 (347-361).

Luke Brown of Carthage and Cole Harris of Decatur each shot a 154 total to lead EC. Brown had rounds of 80 and 74 and Harris posted scores of 82 and 72. Brown is a product of Carthage High School and Harris hails from Newton County High School.

Other Warrior golfers and their respective scores include Colby McLain of Neshoba Central, 163 (85-78); Hayden Weaver of Newton County, 173 (87-86); and Crosby McDonald, 174 (88-86) and Daniel Moody, 182

(94-88), both of Leake Academy.

Next up for the Warrior golfers is the Northwest Mississippi College Invitational scheduled March 21-22 at North Creek in Horn Lake and Wedgewood in Olive Branch.

Chris Clark is serving his first year at Warrior golf coach.

ECCC Golfers Begin Season Competition

ECCC's golf team began the 2011 campaign by participating in the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Invitational held Feb. 6-7 at The Oaks Golf Club in Pass Christian.

The Warrior linksters posted rounds of 360 and 342 for a 701 total in the 36-hole event, won by the host Bulldogs who carded scores of 307 and 308 for a 615 total.

Other participating teams included Copiah-Lincoln Community College, 633 (318-315); Northwest Mississippi Community College, 662 (341-321); East Mississippi Community College, 678 (338-340); and Jones County Junior College, 682 (333-349).

Brown led ECCC with rounds of 84 and 77 for a 161 total.

Other scorers included McClain, 169 (85-84); Weaver, 178 (93-85); and Moody, 185 (92-93) and McDonald, 186 (96-90).



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Golfers: East Central Community College's golf team for 2011 includes (from left) Colby McLain, a product of Neshoba Central High School; Crosby McDonald, Leake Academy; Cole Harris and Hayden Weaver, both of Newton County; Luke Brown, Carthage; Daniel Moody, Leake Academy; and Coach Chris Clark.

EXTRAORDINARY ATHLETE

An Extraordinary Athlete with an Extraordinary Attitude

**By ANNA ALEXANDER
Staff Writer**

Matt Griffin has been playing tennis since his days at Union High School, but now, he's moved up the ladder and is playing on the college level. Matt discovered his love for the sport when he first started playing tennis at age 13. Since then, he's only gotten better, and now he plays the men's number three spot for East Central. He is a skilled and smart player, but he also has a good attitude regardless of whether he wins or loses. Matt is extremely likable, enjoyed by all his teammates, and has made friends of all his fellow athletes.

Griffin may have become a bet-



**ANNA ALEXANDER
Staff Writer**

ter athlete since high school, but not everything has changed. He still has the same doubles partner he's had for years, Zac White. The high school history Griffin and White have together make their game even better in college.

"Zac is a great guy, he's always got my back on and off the court...it's been great being on the same team with him through high school and college," says Griffin of one of his best friends. As a freshman at EC, Griffin received the Warrior award along with his long time tennis partner White, which he says, "was a great honor, I felt privileged to represent the men's tennis team."

Griffin is not only dedicated to tennis, but he is dedicated to his studies. A physical therapy major, Matt knows that it takes hard work to stay on top of chemistry, physics, and the other tough classes required for his major. All of the time and effort Griffin has put into studying over the last couple of years has kept him in the honor society Phi Theta Kappa where he holds the office of Vice President of Leadership.

He always puts his education

before his sport, but more importantly, he puts God before his education. Matt has a faith and relationship with His savior that makes him a positive, honorable, and uplifting person to be around. He never has a harsh word to say and is encouraging to anyone with a problem. He's actively involved in the Baptist Student Union as a member of The Way Drama Team and is also a member of the Wesley Foundation. Matt's trust in the Lord's plan for his life is what keeps him going and what gives him the drive to do the best he can at whatever he may be doing, wherever he's doing it.

Whether it's playing tennis, being



GRIFFIN

the Resident's Advisor President, Phi Theta Kappa officer, Vice President of the President's Council, member of Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, member of the Environmental Club, or simply a student (which is hard enough by itself), Griffin gives 100 percent and won't let you down! Any teacher, coach, friend, or family member of Griffin can honestly say that he would do anything for anyone and is one of the most dependable young men you'll ever meet.

Griffin enjoys being outside, spending time with his family and "awesome" friends and "obviously, playing tennis, like all the time", Matt says with a laugh. He's even trying to better a hobby he's had for a while, playing guitar. Griffin has a lot on his plate at EC with playing a sport, a full course load, extra-curricular activities, and not to mention finding the time for family and friends and being an active member of First United Methodist Church in Union. But, Griffin's got it under control. He's sure of himself because he knows God's got his back, and that's what enables Griffin to do all that he does and still keep his "glass half full" attitude.

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it," Griffin says this verse from 1 Corinthians 9:24 gives him a lot of inspiration when it comes to playing tennis, but also anything else he faces in life.

Playing a sport and having the grades, being involved in his campus and having an active part in it, being involved in his community, growing in his relationship with Christ and serving him in every season of life including these busy college years, that's what Griffin is doing. Any 19 year-old college student that makes time to do these things and keeps a positive view on life almost 24/7 is pretty out of the ordinary and a shining example of what all students should aim for. It's been a long road realizing his dream of playing tennis. It hasn't lacked injuries and it hasn't always been filled with victories; however, Griffin's been blessed to keep that dream alive through college even with everything else he's got going on. Griffin picked up a tennis racquet six years ago, and thanks to a positive, extraordinary at-



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Diamond Captains: Selected to serve as team captains for the 2011 East Central Community College baseball season are (from left) Willard Bacon of Choctaw, Jerrod Myers of Jackson and Tyler Dalton of Louisville. Bacon is a southpaw from Choctaw Central High School and Myers, an outfielder, hails from St. Andrews High School. Dalton, a right-handed hurler/infielder, is a product of Winston Academy. The awards were presented by Diamond Warrior head coach Neal Holliman at the annual First-Pitch Dinner held Friday, Feb. 4 in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria on the Decatur campus. Mac Siebert, regional supervisor for the New York Mets, was guest speaker.

ECCC Tennis Tourney Winners Announced

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Jason Hancock of Decatur and Blake Cochran of Hickory teamed to win a men's doubles showdown held Saturday, Feb. 12 at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Hancock and Cochran won top honors by defeating Newton residents Pete Mazzella and Todd Tindle by an 8-6 score.

Division winners were Pat O'Neill of Decatur and Daniel Giles of Union, who defeated Danny Smith and D. J. Townsend, both of Carthage, 8-0; Will Marston of Union and Jason Loris of Moss Point, who edged Matt Griffin and Zac White, both of Union, by an 8-6 score; and Matt Wade and Joseph Cieglo, both of Forest, who clipped Walt Stinson of Philadelphia and Josh Blackburn of Morton, 8-3.

A fastest serve contest was included in the one-day event. Winners were Tindle, 88 mph, first place; Townsend, 84 mph, second; and White, 78 mph, third.

The ECCC tennis team sponsored the competition.

Dianne and Pat O'Neill and Kyle Watson serve as ECCC tennis coaches.

We Want Your News!

E-mail information about your club/organization to gphillips@eccc.edu. Send photos with identification and any happenings.

Warrior Athletics

Warriors Fall to EMCC in Region 23

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Five East Central Community College Warriors scored in double figures but their efforts fell short in an 81-74 loss to nationally-ranked East Mississippi Community College in first-round action of the Region 23 Tournament held at Mississippi College's A.E. Wood Coliseum on the Clinton campus.

East Central, which completes season play at 13-12 under fifth-year head coach Maurice Bowie, rallied from a 42-34 halftime deficit to close within two points at 46-44 with 16:50 left but could get no closer and the seventh-ranked Lions held on to advance to Wednesday's semi-final round.

"We really had to come out and play our butts off to get the lead down to two," said Bowie. "We just got worn down coming down the stretch."

Sophomore guards Kenneth Barlow and Curtis Loving led EC with 14 points each. Barlow is product of Scott Central High School and Loving hails from Wadleigh High School in Harlem, N.Y.

Also scoring in double figures were Greg Hodo of Northwest Rankin, 12; and Bilal Kelley of Strawberry Mansion High School in Philadelphia, Penn. and Kegan Houston of Quitman, 10 each.

Other point makers were Shelton Banks of Morton, eight; and Jimmie Broomfield of Scott Central, six.

The Warriors connected on 28 of 61 (45.9 percent) field goals, three of 15 treys (20 percent) and 15 of 24 (62.5 percent) free throws.

EMCC Warriors Fall to EMCC in State Tourney; Prepare for Region 23

Unable to maintain a late first half lead, the East Central Community College men's basketball team fell 81-64 to nationally ranked East Mississippi Community College in first-round men's action of the MACJC Basketball Tournament at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson.

EC's Warriors (13-11) now have their sights set on the Region 23 Tournament scheduled Feb. 28 - March 3 at Mississippi College in Clinton. The tournament bracket will be released later this week.

East Central, which entered the single-elimination, state tourney as the South Division's No. 4 seed, was unable to answer the barrage of three-pointers from the Lions, the top-seeded North team. East Mississippi connected on 11 of 24 (45.8 percent) treys for the game. The Lions made six of nine (66.7 percent) three-pointers in the second half to extend their 40-31 halftime advantage.

Barlow led EC with 16 points.

Also scoring were Loving, who had 14 points and led in rebounds with 10; Kegan Houston of Quitman, 10; Keondre Hodges of Newton, eight; Sharavarus Wilson of Terry, seven; Broomfield, five; and Banks and Kelley, two each.

The Warriors, who had their last lead at 31-28 with 2:35 left before halftime, made 25 of 53 (47.2 percent) field goals, four of 14 (28.6 percent) treys and 10 of 17 (58.8 percent) free throws.

Warriors Land Playoff Berth Following Upset of Nationally Ranked Pearl River, 75-70

After spotting visiting Pearl River Community College a 38-28 halftime lead, ECCC's Warriors outscored the nationally-ranked Wildcats by a 47-32 margin in the second

half to claim a 75-70 decision and earn a spot in the MACJC State Basketball Tournament at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson.

East Central, which finished the regular season with a 13-10 record under Bowie, enters the single-elimination event as the fourth seed from the South with a 7-5 mark. Pearl River and Gulf Coast share the top spot with 9-3 records and Jones County is 8-4.

Broomfield helped spark the Warrior rally with 17 points, which included two treys.

Also scoring in double figures were Hodges, 15; and Houston, who poured in 12 points.

Other scorers were Wilson, nine; Barlow, eight; Kelly, six; Loving, four; and Banks and Thomas, two each. Barlow was the top rebounder with 11 boards.

Season competition ended for the Lady Warriors who were outscored 52-38 by the playoff-bound Lady Wildcats. EC finished 8-15 and 3-9 under sixth-year head coach Bill Smith.

Sophomore forward Quen-tinette Odom of Scott Central led EC with 10 points.

Other point makers were Shanequa Bufkin, also a Scott Central product, nine; Annie Brewer of Madison-Ridgeland Academy and Inessa Adams of Horn Lake, six each; Ja'Monica Orton, a product of Walter E. Stebbins High School in Dayton, Ohio, four; Bianca Thomas of Sebastopol, two; and Kurlysa Bell of Kosciusko, one. Orton led in rebounds with 11.

EC trailed 26-21 at the break.

Warriors Clip Co-Lin

Houston pumped in 21 points and led ECCC to a key 61-60 victory over Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson.

With the win, the Warriors, who improved to 12-10 overall and 6-5 in the MACJC South Division under Bowie, moved a step closer to qualifying for the MACJC State Basketball Tournament scheduled next week.

EC, which avenged an earlier 64-60 loss to the Wolves, will need a victory over nationally ranked Pearl River Community College or a Jones County win over Copiah-Lincoln to advance to post-season play.

The eighth-ranked Wildcats, who are 19-3 overall, lead the South at 9-2 followed by Gulf Coast (9-3, 16-7) and Jones County (7-4, 12-10). Co-Lin dropped to 5-6 in league play and has a 9-11 overall record.

In addition to Kegan, other EC scorers were Kelly, 13; Loving, 11; Barlow, nine; Hodges and Broomfield, three each; and Wilson, one.

EC, which led throughout the division battle, held a 32-29 advantage at halftime.

In the women's matchup, East Central was outscored 81-55 by the division champion Lady Wolves, who are ranked ninth in the latest NJCAA poll.

Odom and freshman guard Shana Ward of Carthage had 10 points each to lead the Lady Warriors, who fell to 8-14 overall and 3-8 in league play.

Other point makers were Orton, nine; Deidra Hawkins of Dermott (Ark.) High School and Bryant, six each; Bell and Thomas, four each; and Adams and Brewer, three each.

The Lady Warriors trailed 41-24 at the break.

Warriors Remain in Playoff Contention Following OT Win; Lady Warriors Also Victorious

ECCC's men's basketball team kept their playoff hopes

alive by rallying to defeat Hinds Community College 86-81 in overtime in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

The Warriors, who improved to 11-10 overall, are 5-5 in the MACJC South Division and tied for fourth place with Copiah-Lincoln, East Central's opponent. Gulf Coast leads the division at 9-3, followed by Pearl River (8-2) and Jones County (6-4). The top four teams in each division qualify for post-season.

Sophomore guard Houston poured in 26 points to lead the Warriors, who trailed 79-73 early in the extra period before finishing on a 13-2 run to clinch the victory.

Also scoring in double figures were Barlow and Loving, 16 each; and Hodges, 15. Barlow was also the top rebounder with 11 boards.

Other point makers were Broomfield, eight; Wilson, four; and Banks, one.

Hinds held a 38-36 advantage at halftime.

The score was deadlock at 73-73 at the end of regulation.

The close division battle featured 14 lead changes and the score was tied 12 times.

In the women's contest, the Lady Warriors snapped a five-game skid with a convincing 82-69 decision.

Ward poured in 20 points to lead the Lady Warriors, who improved to 8-13 and 3-7.

Also scoring were Hawkins and Orton, 16 each; Bell, seven; Adams, six; Odom and Brewer, four each; Thomas, Lavender, Bufkin and Bryant, two each; and McWilliams, one.

Ward and Williams led in rebounds with nine each.

The Lady Warriors led 41-36 at the break.

Warriors Rally to Beat Northwest 69-64; Lady Warriors Fall 63-59

Free throws made the difference in East Central Community College's 69-64 come-from-behind victory over Northwest Mississippi Community College at Howard Coliseum on the Senatobia campus.

The Warriors trailed throughout the non-division battle until Hodges drained the second of two free throw attempts for a 65-64 advantage with 1:27 remaining. Houston's jumper with 19 second left stretched the lead to 67-64 and Hodges made the game's final two points from the charity strip with one second left to clinch the victory.

EC, which connected on 26 of 35 free throws on the night, improved to 9-10 overall and snapped a five-game losing skid.

Houston led the Warriors with 17 points. Also scoring in double figures were Hodges, 16; and Barlow and Loving, 11 each. Barlow led in rebounds with eight.

Also scoring were Wilson and Banks, four each; and Thomas of and Kelley, three each.

The Warriors trailed 30-22 at halftime.

In the women's contest, East Central was unable to maintain its slim 30-28 halftime advantage and the Lady Rocks came away with a 63-59 decision.

The Lady Warriors held a 59-57 advantage following Orton's jumper with 1:14 left, but a layout by Dequashia Simpson with 31 seconds gave Northwest the lead at 60-59. Following a Lady Warrior turnover, Erica Turner sank a pair of free throws to give Northwest a 62-59 lead with 19 seconds remaining. Hawkins' three-point attempt to tie the contest with nine seconds left was

unsuccessful, and Turner completed the scoring by adding a free throw with five seconds remaining.

Orton had 18 points to lead East Central, which dropped to 7-12 overall.

Also scoring were Hawkins, 13; Bell, eight; Odom, six; Brewer, four; Adams, Bufkin and Williams, three each; Ward, one.

Lady Warriors, Warriors Fall at JCJC

Struggles on the hardwood continue for ECCC's Lady Warriors and Warriors who dropped decisions at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville.

The EC women were outscored 98-77 and the men fell 105-89.

Orton poured in 18 points to lead the Lady Warriors, whose record dipped to 7-11 overall and 2-6 in the MACJC South Division.

Also scoring were Hawkins, 13; Brewer, 12; Odom, 10; McWilliams and Adams, six each; Ward, five; Lavender, four; Bell, two; and Bufkin, one.

EC trailed 54-37 at halftime.

Barlow of Scott Central had 26 points to the lead the Warriors, who fell to 8-10 and 3-5.

Other point makers were Hodges, 14; Houston and Broomfield, 10 each; Kelly and Thomas, eight each; Loving, seven; and Wilson, six.

The Warriors trailed 45-32 at the break.

ECCC Squads Swept by Gulf Coast

ECCC's basketball squads were outscored by visiting Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in MACJC South Division action in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

The Lady Warriors fell 88-61 and Warriors were clipped 63-57.

Orton had 12 points to lead the EC women, who dropped to 7-10 overall and 2-5 in league play.

Also scoring were Hawkins, 10; Bufkin and Odom, seven each; Ward and Adams, six each; Brewer, four; Bryant and Bell, three each; Thomas, two; and McWilliams, one. Ward and Orton led in rebounds with five.

EC trailed 51-27 at halftime. Barlow tallied 12 points to lead the Warriors, who dropped to 8-9 and 3-4.

Other point makers were Wilson, 11; Kelley, 10; Loving, nine; Keondre Hodges of Newton, six; Houston five; and Broomfield, four.

The Warriors trailed 33-26 at the break.

Lady Warriors, Warriors Fall to Pearl River

ECCC's basketball squads dropped decisions to Pearl River Community College on the Poplarville campus.

The Lady Warriors were clipped 66-58 and the Warriors fell 77-66.

Hawkins pumped in 28 points to lead EC's women, who fell to 7-9 overall and 2-4 in the MACJC South Division.

Also scoring were Orton, 13; Odom, seven; and Bell, Bufkin, Lavender, McWilliams and Ward, two each. Orton was the top rebounder with seven.

EC trailed 32-17 at halftime. Loving had 14 points to lead the Warriors, who dropped to 8-8 and 3-3

Other point makers were Hodges, 12; Kelley, 11; Banks and Houston, eight each; Wilson, seven; and Barlow and Thomas, three each. Hodges led in rebounds with six.

East Central trailed 48-29 at the break.

Lady Warriors Cruise Past Northwest;



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC's Bilal Kelley (20) and Millaun Brown of East Mississippi battle for a rebound during first-round men's action of the MACJC Basketball Tournament. Other Warriors shown are Kenneth Barlow (12) of Scott Central and Shelton Banks (31) of Morton.

Warriors Drop Close Decision

Hawkins poured in 24 points and led ECCC's women to a 77-62 thumping of Northwest Mississippi Community College in a non-division matchup held in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

With the win, EC's Lady Warriors improved to 7-8 overall under Smith.

In addition to Hawkins other EC scorers were Orton, 12; Ward, nine; Bell and Odom, eight each; Adams, Thomas and Brewer, four each; and Lavender and Bufkin, two each. Orton was the top rebounder with eight boards.

The Lady Warriors made 31 of 62 field goals (50 percent), two of seven three-point shots (28.6 percent) and 13 of 17 free throws (76.5 percent).

EC held a 42-29 advantage at halftime.

In the men's contest, A. J. Cunningham of Northwest drained a three-pointer with 1:05 remaining to snap a 62-62 tie and the Rangers held on for a 66-62 decision.

Barlow pumped in 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead EC, which dropped to 8-7 under Bowie.

Other Warrior point makers were Kelley and Banks, eight each; Loving in Harlem, N.Y., and Thomas, seven each; Hodges, six; Houston, four; and Wilson, three.

The Warriors connected on 24 of 63 field goals (38.1 percent), three of 14 treys (21.4 percent) and six of 12 free throws (52.4 percent).

EC trailed 28-26 at the break.

ECCC Squads Fall to Co-Lin

ECCC's basketball squads dropped decisions to Copiah-Lincoln in MACJC South Division action held in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

The Lady Warriors had their three-game win streak snapped by the nationally-ranked Lady Wolves in an 84-59 defeat, and the Warriors' hopes for third-straight victory were nixed in a 64-60 setback.

Hawkins chipped in 12 points to lead the EC women, who fell to 6-8 overall and 2-3 in league play.

Other Lady Warrior scorers were Thomas, 11; Brewer, seven; Bryant, six; Ward, Orton and Odom, four each; Adams, McWilliams and Bufkin, three each; and Lavender, two.

EC trailed 45-26 at halftime.

In the men's battle, several Warriors missed three-point attempts late in the division contest and Co-Lin held on for the four-point win.

Barlow pumped in 19 points to lead East Central, which dropped to 8-6 and 3-2.

Also scoring were Houston, 11; Loving and Kelley, 10 each; Hodges and Banks, four each; and Wilson, two each.

EC held a 37-31 advantage at the break.

ECCC Squads Post

Key Division Wins Over Hinds

ECCC's basketball squads registered key MACJC South Division victories over Hinds Community College on the Utica campus.

In the women's matchup, the Lady Warriors rallied from a three-point halftime deficit to post a 79-70 decision, outscoring the Lady Bulldogs by a 47-35 margin in the second half.

Hawkins poured in 20 points to lead EC, which improved to 6-7 overall and 2-2 in division play under Smith.

Other point makers were Adams, 12; Bufkin, nine; Ward, eight; Orton, seven; Brewer, six; Bryant, Bell and Odom, four each; Thomas and Lavender, two each; and McWilliams, one.

In the men's contest, the Warriors held on for a 73-69 victory and improved to 8-5 and 3-1 under Bowie.

Houston was top scorer with 16 points.

Also scoring were Barlow14; Kelley, 13; Banks, 10; Wilson, eight; Loving, seven; and Hodges of Newton, five.

EC held a 34-28 advantage at the break.

ECCC Squads Sweep Division Foe Southwest

Loving's tip-in with 24 seconds remaining provided ECCC's Warriors with a stunning 63-61 victory over Southwest Mississippi Community College in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

EC's Lady Warriors were also victorious in their matchup, as they overcame a six-point halftime deficit for a convincing 81-71 win.

The Warriors, who improved to 7-5 overall and 2-1 in league play, were led by sophomore guard Kegan Houston's 24 points. Loving poured in 20 points.

Also scoring were Barlow, six; Kelley and Banks, four each; Wilson and Thomas, two each; and Hodges, one. Barlow was a dominating presence on the boards with 15 rebounds.

The Warriors made 23 of 49 field goals (46.9 percent), five of 17 three-pointers (29.4 percent) and 12 of 21 free throws (57.1 percent).

EC held a 32-28 advantage at halftime.

In the women's battle, Hawkins, poured in 29 points to lead East Central, which improved to 5-7 and 1-2.

Also scoring in double figures were Orton, 20; and Ward, 11.

Other point makers were Bufkin, nine; Adams, four; Thomas and Odom, three each; and Brewer, two.

Lavender led in rebounds with seven.

The Lady Warriors connected on 25 of 49 field goals (51 percent), two of seven three-pointers (28.6 percent) and 29 of 39 free throws (74.4 percent).

The Lady Bears led 41-35 at halftime.

Scenes from EC's Got Talent 2011



Warrior Scene



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC ‘Capitol Day’ Participants: Proudly wearing “Vote Mississippi Values” shirts while displaying the “Mississippi Values” banner are representatives from East Central Community College, who participated in “Capitol Day” held Feb. 17 at the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson. The annual event is sponsored by the 900-member Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Faculty Association in support of the state’s community and junior colleges. Emphasis this year is to urge lawmakers to follow through on their 2007 commitment to mid-level funding. Mid-level mandates per-student funding for community and junior colleges that is midway between per-student funding for K-12 students and regional public university students. The colleges need \$134 million to completely achieve mid-level funding, which is a gap of \$2,288 per student. From left are sophomore Garrett Moore, Union; Kate Covich, speech instructor; Wanda Hurley, Chair of Social Science, Physical Education and Business Division and economics instructor; Marc McCool, social science instructor; sophomore Anna Alexander, Little Rock; sophomore John Blount, Philadelphia; freshman Raychal Reed, Louisville; Chris Harris, director of personnel services/athletic director/work-based learning coordinator; Christy Ferguson, business technology instructor; and freshman Joe Morgan and sophomore Brian Wiseman, both of Newton.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Sophomore Centralettes Honored: Sophomore members of East Central Community College’s Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall O’ Sound Marching Band for 2010-11, were honored during “Sophomore Appreciation Night” activities held at the season’s final home basketball games Thursday, Feb. 17, in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building. Honorees and their respective high schools include (from left) Lindsey Bishop, Sebastopol; Sami Elkins, Forest; Ariel Doggett, Edinburg; Mary Margaret Kirk, Noxapater; Marley Hanna, Forest; Breshawn McNeal, Newton; Erin Hall, Neshoba Central; and Emily Hathorn, Louisville. Nichol Hillman serves as choreographer/coordinator.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Sophomore Cheerleaders Honored: Sophomores on East Central Community College’s cheerleading squad for 2010-11 were honored during “Sophomore Appreciation Night” activities held at the season’s final home basketball games Thursday, Feb. 17, in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building. Honorees and their respective high school include (from left) Will Emmons, Lake; Dayton Johnson, Neshoba Central; Ashley Amis and Jessie Holloway, both of Newton County; and Dustin Stewart and Drew Smith, both of Louisville. Shelley Thoms serves as cheer coach.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Sophomore Lady Warriors Honored: Sophomores on the East Central Community College women’s basketball team were honored during the season finale with Pearl River Community College Thursday, Feb. 17 in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the Decatur campus. From left are (5) Bianca Thomas of Sebastopol, (11) Xenobia Lavender of Noxapater, (15) Jakiala McWilliams of Neshoba Central, (20) Shanequa Bufkin of Scott Central, (21) Alise Bryant of Northwest Rankin, (30) Sharae Pignes of Olive Branch and (34) Quentinette Odom of Scott Central, who were joined by family members for the special occasion. The Lady Warriors finished 8-15 overall and 3-9 in the MACJC South Division under sixth year head coach Bill Smith. Britta Stephens completed her first season as assistant coach.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Sophomore Warriors Recognized: Sophomores on the East Central Community College men’s basketball team were honored during the regular season finale with Pearl River Community College Thursday, Feb. 17 in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building. The Warriors rallied to defeat the ninth-ranked Wildcats 75-70 and qualified for the MACJC State Basketball Tournament. From left are student assistant Jeremi Jones, a product of Newton County High School; (21) Keondre Hodges of Newton, (14) Curtis Loving, a product of Wadleigh High School in Harlem, N.Y.; (20) Bilal Kelley, Strawberry Mansion High School, Philadelphia, PA; (23) Kegan Houston of Quitman, (31) Shelton Banks of Morton, (12) Kenneth Barlow of Scott Central and (3) Sharavarus Wilson of Terry, who were joined by family members for the special ceremony. EC completed regular season action with a 13-10 overall record and 7-5 mark in the MACJC South Division under fifth-year head coach Maurice Bowie.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Holds Ribbon-Cutting for Helipad: Alton Foreman (second from left) of Little Rock cuts a ribbon to officially dedicate a helicopter landing pad located on the north campus of East Central Community College. Foreman, a retired member of the College’s maintenance staff, provided funding for the helipad, which will provide “a more secure and safer area” for emergency medical transport, according to officials. Medical helicopters previously utilized other areas of campus for emergency transport. Also participating in the Feb. 21 ribbon-cutting ceremony were (from left) ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin; Decatur Mayor Randy Rushing; and Sam Marshall, Meridian Base Manager, University of Mississippi Healthcare Department of Helicopter Transport-Air Care. Marshall said the helipad “provides a rendezvous point when we have critically injured patients and allows us to bring a critical care team to a rural area in Mississippi and then quickly transport them to a trauma center or hospital that is able to take care of that type of patient.” During his comments, Mayor Rushing said the helipad “lets medical personnel know where they are going...and may save crucial minutes that may be the factor in someone’s life being saved.” Dr. Sutphin said community colleges “sometimes are the only game in town to provide certain services. And we have a place that is flat, secure and easily accessible...so pilots can know exactly where they are coming and be safe in getting here.” The lighted, concrete helipad was constructed by the College’s maintenance department.



ECCEC Announces 2011 Hall of Fame

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Recipients of Hall of Fame and other honors were recognized during the annual Awards Day program held May 5, 2011, at East Central Community College.

Selection to the Hall of Fame is considered the highest honor a student can receive at the College, according to Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, ECCEC president, who presented the awards.

"To be considered for the prestigious honor," Dr. Sutphin said, "students must demonstrate exemplary character, superior scholarship, worthy leadership and contribute to the betterment of East Central Community College."

Hall of Fame inductees for 2010-11 include Anna Alexander of Little Rock, Matthew Griffin of Union, Meredith McKee of Philadelphia, Jennifer Moore-Pope of Forest, Monica Vincent of Decatur and Stacy Willis of Union.

ANNA ALEXANDER

Alexander is a home-schooled graduate and the daughter of George and Cindy Alexander of Little Rock.

A President's List scholar, Alexander serves as president of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, vice president of the Student Body Association and president of the President's Council. She was selected the HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day-Working Towards Academic Excellence) Student of the Year and was the recipient of

the Dr. Margaret Mosal Memorial Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship, Pleas Clayton and Amanda Breazeale Blount Memorial Scholarship, Sam Walton Community Scholarship and the PEO Star Scholarship.

Alexander was selected maid of honor during 2010 Homecoming festivities, was a freshman class favorite and served as secretary of the freshman class. She received first-place honors during state Phi Beta Lambda competition in the Individual Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure Team categories.

In addition, she is a member of the Baptist Student Union Council, "The Way" BSU ministry team, concert choir, EC Environmental Club, Lady Warrior tennis team, Warrior Corps, Wesley Foundation and The Tom Tom newspaper staff.

One of those nominating her wrote, "Anna is a remarkable student. She excels in and out of the classroom. She manages to keep a 4.0 grade point average while being very active in numerous clubs and organizations on campus. Anna is very respectful and kind and always willing to help whenever and whomever may be in need. She is a great Christian student with a tremendous attitude that she displays towards faculty, staff and students. ECCEC is honored to have Anna as a student."

MATT GRIFFIN

Griffin is a graduate of Union High

School and is the son of William and Nona Griffin of Union.

A President's and Dean's List scholar, Griffin serves as president of the resident advisors council, vice president of the President's Council and co-vice president of leadership for Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. He is the recipient of the John L. Neill Memorial Scholarship, received the Warrior Award for Men's Tennis and won first place in the Small Business Management Planning category of the state Phi Beta Lambda competition.

Griffin is a member of the Baptist Student Union ministry team, "The Way," was selected a freshman class favorite and was chosen a beau in the EC beauty pageant.

In addition, he is a member of the Wesley Foundation, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Environmental Club and the ECCEC Players.

One of those nominating him wrote, "He displays great leadership in numerous positions in clubs and organizations at ECCEC. Matt is not a stranger to any student or faculty/staff member. He excels in the classroom and in the individual that he is. He has a warm care for those around him. Matt is a respected campus leader that ECCEC is blessed to have!"

MEREDITH MCKEE

McKee is a graduate of Neshoba Central High School and is the

See HONOREES, Page 6



ALEXANDER



GRIFFIN



MCKEE



MOORE-POPE



VINCENT



WILLIS



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

State Champions!

East Central Community College's softball team celebrates after defeating Mississippi Gulf Coast 7-6 in eight innings in the finals of the MACJC State Softball Tournament held Friday, April 29 on the Perkinston campus. It's the first state title for the Lady Diamond Warriors who improved to 32-11 under head coach Scott Hill and assistant Kristin Chaney. The talented squad has now set its sights on defending their Region 23 Tournament title. Competition in the three-day event begins Thursday at Traceway Park in Clinton.

ECCEC Graduation Schedule May 14 at Neshoba Coliseum

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

CANDIDATES FOR MAY GRADUATION

More than 450 graduates are scheduled to receive diplomas Saturday, May 14, 2011, when East Central Community College holds its 82nd Commencement beginning at 11 a.m. in the Neshoba County Coliseum in Philadelphia.

Included in the total are those who completed degree requirements following the 2010 summer and fall terms, according to Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, Vice President for Instruction.

Those participating in the program include graduating sophomores Matthew Griffin of Union, who will give the invocation; Anna Alexander of Little Rock, commencement speaker; and Kiswana Burnside of Lake, benediction. Tyler Comans of Sebasatopol, Laura Gunn of Forest, Jessy Harrison of Little Rock, Courtney Lanier and Monica Vincent, both of Decatur; and Chad Mangum of West Point will present the musical selection "The Climb."

Dr. Sparkman will present candidates for graduation and College President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin will award degrees and certificates to the following:

ATTALA: Kayla M. Reeves, Koscusko; and Sammie E. Kelly, McCool;
CLARKE: Chelsea Leigh Jones, Enterprise; and Carnell T. Gray, Quitman;
CLAY: Latoria E. Jefferson, Cedarbluff;
COAHOMA: Christina A. Roberts, Lyon;
DESOTO: Tyler Brant, Southaven;
FORREST: Angie A. Dillon, Hattiesburg; and Mandy Saxton, Petal;
HINDS: Tonya Darnell Curry, Clinton; and Jerrod Myers, Jackson;
JACKSON: Cal Cossich, Ocean Springs;
JASPER: Annie Kaye Agee, Bay Springs; Jason Ray Roberts, Louin; and Christopher Adam Sims, Rose Hill;
KEMPER: Veronica S. McDonald, DeKalb; and Jason Brian Copeland, Preston;
LAUDERDALE: Richard W. Ferguson, Jr., Bailey; Bobby Charles Branning, Collinsville; Sarah C. Moore, Lauderdale; Jermaine Grace, Marion; Sonia Payne Barney, Ashley N.
See GRADS, Page 14

Tom-Tom Staff Receives Awards

STAFF REPORTS

ECCEC's student newspaper, *The Tom-Tom*, was among the top student newspapers in the state recognized during the 2011 O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference held March 24 at historic Duling Hall in Jackson. East Central students earned 10 awards in the Mississippi Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest in the Community and Junior College Division, including second place in the general excellence award, the top award granted for student newspapers in the community college division for the state. *The Tom-Tom* also re-

ceived two first place, three additional second place and four third place awards in the competition.

In the Better Newspaper Competition, members of the staff earned the following awards:

► A first place finish for sophomore Rachel Ramirez of Forest, Best General Interest Column.

► The staff was also honored with first place plaque for Best Front Page.

► Sophomore Jennifer Moore-Pope of Forest was recognized with a second place award for Best Feature Story.

► Sophomore Polly Vaughn

of Decatur was recognized with a second place award for Best General News Photograph.

► The staff also receiving second place honors for Best Miscellaneous Advertisement.

► Freshman Raychal Reed of Louisville claimed a third place prize in the Best Sports Feature Story Category.

► The staff also won third place honors for Best Layout & Design, Best Editorials and Best Single Advertisement.

The *Tom-Tom* staff is led by Ramirez, news editor; Brittany Lovern-King of Edinburg, design editor; Christina Nollie of Carthage, assistant editor; and Gennie Phillips, adviser.



Award-Winning Newspaper Staff: Members of The Tom-Tom staff display various awards presented at the O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference held March 24, 2011, at historic Duling Hall in Jackson. Pictured are: (front row, from left) Raychal Reed of Louisville; Ashley Moore, Meghan McIntosh and Christina Nollie, all of Carthage; Jennifer Moore-Pope of Forest; and Stephanie Lunsford of Collinsville; and (back row, from left) Gennie Phillips, adviser; Tyler Yates of Decatur; and Colby Harvey of Lawrence.

Page Two

FEATURE TEACHER

Hurtt shares thoughts on teaching, personal tidbits

BY CHRISTINA NOLLIE
Assistant Editor

Q: Why did you decide to go into the teaching profession?

A: I love working with students. It is so rewarding to see the accomplishments of my students.

Q: Did you experience any benefits or disappointments which you did not foresee when you first became a teacher?

A: Some benefits: Seeing a student master a skill, pass a test, learn to become a leader. Seeing a student walk across the stage at graduation is the most awesome feeling.

Q: What has changed the most since you began teaching?

A: Technology has changed from typewriters to computers and distance learning has come about.

Q: What have been the most difficult and also the most rewarding parts of your career?

A: The most difficult has been when a student of mine suffered domestic violence. The reward was that we were able to seek help for the student. She graduated and went to work as a single mom.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A: Teaching students new concepts and acknowledging their accomplishments.

Q: What advice would you



HURTT

give to a new teaches who is just starting out?

A: Start each day with prayer. Use a variety of methods to teach your students. Use constructive criticism.

Q: Is there any one particular day or incident during your career which stands out above all others?

A: Graduation day- I love to see students accomplish their goals.

Q: How is high school today different than when you graduated?

A: More course objectives are required of students today.

Q: Favorite TV show?

A: College and professional football games.

Q: Favorite restaurant?

A: Olive Garden.

STRIKE A POSE



GUNNAR GENTRY

SOPHOMORE • COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

1. What's your favorite thing to do? *Hanging out with Friends*
2. What's your favorite color? *Aqua*
3. M&M Peanut or plain? *Definitely peanut*
4. Summer or Winter? *Spring*
5. What kind of Kool-Aid do u like? *Lemonade*
6. Favorite place to eat? *Chinese*
7. Cartoon Character? *Brian from Family Guy*
8. Favorite scary movie? *Incidious*
9. Favorite fair ride? *Spaceship 3000*
10. Cat or dog? *Cat*

STRIKE A POSE



JOHN PRIEGO

FRESHMAN • PRE-MED

1. Do u like Judge Judy? *No. I would punch her.*
2. What's your favorite flower? *Orchid*
3. Name of your child? *Mia Lashae*
4. Have you ever been in a baRroom fight? *No*
5. Have you ever been in a tornado? *No, I've chased one though!*
6. Are you addicted to Facebook? *No... Yes... Wait... Am I in denial?!?!*
7. Netflix or Redbox? *Netflix!!!*
8. Favorite color? *Probably, red*
9. Iphone or android? *Iphone*
10. Books or movies? *If I have the time books!*

If you or someone you know is

Talking about suicide
Writing about suicide
Thinking about suicide

*Don't keep it a secret
shatter the silence!*

For help call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
at 1-800-273-TALK or the Mississippi Department
of Mental Health at 1-877-210-8513 or visit
www.dmh.ms.gov for more information.

Supporting a Better Tomorrow...Today



Funding for this project was made available through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Hurricane-Katrina Related Youth Suicide Prevention Grants. The views and opinions contained in the publication do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and should not be construed as such.

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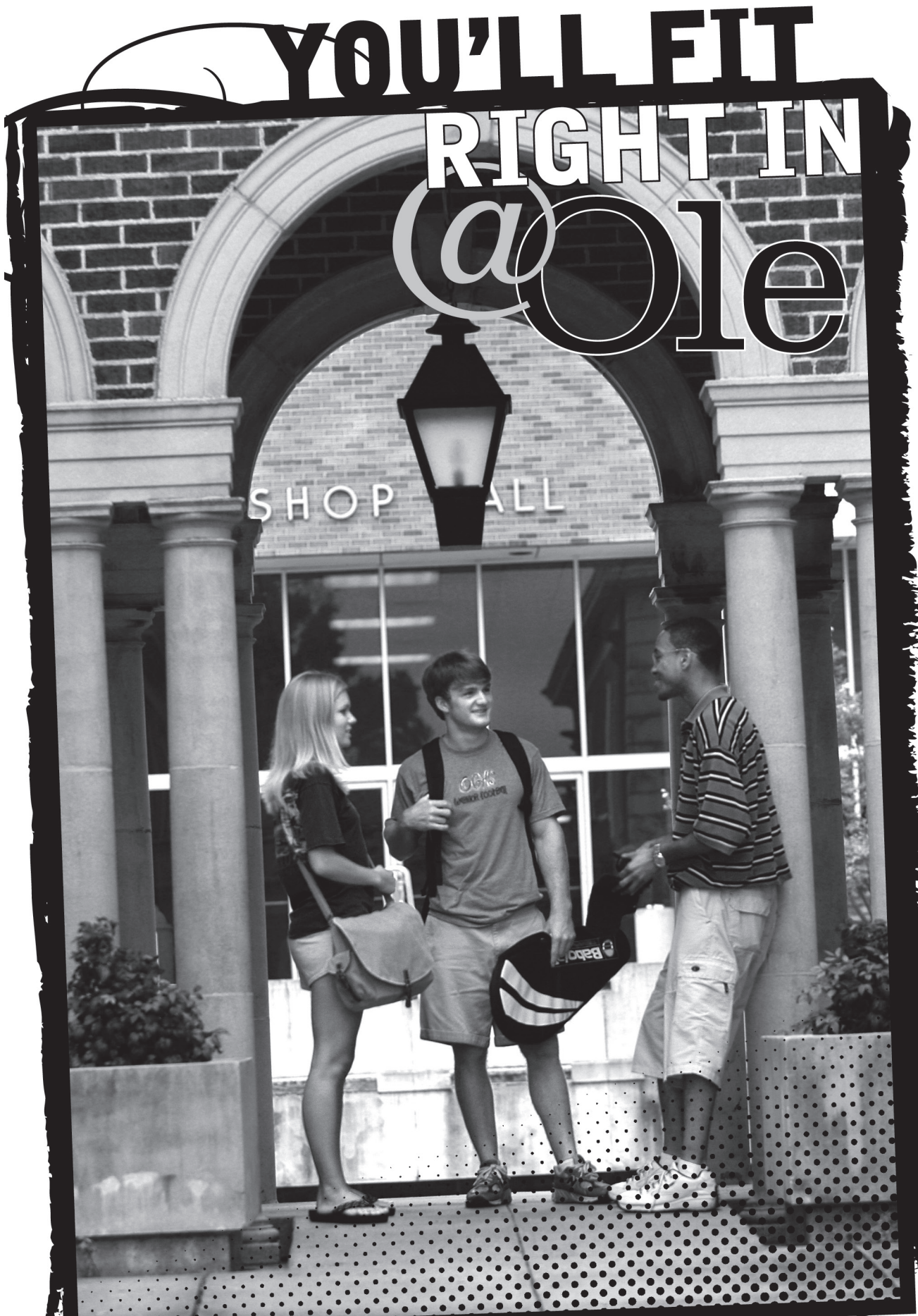
SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Concert Choir Holds Performance: Above are members of the ECCC's Concert Choir who presented their spring concert April 19. Concert selections included "Cantate Domino," by Mark Hayes; "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," arranged by Gilbert Martin; "Angel Breathing Out," by Alisha Blair; "Elegy for Dauchau," by Matthew Armstrong; "I Am Not Yours," by David C. Dickau; "Hungering in My Soul," by Pepper Choplin; "Psalm 23," by Paul Basler; and "Let All the World In Every Corner Sing," by Williams/Courtney. Choir members include (first row, from left) Vicki Blaylock, director; Tamara McPhail, Pelahatchie; Hailey Dunavant, Newton; Monica Vincent, Decatur; Liz Withers, Philadelphia; Whitney Myers, Decatur; Audrey Cannon, Flowood; Brittany Harrison and Kristen Everett, both of Forest; Lindsey Miller, Decatur; Anna Alexander, Little Rock; Tiffany Hennington, Decatur; Hannah Clay, Lake; Andrea McSwain and Celia Boggan, both of Decatur; Megan Sharp, Philadelphia; Ashley Amis, Decatur; and Natalie Emmons, accompanist; (second row, from left) Emily Pace, Newton; Jamiah Gallaspy, Forest; Courtney Lanier and Polly Vaughn, both of Decatur; Kelsie Mann, Hickory; Nicole Franklin, Philadelphia; Summer Richardson and Brittany Bobo, both of Union; Morgan Bailey, Philadelphia; Jerilyn Crosby, Forest; Tiffany Sims, Decatur; and Ellen Gibbs, Newton; (third row, from left) Kimberly Joiner, Little Rock; Katherine Kline, Decatur; Heather Roebuck, Little Rock; Tiffany Spence, Decatur; Marissa Gordy, Forest; Kelsey Hill, Nanih Waiya; Jessica Cherry, Carthage; Courtney Mackey, Meridian; Ava Marie Adkins, Union; Jessy Harrison, Little Rock; Tiffany Benson, Philadelphia; Jenny Holyfield, Little Rock; and Cayla Engle, Decatur; (fourth row, from left) Katie Reeves, Decatur; Lindsay Gibbs, Morton; Nickie Farmer, Hickory; Brandon Boulton, Decatur; Cody Strait, Hickory; Chris Johnson, Jackson; Tyler Yates, Decatur; Colby Harvey, Lawrence; Tyler Reeves, Decatur; Chad Mangum, Aberdeen; James Latiker, Carthage; Ryan Gillis, Decatur; Melody Mann, Newton; Laura Gunn, Forest; and Heather Hogue, Little Rock; and (fifth row, from left) Matthew Dempsey, Louisville; Richard Ferguson and Kirby Keith, both of Decatur; Josh Jarriel, Philadelphia; Alvin Johnson, Carthage; Austin Jay, Union; Jason Mann, Newton; Tyler Barrett, Decatur; Zack Hutson, McComb; Tyler Comans, Sebastopol; Chris Spence, Lake; Mark Gross, Union; and Cole Harris, Decatur.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Phi Beta Lambda Members:Phi Beta Lambda members for 2010-11 have been announced for ECCC. Phi Beta Lambda is the premier Business Education Association preparing students for careers in business and success in life. Phi Beta Lambda members and their respective hometowns include (first row, from left) Shikira Moore, Philadelphia; Meghan McIntosh, Christina Nollie - parliamentarian, and Ashley Moore, all of Carthage; Lauren Lurk, Newton; Nichole Ferguson, Philadelphia; Mia Claiborne - treasurer, Newton; Tina Pittman - recorder, Forest; Shanita Jackson, Philadelphia; Janie Mayfield, Union; and Lisa Jay, Newton; (second row, from left) Kim Amerson, Decatur; Mindy Parker - vice president, Newton; Chance Hall - president/state vice president, Forest; Kimberly Ramsey, Carthage; Belinda Alexander, Philadelphia; Barbara Rigdon, Little Rock; Nyiesha Bolds, and Lynford Seibel, both of Newton; Joseph Morgan, Lena; Caleb Raines, Little Rock; and Zach Gibbs, Forest; (third row, from left) Tracy Triplett, Philadelphia; Audrianna Walker, Forest; Chris Cremeer, Philadelphia; Bryan M. Wiseman - historian, Newton; Alexis Graham - secretary, Philadelphia; Cory Harkins, Carthage; Ryan Gillis - state parliamentarian, and Malik Ali, both of Decatur; and Terrence Telford, Union. Not pictured is Gerald Mann, Carthage.



Miss!

It's the right move

As a community college transfer, your move to The University of Mississippi will be one of the most important in your life—and also one of the smoothest. Here are just a few of the reasons why transferring to Ole Miss is the right move:

- Your academic course work during your first two years will plug right into our bachelor's degree programs and let you stay on track.
- Average junior- and senior-level classes at Ole Miss have 20-30 students and are probably smaller than some of the classes you are taking now.
- Our Financial Aid Office works hard to help you receive the combination of grants, scholarships, loans and employment you will need to finance your education.
- Our Phi Theta Kappa scholarship is worth \$6,000 (\$3,000 per year for two years)! Transfer students with a 3.5 GPA on at least 48 transferable community college credit hours and membership in Phi Theta Kappa are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. Please contact Jason McCormick or Ty Allushuski in the Office of Enrollment Services at 800-OLE-MISS (in Mississippi) or 662-915-7226 for more details.
- Our Community College Excellence Scholarship is worth 1,000 a year (a total of 2,000 over your last two years). Community College students with a 3.0 GPA on 48 transferable hours will be eligible for this scholarship. Contact Jason McCormick or Ty Allushuski in the Office of Enrollment Services at 662-915-7226 for more details.

Come and visit campus, talk with our faculty, staff and students, and see how easy it will be to take the next step!



Warrior Viewpoints

FROM THE EDITOR

ECCC impacts lives, futures, memories

As I sit here and think of all the memories that have been made at East Central it makes me smile. Just imagine all the faces and bodies these buildings have seen all the students these teachers have taught and more that are still to come. It is amazing how we came in as wild and crazy freshmen ready to take on the responsibilities of a young adult. Then came sophomore year and reality has set in and decisions for careers are not such a blur anymore. We wish we were still in high school when all we had to worry about was prom dresses, Friday night football and who was dating whom. However, life has other plans in store for us.



RACHEL RAMIREZ
News Editor

Those plans may include the person next to you being a part of Congress that settles this controversial issue or the next Bill Gates or better yet Randy Houser. Whatever life has to offer, take it with sheer determination or the person next to you just might take that offer. In the wise words of a teacher, “Do not settle for anything less than what you have to offer because you may be the one that finds the cure for cancer or the answers to all of the world’s problems.”

When you look back at the memories at East Central, smile good or bad because the good has kept you smiling and the bad has made you a better and stronger person. As we leave East Central we leave friends that we may never see again, classmates who may become our future leaders but most of all we leave our mark either as a leader for our college or in our mentors’ hearts. We will never be forgotten.

I’d like to close with this quote by Maryanne Williamson: “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us most. We ask ourselves, “Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and famous?” Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that people won’t feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. And when we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

— Rachel Ramirez,
News Editor



BY TARA MARTIN, CARTOONIST

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BY TARA MARTIN, CARTOONIST

WORDS OF A WARRIOR

BY RAYCHAL REED

What do you think about the gas prices increase?

Ariel Doggett
Carthage • Physical
Therapy
Sophomore

“I definitely do not like the fact that gas prices are sky high! We are limited to what activities we can do because gas is so expensive!”



Morgan Bailey
Philadelphia •
Elementary Education
Sophomore

“An increase in the price of gas has made a major impact on our economy...College students have so many expenses anyway; a decrease in the price of gas would help dramatically!”



Colby Harvey
Lawrence • Liberal
Arts
Sophomore

“Gas prices are having a major effect on college students. It makes being a commuter very difficult. I live about twenty minutes away from campus, and that has a serious effect on my days.”

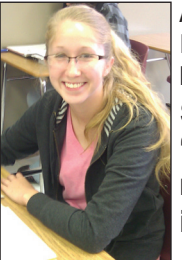
Justin Gates
Decatur •
Secondary
Education
Sophomore

“Gas does not have to be this expensive! I think we should quit relying on foreign oils, and we should tap into our own oil reserves.”



Spencer Cash
Newton •
English
Sophomore

“The recent rise in gas prices does not bother me badly; I support the research and eventual rise of alternative energy to lesson our dependence on foreign oil.”



Allie Pilgrim
Philadelphia •
Elementary Education
Sophomore

“I think the recent rise in gas prices is ridiculous! As a commuter, these prices affect me dramatically, and I wish the prices would go down. Unfortunately, I do not see this happening anytime soon.”

What do you think about the new dress code for next year?

Brittany Burton
Louisville • Elementary
Education
Freshman

“I don’t necessarily disagree with the dress code, because people should dress appropriately on campus to show respect for the school and themselves.”



Anna Marie Leach
Sebastopol • Veteri-
nary Medicine
Freshman

“I think that the future dress code is a good thing for EC. Even though the dress code will not be formal, it will still allow students to express themselves through their clothes while being modest.”



Dustin Cullen
Carthage •
Chemical
Engineering
Freshman

“Dress code would be a big help. It is not that difficult to follow.”

Colton Eakes
Philadelphia •
Elementary
Education
Freshman

“I think we should not have a dress code! It is wrong and unethical!”



Haley Hall
Forest • Biology
Freshman

“I think that we should not have a dress code. Some students pay for their education, and they should be able to wear anything they want. That is what everybody looks forward to when they get to college.”



SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS!

If you would like to submit a question for the Warriors to answer, please e-mail them to gphillips@eccc.edu.

The Tom-Tom is the voice of the Warriors!

FROM LEE’S DESK

Congrats to grads, Summer begins

My how time flies when we are having fun! Graduation is upon us already. Congratulations to those of you who will make that memorable walk on Saturday, May 14 in the Neshoba County Coliseum.

Speaking of graduation, freshmen, ensure you have registered for next fall’s classes in order to acquire the classes you need to graduate! See your advisor ASAP if you have questions. Classes are filling to capacity!

Have a great summer and enjoy the time off if you are not taking summer classes. If you are coming back or transferring, make sure you have applied for your financial aid as you must do so every year you are in college.

We will see you returning students on August 18, 2011, as we begin another year at East Central Community College. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know. You can reach me at 635-6375 or e-mail rllee@eccc.edu.

With You in Mind,

Vice President for Student Services



VICE PRESIDENT LEE

WORDS FROM THE STUDENT PREZ

Spring Spree: ‘Can I Get Some ‘Amens’

So can I get some “Amens” about Spring Spree week?? I hope it was as good for you as it was for me!! When a week ends and I have eggs, bananas, and other mysterious spots on my shirt, my shins are black and blue, and every muscle in my body is sore, I know it’s been a great week. I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs. Marcie Pinson and all the others who worked so hard to make this past week absolutely the best it could be.

It’s been quite a year since I was first elected Student Body President. The rest of the student government and I have had loads of fun and worked very hard preparing events all year. I am pleased to say it was well worth it. Foam parties, The Maze, ice cream socials, and Haunted House of Hoops are just a few of the highlights!

The two years I’ve spent at EC have been the absolute two best years of my life. And I am honored to have spent this last one as your SBA President. Getting involved has made all the difference. I challenge all you returning freshmen to do at least one more new activity than you did this year! And to all the graduating sophomores, my prayer is that you not settle for anything in life! Like I say, if you’re gonna do it, do it big! The Bible tells us in Jeremiah 29:11 that God has amazing plans for us. All we have to do is seek Him! One new activity for next year could be attending BSU! If you have questions or would like to meet someone from BSU, Ashley Barnett and Dustin Cullen are next year’s presidents.

I hope that next year you choose to make a difference. Whether that be taking a leadership role and bettering yourself, or being a part of group activities that encourage others. It has been my joy to do that this past year. I would like to say thank you to you all for making this year possible for me and making it such a blast!! I will miss you dearly! It has been my pleasure to serve you as SBA President 2010-2011!

Because of Christ,
Lindsey Bishop



BISHOP

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS & IDEAS!

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor, question for Dr. Phil or a guest column, please e-mail them to gphillips@eccc.edu.

The Tom-Tom is the voice of the Warriors!

College 101

FASHION FRENZY



RAYCHAL REED
Staff Writer

Make a Splash with Summer Fashion

BY RAYCHAL REED
Staff writer

Gladiator sandals, rompers and ruffled skirts were all the craze in the fashion world last summer, but what ways can you make an impression with the summer trends of 2011? Even though lace clothing isn't new, it is the newest fad for summer clothing. Light and fun, lace dresses and skirts are casual, yet perfect items to flaunt while keeping cool and looking cute!

Crochet and macramé are two fabrics that have made a comeback on the runway. Tassels are not only popular at graduation ceremonies anymore. Look for tassels on stylish hats, dresses, purses, or even shoes! Tassels symbolize things that are exotic or luxurious, so feel confident while sporting this new accessory. Welcome back, capri pants. Though some of us had fears that we would have to replace our beloved capri pants with knee length board shorts, have no fear! Stripes and floral patterns are definitely

in for this summer fashion for tops, pants, shoes and purses galore! Jumpsuits, or "rompers," are still quite popular for the hot weather. New items that are must-haves for this summer are crop tops. These shirts are great to endure the scorching temperatures, especially at outdoor events or carnivals. Better hit the gym early to have a flawless figure to sport these at the Neshoba County Fair. New accessories that have been spotted on the runway are vintage, colorful cat-eye sunglasses and

belt purses. Before you hit the beach, try a new tousled look for your hair. Beach waves and braids are the new hairstyles for summer. To steer away from the typical teeny weeny yellow polka dot bikini, try a one piece swimsuit. With the new designs and patterns, they are totally stylish! Grab a cover up, a trendy beach bag and towel and head to the beach! Don't forget to pack your sunscreen and a sassy attitude as you make a splash with your outfit at the pool!

Ideas for Entertainment during the Summer

BY ASHLEY MOORE
Staff Writer

An entertaining favorite movie for the summer will be Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides released May 20, 2011. Though Orlando Bloom and Keri Knightly will not be returning to the set, Penelope Cruz will step in for them; also the ever famous Johnny Depp will be there to captivate the audience in this adventurous

sequel. To spruce up the well-known story line, this movie will be in 3-D, though I do not prefer 3-D, this will prove to be interesting to watch just to see if this sequel will live up to the others. Another promising movie opening June 17 is Green Lantern. This movie will star Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds. He is quite popularly known for The Proposal. This movie is about a test pilot that is granted an inexplicable green ring that

gives him supernatural powers, as well as membership into an air force between galaxies for keeping peace within the universe. A final interesting must-watch movie is Friends With Benefits. The title is very sassy and will interest audiences of all ages with its fresh spark. It will preview on July 22 and feature Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis. A young female headhunter in New York convinces a potential

recruit to accept a job in the Big Apple. Despite being attracted to each other, Kunis and Timberlake realize they're everything they've been running from in a relationship and decide to give their attraction a shot only if they leave emotion out of it and keep it strictly physical. The director has already claimed these two were made for these individual roles and hopefully his opinion will follow through.



ASHLEY MOORE
Staff Writer

FROM THE SHELF

Novels New & Old deemed must reads

**WHEN CATS REIGNED LIKE KINGS:
ON THE TRAIL OF THE SACRED CATS**
By Georgie Anne Geyer

When Cats Reigned Like Kings is a nonfiction book about the history of the common household pet: the cat. National syndicated journalist Georgie Geyer delved into the deepest corners of history to uncover the truth about the past of cats.

Little is known about how cats came to be the cherished pets that we know them as. This fact spurred Geyer on in an exhausted search through the history books to find out where domesticated felines first came from, how they become symbols of strength and power, where the first cat god came into being, and why they are know a household friend.



STEPHANIE LUNSFORD
Staff Writer

This is a fantastic book for the cat lovers of the world who wish to know more about the story of the cat. The book even goes into the relationship between pet and owner, introduces the reader to cat gods of the world, and establishes the interesting and finicky nature of cats.

— Stephanie Lunsford
Staff writer

WITHER
By Lauren DeStefano

The human race is dying out and the cause: modern science. Because of a genetic virus, males live to be 25 years old while females only manage to survive to 20. In order to save what is left of the human population, young girls are kidnapped and forced into polygamous marriages. Rhine, a kidnapped 16-year-old new wife, wants nothing of this life. The only thing on her mind is freedom. And she is none too happy about losing her freedom. Now her only purpose is to escape. What is in store for her, though, is more unimaginable than ever thought before. This is a very interesting book. DeStefano uses mystery and intrigue to reach audience. The main topic,

polygamy is a taboo subject to her readers, but she writes it with a must read feel. It is definitely a book many people will fall in love with.

— Stephanie Lunsford
Staff writer

LOOKING FOR ALASKA
By John Green

Miles "Pudge" Halter is obsessed with last words. His life has just been one huge nonevent and he is tired of it. Willingly, he chose to move from his safe life in Florida to a boarding school, in Alabama in search of the "Great Perhaps" and more last words to add to his growing list. The school, Culver Creek, is sometimes crazy, possibly unstable, and anything-but-boring, and Pudge's life...well, let's just say now it is the exact opposite of safe. Enter Alaska Young, the gorgeous, clever, funny, sexy, self-destructive, screwed-up, and utterly fascinating Alaska Young. Nothing will ever be the same (or safe) again. Green is a fairly unheard of author, even though his books are fascinating. "Looking for Alaska" is no exception. Speculation is that "Alaska" is a fictional autobiography as many of the events in it is based on real life

experiences of Green's. Like Pudge he left his home to go to a boarding school, that same one in the like, and he loves last words.

"Alaska" is a good read for those it can interest. It is slightly difficult because of Green's habit of using slightly difficult words. It is still a book that is worth the trouble.

— Stephanie Lunsford
Staff writer

HUNGER GAMES
By Suzanne Collins

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins is a scientific trilogy about the world post-apocalyptic called Panem, which was originally where North America was located.

Now I'm not one for scientific books but The Hunger Games is full of many fight scenes and of course love.

The book be-



MEGHAN MCINTOSH
Staff Writer

gins with the main character Katness Everdeen hunting to feed her starving family. Her mother does not work and her father is deceased. Each year the Capitol, which controls everything in Panem, conducts games called the Hunger Games as punishment for a rebellion 74 years ago. This rebellion divided Panem into 12 districts. From these 12 districts two people are chosen to fight for their district, one boy and one girl. The age range for this game is from 12 to 18.

This battle is to the death, and the winner gets to move into a new neighborhood with your family and live in luxury for the rest of their lives. Plus, they will never be drawn for the Hunger Games ever again. Katness fights for her family and for the people she loves. She is a witty girl who is smart and full of surprises.

I find the story interesting because of the corruption of the social classes and her cunning ability to figure out how to get herself out of situations without really knowing what she's doing.

This story is one that is easy to get attached to. It is almost addicting to read, once you start you can't stop.

—Meghan McIntosh
Staff Writer

THEATER TAKE

Scream 4 Hits the Big Screen with Success

SCREAM 4

Scream 4 was recently released in theaters. Unfortunately, it only made a mere \$19.4 million during its opening weekend. Scream 4's opening weekend produced the lowest amount of money then all of the other Screams in the trilogy. Many people are just tired of seeing sequels. I personally liked the first Scream, which was the only one I really liked. Scream 4 wasn't very gory or very exciting. It had a few parts that had you jump

out of your seat, but for the most part it lacked creativity. The basic plot circulates around the way the original Scream characters were killed. Of course Cindy, Neve Campbell, returns to her home town to find it being terrorized by Ghost Face, yet again. Dewey Riley, David Arquette, and Gale Weathers – Riley, Courteney Cox, return to aid Cindy in bringing down Ghost Face. Cindy's cousin Jill Roberts, Emma Roberts, and her friends are being murdered

brutally by Ghost Face. The twist in the story was not much of a surprise either. It was hard to take Emma Roberts seriously in this roll because I couldn't get over her innocence from her television show that appeared on Nickelodeon Unfabulous and her role in Aquamarine. The movie was overall not as terrible as it could have been, but it was still not that exciting either.

—Meghan McIntosh
Staff Writer

TUNING IN

Eminem, Pink release Must-Hears

EMINEM
Relapse
"Beautiful"

After a five-year lapse in release, rap artist Eminem (Marshall Bruce Mathers III) released his album Relapse in 2009.

His most recent album, Recovery, was released in 2010. While most of the songs on Relapse are very similar to the work on his previous, one song in particular stands out. "Beautiful" (track number 17) is described as a rap power ballad and has charmed many people. Billboard called the song epic. Unlike much of his music, this song is not as hard and hateful. It seems to most to be introspective of the whole album. Also, the song is thought by many to be inspirational with lyrics like the chorus: "In my shoes, just to see, what it's like to be me/ I'll be you, let's trade shoes, just to see what it'd be like to/ Feel your pain, you feel mine, go inside each others minds/ Just to see, what we find, look at s**t through each others eyes/ But don't let them say you ain't beautiful/They can all get f****d, just stay true to you."

There are quite a few unsavory words, typical of Eminem, but for many people the words do not subtract from the feel of the song. This is definitely a must hear song.

— Stephanie Lunsford
Staff writer

PINK
Greatest Hits...So Far
"Perfect"

Another inspirational song, this one newer. On November 12, 2010, P!NK released her most recent album, Greatest Hits...So Far.

While most of the album is a compilation of the best of her previous work, the American version offers two new songs, one of which is "Perfect." The song has two versions, clean and explicit. In the clean version, the one and only unpleasant word, f****n has been removed and the music video was altered to only show a piece of the most gruesome scene.

The song and video both encourage people to be themselves.

The video delivers a controversial message against depression, self-mutilation and suicide. The scene that is mostly removed from the clean version shows the female character in a depressed state slitting her wrist before changing her attitude.

This song is very empowering for the lost, lonely, depressed people of the world. "Pretty, pretty please, don't you ever, ever feel / Like you're less than f****n' perfect./ Pretty, pretty please, if you ever, ever feel like you're nothing, / You're f****n' perfect to me." It is a must hear song.

— Stephanie Lunsford
Staff writer

How to Repair Broken Friendships

College can be hard on relationships. Especially on the friendships you've built and have worked hard to keep. If you are having trouble maintaining ties with certain people, don't give up. Like many things, friendships are built on trust, respect, and confidence in the other person. When those are tarnished, the friendship will never be the same.

If your friend's casual comments begin to feel like malicious attacks or a forgotten date symbolizes a disregard to your feelings, you may want to consider the possibility that your ties with this person has changed.

If there is turmoil in your friendship, take a step back and examine the causes. What are the causes of your irritation? Was it a fight? Did someone lie? Is your friend overly stressed? Do you notice that

this person acts different around a certain group of people? Have these feelings built up over time, or came to life in the wake of an incident? Do you think that the friendship can be saved?

To put a friendship back together, someone has to make that first step. If you decide to talk to your friend, read his or her body language and pay attention to the tone in his or her voice. If this person



CHRISTINA NOLLIE
Assistant Editor

continues to hurt your feelings, just walk away. If it becomes clear that you are no longer welcome in this person's life, move on. Give them what they think is best for them. Walk away. Give them all the space they want.

Since you can't change another person, think about what you can do to change yourself. Could you be more considerate? Could you be more sympathetic? What things will make you a better friend? Whether you fix your friendship or you cut ties with this person, do not beat yourself up and remember that there are always opportunities to meet new people and form new bonds.

—Christina Nollie
Assistant Editor



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC Phi Theta Kappa Inductees: These East Central Community College students were recently inducted into Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to promote scholarship, to develop character and to cultivate fellowship among academically superior students. Membership is by invitation only. To be eligible, students must have earned a 3.5 or better grade point average as a full-time students and have an overall grade point average of 3.5 or better. Pictured are (front row, from left) Hailey Dunavant and Olivia Capetillo, both of Newton; Madison Nowell, Louisville; Jori Long and Whitney Stokes, both of Philadelphia; Ashlee Lee, Forest; Wendy McCracken, Decatur; Kristen Grace Nettles, Forest; Emily Lucy, Newton; Ashley Arthur, Louisville; and Kelsey Hill, Nanih Waiya; (second row, from left) Danielle Pierce, Union; Shelby Powell, Collinsville; Rachel Sharp, Louisville; Kelsey Ladnier, Collinsville; Katie Reeves, Decatur; India Gilbert, Hannah Clay and Tracy Wolfe, all of Lake; LaTia Peavey, Carthage; Erin Hathorn and Katelyn Jordan, both of Louisville; Bridgett Hitt, Little Rock; Christina Nollie, Carthage; and Alyse Webb, Noxapater; (third row, from left) Ashley Moore, Carthage; Branna Terrell, Brooke Livingston, Shelby Hall and Loren Pullin, all of Union; Haleigh Parker, Foxworth; Ashley Barnett, Union; Krystle Bender, Newton; Erin Moore and Lindsey Adams, both of Carthage; Ashley Glaze, Lena; Raychal Reed and Audrey Griffin, both of Louisville; Edward Holmes, Decatur; and Seth Therrien, Newton; (fourth row, from left) Carrie Rushing, Decatur; Ashley Lovern, Philadelphia; Haley Chaney, Newton; Kameron Boulton, Hickory; Allie Pilgrim, Philadelphia; Jenna Purvis, Edinburg; Bonnie Evans, Philadelphia; Michelle Fender, Union; Andre Lucious, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Matt Blackwell, Newton; Lindsay Gibbs, Morton; Brittany Burton, Louisville; James Cumberland, Sebastopol; Ben Reiss, Forest; and James Colvin, Newton; and (top row, from left) Kelsi Shelley, Sebastopol; Courtney Mackey, Meridian; Hunter Stovall and T.J. Kilgore, both of Philadelphia; Tate Rogers, Evan Humphries and Brock Ward, all of Louisville; Tyler Brant, Southaven; Seth Kidd, Enterprise; Kavon Moore, Newton; Miguel Medrano, Gonzales, La.; Dustin Cullen, Carthage; Kirby Keith, Decatur; Matthew Dempsey, Louisville; and Jason Mann, Newton. Kate Covich serves as adviser.

New Dress Code: For or against?



BY MEGHAN MCINTOSH
Staff Writer

On April 12, 2011 a new dress code rule was passed to begin taking place during the next school year. This dress code will be included in our student handbooks and has taken away many of the attire students do like to wear. Though some people are completely against the dress code, there are some good aspects of it. No longer will we have to walk around

campus and see certain things we would not wish to see. The attire of the campus has gotten out of hand, but in the same breath, we are all adults who are perfectly capable of making our own decisions. It would appear that some people do take advantage of this freedom. Everyone has a different opinion on the dress code. Here are a few students who are for or against it:

Ebony Bull of Carthage proclaims, “I am against it because,

why can’t we wear what we want to wear? I wore uniforms all throughout high school.”

Morgan Hillhouse of Louisville, “Some people are taking advantage of the dress code, but they should be able to wear the clothes they want as long as they aren’t extreme.”

Meredith Jones of Nanih Waiya, “I think the new dress code is a great idea due to the fact that some students choose to dress inappropriate; however, I hate

that everyone has to be punished because of the people who do not dress appropriately.”

Jason Mann of Newton, “I like it. It’s good if people were in a public place, they would get in trouble for their attire.”

Mr. Girling of Carthage, “There are several benefits to the dress code. The school is not affecting your individuality, but it is about a matter of being appropriate.”

Karen Robertson of Decatur, “I like it. I’m tired of seeing promis-

cuous clothes.”

Latia Peavy of Carthage, “Most of us went through junior high and high school in uniforms expecting more freedom in college attire. Everyone here is an adult and we should be able to make our own decisions in this matter. I agree to an extent but the rules shouldn’t get outrageous.”

HONOREES

From Page 1

daughter of Greg and Linda McKee of Philadelphia.

A President’s List scholar, McKee serves as co-vice president of service for Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, and was selected to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic First Team. She is the recipient of the Sam Rush Memorial Scholarship, Landon Burt Scholarship and valedictorian scholarship. She was also selected a sophomore homecoming maid and a top 10 beauty.

McKee is a member of the Baptist Student Union ministry team, “The Way,” and serves as sophomore class treasurer. In addition, she is a member of Warrior Corps, Wesley Foundation, EC Players, Wo-He-Lo staff and Phi Beta Lambda.

One of those nominating her wrote, “Meredith has not only excelled in the classroom, but she has been a model college student. She has involved herself in extracurricular activities and been an example for the success that East Central has to offer its students, all the while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. Her character, humble spirit, enthusiasm for life, as well as her academic and extracurricular accomplishments make her truly deserving of this honor.”

JENNIFER MOORE-POPE

Moore-Pope is a graduate of Forest High School and is married to Richard Pope of Clifton. Her parents are Buddy and Shirley Moore of Forest.

She serves as co-vice president of membership for Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and vice president of the Student Education Association. She is the recipient of the Regina Rigby Memorial, Thomas W. Thrash and Bank of Forest scholarships as well as ACT and band scholarships.

In addition, Moore-Pope is a member of the Baptist Student Union ministry team, “The Way,” Wesley Foundation,

EC Art Club, Warrior Corps, The Tom-Tom staff, Wall O’ Sound Band, EC Players and EC Environmental Club.

One of those nominating her wrote, “Jennifer has a 4.0 grade point average and is a highly motivated, extremely intelligent student who is an absolute pleasure to have in class. She exhibits superb leadership skills and excellent time management skills.”

MONICA VINCENT

Vincent is a graduate of Newton County High School and the daughter of Mark and Janine Vincent of Decatur.

A President’s and Dean’s List scholar, Vincent is a member of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and was named to Who’s Who Among American Community College Students. She serves as president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and team captain for the Lady Warrior soccer team.

In addition, she is a member of the Collegians rock-n-roll band, Baptist Student Union, Ac’cents show choir, Warrior Corps, Concert Choir and the EC Players. She was a Warrior cheerleader her freshman year.

One of those nominating her wrote, “Monica is an exceptional young lady who has maintained excellent grades while being involved in many campus activities. She is also a very talented performer, and it would not surprise me to see her on Broadway some day! She is an excellent representative of ECCC and most deserving of Hall of Fame recognition.”

STACEY WILLIS

Willis is a graduate of Union High School and is the daughter of Bill and Lori Willis of Union.

She is a member of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and is the recipient of the Aaron R. Davis Memorial and Dollar General Essay Contest scholarships.

In addition, she is a member of the East Central Environmental Club, Wall O’ Sound Marching Band, Concert Band, Collegians rock-n-roll band, Wesley Foundation and the Baptist

Student Union.

One of those nominating her wrote, “Stacy is a top-of-the-line student who excels in the classroom and performs in the band with all of its activities. She has maintained a 4.0 grade point average in very challenging science courses. She is a great student and always smiles. She has a great personality, is very responsible and works very hard.”

Additional honors presented during Awards Day include the following:

Career award recipients include Marcus Eugene Gardner of Lawrence, cabinetmaking; Algie Wayne Mapp of Decatur, carpentry; Melissa Ann Cox of Raleigh and Stacey Lynn Boyd of Philadelphia, co-recipients in cosmetology; and Joseph William Adams of Walnut Grove, welding and cutting “Taylor Cup” and “Career Student of the Year.”

Technical awards were presented to Jason Trent Hill of Philadelphia, collision repair; Jamal Rafeal Bates of Louisville, automotive technology; Susan Jones of Meridian, early childhood education; Latanya Ann Ball of McCool, computer technology; Cass Chipley Beem of Carthage, electrical; Shannon Lynn Hill of Newton, electronic technology; Antonio Demond Nash of Carthage and Charles Edward Johnson of Louisville, co-recipients in heating and air conditioning technology; Richard Adams of Philadelphia, culinary arts; Jesus Martinez of Grenada, hotel restaurant management; Ladarian Leshun Johnson of Newton, machine shop; Bryan Matthew Wiseman of Newton, computer network support; and Breshawn Calita McNeal of Newton, “Technical Student of the Year.”

Recipients of healthcare education awards included Sarah Eakes Barrett of Little Rock, Associate Degree Nursing Outstanding Achievement; Chestina Ann Ingram of Louisville, practical nursing; and Jonathan Kevin Tullos of Stonewall, paramedic technology.

Those receiving special awards were

Anna Melissa Alexander of Little Rock, citizenship and PTK Presidential Gavel; Dustin Lamar Cullen of Carthage, Ann Burkes Phi Theta Kappa, ECCC Players and Margaret Mosal Award for Leadership; Shelton Antonio Banks of Lena, Anthony Coleman Men’s Basketball; Andrew M. Gibbs of Forest, Alford J. Deaton Physics, Richard Fisher Organic Chemistry and sophomore mathematics; Jessica Nicole Cherry of Carthage, ECCC Concert Choir; Cody Lane Strait of Hickory, Stacy Elizabeth Willis of Union and Kayla Rae Stevenson of Morton, co-recipients of the EC Environmental Club award; Christopher Evans of Meridian, Miata Evans of Lawrence and Alvin Johnson of Carthage, co-recipients of the Gospel Choir award; Monica Janine Vincent of Decatur, ECCC Players; Katie Elizabeth Reeves of Decatur, Kappa Kappa Iota; James R. Cumberland of Union, S. Lebrun Hutchison; Bobby Hunter Stovall of Philadelphia, freshman mathematics; Mia Lyles Claiborne of Newton, Belinda Loretta Alexander of Philadelphia and Tonya Craig Evans of Lake, all recipients of Mississippi Business Education Association student awards; Ryan Tanner Gillis and Bryan Matthew Wiseman, both of Newton, Mississippi Phi Beta Lambda Hall of Fame; Chassidy Sharlyn Kelly of Carthage, creative writing; Megan Leigh Allen of Philadelphia, Myrtle R. Hutchison Elementary Education; Brooke Nicole Livingston of Union, Alyne Simmons Recruitment Grant; Kathryn Laire White of Meridian and Stephen Joseph Walker of Hickory, Roy Pete Awards for Soccer; Jeri Lynn Crosby of Forest, secondary education; Rachel Marie Ramirez of Forest and Brittany Lovern King of Philadelphia, co-recipients of The Tom Tom award; and Carrie Elizabeth Rushing of Decatur, Lucille Wood Scholarship.

Alumni Memorial Awards were presented to Anna Melissa Alexander of Little Rock, Arno Vincent Award for Academic Excellence in Athletics; John Travis Blount, II, of Philadelphia, Billy Wayne Baucum Secondary

Education Award; Latanya Ann Ball of McCool, Ruth Carr-Vincent Award for Academic Excellence in Nontraditional Education; Katie Elizabeth Reeves of Decatur, Opan McMullan Dickerson Elementary Education and Thomas W. Thrash Scholarship; Spencer Leonard Cash of Newton, Alatha Chaney English; Jon Garrett Moore of Union, W. A. Coursey, Jr., Engineering; Chance Edward Sistrunk of Carthage, Danny Ray Killens Engineering; Sharmaine Stribling of Philadelphia, Sara Carr Deaton Business Technology; Jean Marie Pfeifer of Philadelphia, Sue Yarbrough Fulgham Speech; Jennifer Moore-Pope of Forest, Jack B. May Phi Theta Kappa; Anthony Joseph Furr of Philadelphia, William S. Giffin Men’s Intramural; Radarius Tywan Owens of Stonewall, Homer F. Hunter Award for Athletic Managers; William Payton Pierce of Walnut Grove, Andrew F. Webb Football; Keondre K. Hodges of Newton, Howard Sessums Men’s Basketball; Shanequa Antrena Bufkin of Forest, Earline Wood Women’s Basketball; and Lauren Leigh Nicholas of Preston, Dr. Edwin Miller Medical Services Award.

Faculty Memorial Awards were presented to Bonnie Ann Evans of Meridian, Aaron R. Davis Memorial; Shelby Taylor Powell of Collinsville, Frank Edwin and Nena Holt Leatherwood Biology Science; Vincent Edward Kortbawi of Moundville, Ala., Jamie Clark Memorial Award for Baseball; Johnathan Matthew Tingle of Philadelphia, J. Wallace Bedwell Business; Dustin Lamar Cullen of Carthage, Frank M. Cross Freshman Chemistry and Shelby L. Harris Memorial; Matthew Rural Dempsey of Louisville, Robert G. Fick Memorial; Colby Eugene Harvey of Lawrence, Ruth Hull Wo-He-Lo; Jon Doss Cherry of Louisville, J. Andy Miller Freshman Engineering; Bradley Lavon Drury of Philadelphia, O.L. Newell Drafting; Tina Pittman of Forest, Charles E. Pennington Business Technology.

EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT

Sistrunk has an Extraordinary Job

By ANNA ALEXANDER
Staff Writer

It's hard enough being a full time student, trying to balance homework and studying, a social life, and even just finding time to relax. Add a job to the mix and things can get a lot harder. Tony Sistrunk does all of those things though. A freshman at East Central Community College and 2010 graduate from Sebastopol High School, Sistrunk has been in the Army National Guard for the past two and a half years. Sistrunk began his career in the Guard after hearing what a great opportunity it was and that it offered a "good life experience." He also says

that the benefits are great and that he has met "a lot of good people." The job does have its perks, but it can be very challenging at times too. When most of his classmates were starting their first semester of college, Sistrunk was busy training. He learned everything from how to use a tourniquet to how to use certain weapons and aim with accuracy. The 19 year old will go on active duty starting May 4th, before the spring semester is even over. To keep up with his studies and make sure everything is completed, Sistrunk will take all of his tests and finals early. Missing some school won't be anything new to Sistrunk, however. He has already

missed two weeks in January, a week in March, and several days throughout the semester because of "Friday drills." Sistrunk says, "it's been a tough schedule" and hard to keep up his grades. Sistrunk has enjoyed the time he's gotten to spend at EC and he was even able to participate in the Spring Spree



games and intramural softball. Despite the setbacks Sistrunk has experienced, he says he will finish his education however long it takes. Though he has three and a half years left of active duty service, he hopes one day to be a Nurse Anesthetist. Right now though, while he serves in the 1st/204th Guard, his specialty is in air defense. Sistrunk will receive more training at Fort Sill in Oklahoma and after two months he will leave for Iraq. Sistrunk could be deployed for as little as one year or as long as 400 days. He says the toughest thing will be being away from his family. Needless to say, Sistrunk has and will have a very memorable college experience thanks to his dedica-

tion to the National Guard and our country. He has somehow found the time, courage, and tenacity to serve our country while also trying to further his own education and self here at EC. Whether it's being a student or being a soldier, Sistrunk shows bravery in both, and that's extraordinary. **Editor's note: Sistrunk is deploying this weekend with a large number of members from his unit, including some ECCC students and alum. Please pray for the soldiers during their time of deployment and for their safe return.**

EC Players Present 'All Shook Up'

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The East Central Community College players presented their spring musical selection, "All Shook Up," March 31 through Saturday, April 2 in the Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium. Matinees were held March 29 and Friday, April 1. The story is set in a small Midwest town in the 1950s, where Chad (Matthew Dempsey of Louisville), a hip-swiveling, guitar-playing roustabout rides into town, and, due to his charm and influence, has the most unlikely people falling in love. Joan Grimes, who is serving her fourth year as theater director, said, "This is a comedy of mistaken identity built on the plot of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," but jam-packed with songs made famous by Elvis! Get ready to laugh, rock and roll!" Additional cast members include Polly Vaughn (Natalie Haller) and Monica Vincent (Loraine), both of Decatur; Jessy Harrison (Sandra) of Little Rock; Dustin Cullen (Dennis) of Carthage; Ba-

leigh Viverette (Sylvia), Alex Chappell (Dean Hyde) and Scott Rivers (Sheriff Earl), all of Union; Chad Mangum (Jim Haller) of Aberdeen; Kelsey Hill (Mayor Matilda Hyde) of Nanih Waiya; Lindsay Gibbs (Henrietta) of Morton; and James Cumberland (Warden) of Sebastopol. Chorus members include Lindsay Bishop (lead choreographer) and Anna Marie Leach, both of Sebastopol; Celia Boggan of Decatur; Anna Alexander of Little Rock; Brittany Burton and Raychal Reed, both of Louisville; Sami Elkins of Lena; Marissa Gordy of Forest; Meredith McKee and Brandy Talbert, both of Philadelphia; Tamara McPhail of Pelahatchie; and Alyse Webb of Noxapater. Brandon Boulton of Hickory also serves as lead choreographer. ECCC choral director/vocal music instructor Vicki Blaylock serves as vocal director. The band includes ECCC music keyboard instructors Natalie Emmons and Len Bobo, piano; assistant band director Ed Girling, drums; ABE/GED director Ryan Clarke, bass guitar; and Fine Arts Division Chairperson and Director of Bands Tom Carson, guitar. Set designer is art instructor Chris Brady.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The Vickers Fine Arts Center stage was rockin' when the ECCC Players present "All Shook Up" by Jo Dipietro as the 2011 spring musical March 29 through April 2. Cast members and their respective hometowns include (first row, from left) Jessy Harrison and Anna Alexander, both of Little Rock; Tamara McPhail, Pelahatchie; Marissa Gordy, Forest; Polly Vaughn, Decatur; Matthew Dempsey, Louisville; Meredith McKee, Philadelphia; Lindsey Gibbs, Morton; Brittany Burton, Louisville; Monica Vincent, Decatur; and (second row, from left) Dustin Cullen, Carthage; Alex Chappell, Union; Kelsy Hill, Nanih Waiya; Scott Rivers, Union; Sami Elkins, Lena; Raychal Reed, Louisville; Alyse Webb, Noxapater; Brandy Talbert, Philadelphia; Celia Boggan, Decatur; Lindsey Bishop, Sebastopol; Josh Jarriel, Philadelphia; Baleigh Viverette, Union; Chad Mangum, Aberdeen; and James Cumberland, Sebastopol. Not pictured is Anna Leach, Sebastopol. Joan Grimes serves as musical director.

EXTRAORDINARY STAFF

Dean Miller Shares Love for Music, Family Tradition

By ASHLEY MOORE
Staff writer

James Miller, Dean at East Central, can be seen active on campus any given day. He has been a part of the Gospel Songbirds Quartet since he was nine years old. During the years, the group has traveled all over the United States, including, Texas, Florida, Tennessee, and even here, locally, in Mississippi. Miller said, as the group travels, they hope to inspire and teach others of God's love through song. When asked why he decided to join this quartet, Dean Miller said, "All of my family has participated in this specific group for many generations. I



stated that to be part of something this great was "an honor that few get to be a part of." The group was founded by the Brown family. To this day, there are five members from this family that still participate in it. Miller noted that his grandfather was one of Meridian's first to air a gospel radio show. Consequently enough, he also was the one to help the group begin traveling. It is fascinating to think of how the family traditions have impacted this quartet. Though Dean Miller is known for his role on East Central campus, he is also known for his part in this exciting experience that helps others in their time of need. As Beethoven once said, "Music- The one incorporeal entrance into the the higher world of knowledge which comprehends mankind but which mankind cannot comprehend," one doesn't always understand how great the effect of music is to those that listen.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Member of East Central Community College's Science Division competed in the Ham Jam 2011/ Hog Wild 5K race in Philadelphia. All of the Science Division instructors except for Mrs. Kim Hardy, who had a leg injury although prior to the injury she signed up for the 10K race, and Mr. Patrick Stokley, who had a prior engagement that day, competed in the 5K walk. Division Chairman Curt Skipper said the group participated for a few different reasons, "1. The proceeds benefited the American Cancer Society, so many of us walked in honor or memory of loved ones; 2. We are promoting wellness and health in the division as we 'Walk to Sacs'; And 3. I with four of our students competed to help raise money and spread awareness of an organization called First Descents (FD)." FD take individual between the ages of 18-40 who have cancer or have had cancer and give them a week of outdoor adventure camp to help them overcome obstacles in their life and see that there is a life beyond cancer. For more information on FD, please visit www.firstdescents.org. Also joining the science division in competition were, Matt Davis (Mrs. Davis' son), Leslie LeJeune (Mrs. LeJeune's daughter), and Leigh McDaniel (Mrs. Kim Hardy's daughter). The ECCC students who competed were: Alejandro Chavez, Dustin Harris, Anna Leach and Kathryn White. Each are collecting donations for FD. Skipper said the group had a great time bonding together and did very well representing the school and our group. Winners included: Kathryn White won first in her age class; Anna Leach won third in her age class; Dustin Harris won second in his age class; Matt Davis won first in his age class; and Skipper won first in my age class and third overall for the men's walk.

GRADUATION 2011

Saturday, May 14th ~ 11 a.m. ~ Neshoba County



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Wroten Honored for ECCC Service: Henry Wroten (right) was recently honored for his 35 years of service on the maintenance staff at ECCC. Wroten served as a custodian since 1976. He is shown during his retirement reception with physical plant director Artie Foreman who presented a check and various gifts to the Decatur resident on behalf of the College's maintenance department and other staff members.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
ECCC Licensed Practical Nursing Students Receive First-Place Honor: Students of the Licensed Practical Nursing Program at ECCC recently received first place in the Student Poster Contest at the Mississippi Licensed Practical Nursing Association Convention held at the Silver Star Resort & Casino in Choctaw for their poster titled, "Wild About Nursing." The team received a \$250 check for the ECCC Practical Nursing Association for the honor. The students receiving the top award for their poster include: front row from left, Brook Addy of Decatur, Kim Thomas of Walnut Grove and Sandra Phillips of Morton; and back row from left, Nancy Sciple of Decatur, Chestina Ingram of Louisville, Stephanie Peters of Philadelphia and Kim Noblin of Forest. Instructors for the LPN program are Theresa Cole, Alicia Gatlin and Melanie Pinter.

Randy Houser Releases 'In God's Time'

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Nashville, Tenn. – Known for his hits "Anything Goes," "Boots On," and "Whistlin' Dixie" which have landed him on *Late Show with David Letterman*, *Good Morning America*, and *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* among others, country music maverick and ECCC alum Randy Houser returns to the airwaves with an emotion-evoking ballad "In God's Time."

The record hit the radio on April 25, but it was exclusively available on [iTunes](#) prior to it's first radio air date. In addition, fans can download Houser's latest album, *They Call Me Cadillac*, for \$6.99 in recognition of the new single.

The former ECCC Collegian member, Houser, who penned "In God's Time" with **Shane Minor** and **David Lee Murphy**, knew the message was special the moment he sang the opening line and the now title. So special in fact that he debuted it for a live audience on the historic Ryman Auditorium stage in celebration of his ACM Nomination for New Solo Vocalist of the Year during GAC's *ACM Showcase* televised special. The performance resulted in a



HOUSER

standing ovation and an outpouring of requests from fans to make the song available for purchase.

As one fan commented, "In this crazy, hectic world, we sometimes become so impatient and expect what we want when we want it. This song is a powerful reminder that there is a higher power at work and His plan and timing are better than anything that we could imagine for ourselves. I'm so glad that this single is finally available on iTunes. I hope this song will earn Randy the recognition and radio airplay that his awesome talent deserves."

"I hope 'In God's Time' will touch people for different reasons-- whether it's spiritually or just personally. I think everyone has little 'miracles' in their life that happen when they least expect them — and sometimes they're what need to happen versus what we really want to happen," Houser said. "The song is about helping myself and others to realize that things happen for a reason."

Fans will have the opportunity to hear Houser perform the single on the Country Throw-down Tour, www.countrythrowdown.com.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Hollingsworth Selected ECCC Board Vice Chairman: Dr. Jimmy Hollingsworth (center) of Lake was chosen Vice Chairman of the East Central Community College Board of Trustees at the April 12, 2011 meeting. He is shown with Board Chairman Prentice Copeland (left) of Philadelphia and ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin. Dr. Hollingsworth succeeds Jack Winstead of Lawrence who resigned from the Board of Trustees after moving to Rankin County. Dr. Hollingsworth was valedictorian at Lake High School and graduated with honors from ECCC and Mississippi State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in science education. He received a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of Mississippi Medical School of Dentistry. He has practiced general and hospital dentistry in Newton since 1993. He is also on the staffs of Rush Hospital, Pioneer Hospital and Lackey Memorial Hospital. He is a member and past president of Newton Rotary Club and served as Assistant Governor of Rotary District 6820 from 2002 to 2005. He was recognized as a 2010 Mississippi State University Fellow representing MSU-Meridian. He is also a member of the MSU-Meridian Dean's Advisory Council. In addition, Dr. Hollingsworth is a member of the American and Mississippi dental associations and serves the state organization as District III president. He is married to the former Sharon Ezelle of Forest. They have a daughter, Abby. They are members of First Baptist Church in Lake.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Bounds Joins ECCC Board of Trustees: Rodney Bounds (center) of Newton was recently welcomed as a new member of the East Central Community College Board of Trustees. He is shown with Board Chairman Prentice Copeland (left) of Philadelphia and ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin following the April 12, 2011 meeting. Bounds is a retired Newton County official, having served 28 years as Circuit Clerk. He is also a former coach and led teams in Purvis, Beulah Hubbard and Newton prior to entering politics. He coached junior high football and baseball at Purvis for one year and led high school football teams at Beulah Hubbard for seven years and Newton for two years. He won several conference titles at Beulah Hubbard. A graduate of Newton High School, Bounds attended ECCC and was a member of the Warrior football team. He continued his education at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he received a bachelor's degree in physical education. He is married to the former Betty Castles of Lake. They have a son, Kevin; a daughter, Kelly; and five grandchildren.

Jones Joins Phi Theta Kappa Chapter

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM



Susan Terrell Jones of Meridian was among East Central Community College students recently inducted into Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. She was tapped for membership in the prestigious organization during the spring semester induction ceremony held recently on the Decatur campus. Jones, 41, is a nontraditional student majoring in Early Childhood Education. She is a candidate for graduation

in May. Jones, a 1988 graduate of Southeast Lauderdale High School, is married to Ollie E. Jones, Jr. and they have three children. The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to promote scholarship, develop character and cultivate fellowship among academically superior students. Membership is by invitation only. To be eligible, students must have earned a minimum 3.5 grade point average as full-time students and have an overall grade point average of 3.5 or better. ECCC faculty member Kate Covich serves as adviser.

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AA/ECE/ADA | UC-64201 5/16/4 11

Congrats 2010-11 Graduates!

Graduation Ceremony will be held Saturday, May 14th at Neshoba County Coliseum at 11 a.m.

ECCC Associate Degree Nursing Program is Re-Accredited

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College’s Associate Degree Nursing Program has received accreditation for another eight-year period, according to the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. Board of Commissioners, headquartered in Atlanta, Ga. ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin received notification of the reaccreditation from Sharon J. Tanner, EdD, RN,

EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT

Pittman Shares His Key to Success: Putting Christ First

By JENNIFER MOORE-POPE
Staff Writer

He has a vibrant smile and a wonderful attitude that can brighten the darkest day. And despite his extremely busy schedule, Donatello Pittman finds time for classes and numerous activities at East Central Community College. A graduate of Lake High School, Pittman is a theology major and plans to attend Mississippi College after his time at EC.



JENNIFER MOORE-POPE
Staff Writer

Pittman is formerly from Prentiss, but currently resides in Lake. He is an active member of the Baptist Student Union, Wesley Foundation and EC’s Gospel Choir. He is also very active in his community, participating in the Scott County Youth Mass Choir, the Holy Inspirational Mass Choir from Prentiss and the Magnified Praisers Step Team. As if all these activities are not enough, Pittman is also employed at the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Forest. During the summer of 2010, he accepted his call into the ministry. He preaches at many places and attends St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Lake. He has also preached God’s Word at the BSU during his time at EC. He said this concerning his new-found calling: “I love speaking to the youth and preaching the Gospel and I love to praise the Lord through singing”. His love for Christ is evident in that he will be serving as a missionary to the

Chief Executive Officer of the NLNAC Board of Commissioners. In the letter, Dr. Tanner congratulated the College’s ADN Program on its “outstanding achievement” and added the Commission “looks forward to continued successes for your nursing program.” Dr. Sutphin said reaccreditation “is evidence that the College provides strong teaching and learning to students in our district and that we

can provide quality employees in the healthcare field.” Dr. Betsy Mann, dean of healthcare education at the College, said she is “very pleased and proud” the ADN program has received reaccreditation. She also expressed appreciation to the nursing faculty and staff for their dedication and hard work the past 18 months in preparing for the onsite visit. She described the reaccreditation

procedure as a “very rigorous process that validates the quality nursing education that we provide at East Central.” “This process assures that educators maintain competency in providing nursing education that is based on professional standards and guidelines and evidence-based practices that our community deserves,” said Dr. Mann. “It also allows East Central the opportunity to showcase the technological advancements that we have incor-

porated to provide the best nursing graduates for the East Central district.” Members of the Associate Degree Nursing faculty include Lisa Gorgas, Sherri Cantey, Paula Russum, Christy Savell, Evadna Lyons, Tina McDyess, Denita Thomas, Martie Vaughn and Lori Luke. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for fall 2018.



PITTMAN

Philippines this year. In addition to his classes and activities inside and outside of EC, Pittman finds time to play sports, spend time with family and friends, and relax while watching television. An interesting fact that many may not know about him is that he has brushed shoulders with death twice throughout his life, as if once is not enough! The first incident occurred when he nearly drowned and the second when he grew extremely ill. Thankfully, God has seen fit for Pittman to continue to bless others during his time on Earth. And he does exactly that! Pittman is without a doubt an inspiration to everyone he encounters and his enormous heart is all the evidence necessary. In fact, when asked about his favorite aspect of EC, he stated “The people are my favorite part of EC”. Some of his favorite quotes that perhaps make him such an extraordinary person are: “Aim for the stars”, “Live life to the fullest”, “Never give up your dream”, and “Jesus saves”. What a high standard! As another year draws to a close, and many students go their separate ways, I would like to leave readers with another of Pittman’s favorite quotes: “If no one seems to love you, know that Jesus always does. Put God first and watch everything else fall into place”.

ECCC Announces Color Guard Selections

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Color guard members for East Central Community College’s Wall O’ Sound Marching Band for 2011-12 were recently announced by Thomas W. Carson, director of bands. Returning members and their respective high schools include Rachel Sharp (captain) and April Brawner, both of Louisville; Tiffany Benson (co-captain), Sarah Stewart, Kayla Greer and Ashleigh Savage, all of Neshoba Central; Kim Amer-son and Amanda Packer, both of Newton County; Breanna Terrell, Union; Danielle Brown,

Newton; Megan Smith and Stevie Pace, both of Lake; Kierra Ealy and Persephiney Wingo, both of Morton; Shantesha Hall and Shanyqua Lewis, both of Carthage; Kayla Brown, Scott Central; and Shelby Powell and Lydia Cook, both of West Lauderdale. New squad members are Katherine Upchurch, Neshoba Central; Corie Skinner, Amanda Barrett and Tori McInnis, all of Union; De’Obra Smith and India Ball, both of Louisville; Jasmine Pickens, Megan Pierce and Olivia Harrison, all Newton County; and Lorriana Burkes, Sebastopol.

NOTICE!

Safety Memo: Natural Gas Safety

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable, efficient, and environmentally friendly fuels in use today delivering natural gas for heating, water heating, and cooking as well as other natural gas appliances. Natural gas for East Central Community is delivered through a jurisdictional natural gas pipeline system. Like any form of energy, though, it must be handled responsibly. East Central Community College is known as a Master Meter Operator and has valves, regulators, and pressure stations on campus. Always remember safety first when operating natural gas appliances of any kind.

Natural gas is a nontoxic, colorless, and odorless fuel that is lighter than air. This lighter-than-air quality is an important safety factor. If a leak occurs, natural gas will mix readily with air and rise into the atmosphere. As a safety measure the natural gas that is piped to your home or business has a harmless odor similar to rotten eggs so that you can easily detect even the smallest amount of gas that might escape.

From design and construction to operations and maintenance, natural gas utilities like ours set high standards to keep natural gas pipelines incident-free.

Damage Prevention

Although safe, tested, and regulated, the system’s most common hazard is from 3rd party damage from excavation. Before any excavations are done, contact Dig Safety - Mississippi One-Call System, Inc. 1800-227-6477 or 811 and call East Central Community College at 601-635-6266. Always call before you dig. It’s as easy as dialing 8..1..1, and it’s the law!

Detecting A Natural Gas Leak

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable, and environmentally friendly fuels in use today, but leaks can occur. There are three key ways to recognize a natural gas leak.

- ~ Look. Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants also may indicate a natural gas leak.
- ~ Listen. An unusual hissing sound near gas lines or appliances may indicate a natural gas leak.
- ~ Smell. In its raw state, natural gas is colorless and odorless. Natural gas utility companies add a substance called mercaptan to create the familiar, rotten-egg-like odor usually associated with natural gas. You should take action even if you detect only a faint odor of natural gas in the air.

Natural Gas Safety Tips:

Here are some key words to help you remember what to do if a natural gas leak is suspected:

- ~ Leave. Leave the area immediately. Do not try to find or stop the leak.
- ~ Don’t Touch. Do not smoke, use a cell phone, flashlight, turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any kind of vehicle or equipment that could create a spark.

~ Dial. Immediately notify us. If a leak is suspected call the following number 601-635-6266 or 601-917-6119.

Remember - Never try to find the leak yourself!!!

To Report a Gas Leak call East Central Community College at 601-635-6266 or 601-917-6119 *or* Campus Police at 601-527-8939.

For additional information, contact East Central Community College 601-635-6266 or 601-635-6298.

Warrior Athletics



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Wood Provides Golf Balls to ECCC Team: Jim Wood (left) of Louisville recently made his annual contribution to the East Central Community College golf team and is shown presenting some of the 25 dozen practice golf balls he collected to Chris Clark, ECCC golf coach. Wood, who also made a monetary contribution to team, is a member of the ECCC Class of 1949 and was inducted into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995. His sister is longtime ECCC faculty member and former coach Lucille Wood, who in 1986 became the second member of the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame.

Tryouts Set for ECCC Tennis Teams

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Dianne O'Neill.
Activities are scheduled from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on the ECCC tennis courts.
For more information, contact Coach Dianne O'Neill, 601-862-2130.

Tryouts for East Central Community College's Lady Warrior and Warrior tennis teams in 2011-12 will be held Monday, May 23, announced Coach

Several Football Warriors Continuing Careers

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Several members of the 2010 East Central Community College football squad are continuing their careers at various four-year colleges and universities.
Former Warriors who transferred at mid-year to the respective institutions include running back Rod Hawkins of Union, and offensive lineman Lester Jackson of Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Central High School, both with Miles College in Fairfield, Ala.; offensive lineman Fred Smith of Newton County and linebacker Duane Bilbro, both with Faulkner University in Montgomery, AL; linebacker Rufus Williams, a product of Astronaut High School in Mims, FL, Midwestern State University

in Wichita Falls, TX; linebacker Bobby Thigpen of Forest, Mississippi Valley State University; offensive lineman Alaric Keams of Choctaw Central, Northwest Oklahoma State University in Alva, OK ; defensive linemen Khalid Wilson of O.P. Walker High School in New Orleans, University of Southern Mississippi; wide receivers Radarious Owens of Quitman and Fabian Johnson of Coahoma County High School, both with the University of North Alabama; and running back Caleb Porzell of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Silver Springs, Maryland, Hampton University in Hampton, VA.
Brian Anderson serves as Warrior head football coach.

ECCC Golfer Scores Ace in JUCO Event

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
East Central Community College sophomore golfer Crosby McDonald of Carthage made a hole-in-one while participating with team members in the East Mississippi Community College Invitational held April 3-4 at the Mississippi State University golf course in Starkville.
McDonald aced the par-three number 10 using a pitching wedge during first-round action. It was the Leake Academy product's second hole-in-one but first ace in tournament competition.
"It was very exciting...and there was a lot of yelling when the ball went into the hole!" said McDonald of his accomplishment. "It was a moment I'll never forget."
McDonald's and the Warrior linksters carded a 665 (330-335) and finished ninth in the 36-hole event, won by Northwest Mississippi Community College, which shot 606 (311-295). Mississippi Gulf Coast finished



MCDONALD
second at 611 (315-296), followed by East Mississippi, 612 (315-297), Copiah-Lincoln, 617 (316-301), Hinds, 634 (325-309), Jones County, 653 (332-321), Itawamba, 653 (322-331), ECCC and Holmes, 680 (347-333).
Luke Brown of Carthage led ECCC with a 10 over par 152 (79-73) and tied for seventh. Other scorers were Cole Harris of Decatur, 161 (83-78), Colby McLain of Philadelphia, 176 (88-88), McDonald, 176 (89-87), Hayden Weaver of Decatur, 180 (83-97) and Daniel Moody of Carthage, 182 (85-97).
Chris Clark serves as ECCC golf coach.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
ECCC Basketball All-Stars: Representing East Central Community College in the annual MACJC All-Star Basketball Games were (second from left) Keondre Hodges, a product of Newton High School, and Kenneth Barlow and Shanequa Bufkin, both former standouts at Scott Central High School. Hodges and Barlow helped lead the South men to a 98-89 decision over the North All-Stars, and Bufkin was on the winning side of the South women's easy 92-64 win. Barlow scored nine points and collected five rebounds in the victory and Hodges chipped in three points and had three rebounds. Bufkin did not score but was credited with a pair of rebounds. Pictured with the ECCC All-Stars are Warrior head basketball coach Maurice Bowie (left) and Lady Warrior head mentor Bill Smith. The annual matchups were held Monday, March 28 in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the ECCC campus in Decatur. ECCC, Pepsi and Rush Sports Medicine serve as sponsors of the MACJC All-Star Basketball Games.



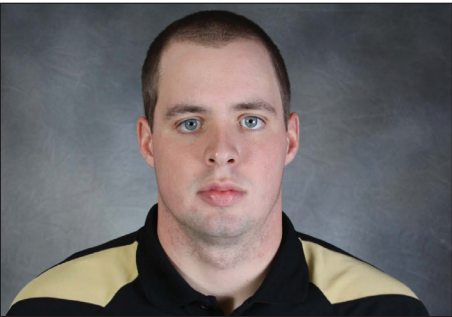
SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Sophomore Lady Diamond Warriors Honored: It was Sophomore Appreciation Night for the above members of the East Central Community College softball squad who were joined by family members for the special occasion held following the home finale Tuesday, April 19 on the Decatur campus. This group of student - athletes has amassed 74 victories the past two years, which includes a doubleheader sweep of Southwest Mississippi Community College prior to the ceremony. (The regular season finale is scheduled with Hinds Community College Friday, April 22 in Raymond. ECCC begins post-season play at the MACJC State Tournament set April 28-29 at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston.) As freshmen, they were part of a record-setting 2010 campaign, when the Lady Diamond Warriors captured a first-ever Region 23 Championship and finished fourth in the NJCAA Division II Softball Tournament en route to a record 47 wins. The championship squad also won the MACJC South Division title and finished state tournament runners-up. The successful season was capped with the squad earning NJCAA Academic Team of the Year honors. Sophomore team members, their respective high schools and parents are (from left) manager David Gavin of Long Beach, son of Sherry and David Galvin; pitcher Sara Breland of Neshoba Central, daughter of Andy and Angie Breland; infielder Kasie Buckley of Newton County, daughter of Steve and Gina Buckley; pitcher Taylor Bailey of Bowie High School in Austin, Texas, daughter of Greg Bailey and Jennifer Underwood; infielder Chelsea Jones of Enterprise, daughter of Danny Joe and Paula Jones; outfielder Abbie Joiner of Neshoba Central, daughter of Richard and Cheryl Joiner; outfielder Summer Alexander of Newton County, daughter of Bruce and Sandra Alexander; outfielder Olivia Maher of East Ascension High School in Gonzales, La., daughter of Mark and Paige Maher; infielder Lauren Nicholas of Neshoba Central, daughter of Sandy and Jeff Nicholas; and infielder Laurel Burnett of Neshoba Central, daughter of Melissa Burnett and the late Steve Burnett. Also pictured are head coach Scott Hill and assistant Kristin Chaney.

EC Cheerleaders Selected for '11-12

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Members of the 2011-12 cheerleading squad were recently selected at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced Shelly Thoms, cheer coach.
Sophomore cheerleaders and their respective high schools include Madison Nowell and Channing Buckley, both of Winston Academy; Drew Smith, Louisville; Dayton Johnson and Whitney Stokes, both of Neshoba Central; Katie Reeves, Hailey Dunavent, Zach Pigg, Jesse Holloway and Whitney Myers, all of Newton County; Jacob Johnson, Nanih Waiya; and Ashli Bell, Scott Central.
Freshman squad members are Mallory Holder, Sylva Bay Academy; Claire Tadlock, Newton County; Aubree Middleton, Raleigh; and Kayleigh McCool, Neshoba Central.
Sophomore Lane Evans of Nanih Waiya was chosen Warrior Chief mascot.

ECCC Hurler Mitchell Receives NJCAA Honor

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
East Central Community College Diamond Warrior Colton Mitchell of Lake has been named NJCAA Division II Pitcher of the Week.
Mitchell, a 6-1 sophomore, received the prestigious honor after hurling a no-hitter April 9 in an 11-0 victory over Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex in Decatur. The southpaw fanned six Bulldogs and allowed no walks in the five-inning matchup. He only allowed two base runners, both of whom reached base after being hit by a pitch.
Mitchell improved to 5-1 following the MACJC South Division contest.
The Diamond Warriors are currently 22-14 overall and 9-7 in league play.
East Central's baseball program is led by head coach Neal Holli-man and assistants Michael Avalon, Hunter Vick and Jesus Aleman.



MITCHELL

ECCC Warrior Golf Classic Set June 30

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
East Central Community College students will again be the top prize winner when the annual Warrior Golf Classic is held this summer at the Dancing Rabbit Golf in Choctaw.
This year's four-person scramble is scheduled Thursday, June 30 on the Oaks Course. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and will be followed by a shot gun start at 10 a.m.
Sponsored by the ECCC Alumni Association, the 10th annual event provides funding for student scholarships.
"The Warrior Golf Classic provides much-needed and appreciated scholarships for East Central students," said tournament coordinator Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth who serves as executive director for foundation and alumni relations. "Since the tournament began in 2001, more than \$30,000 in scholarships has been awarded to students who reside in our five-county district. We certainly appreciate the support received for the tournament the past 10 years and encourage others to participate in this very worthwhile event."
Entry fee is \$125 per person, which includes green fee, golf cart, T-shirt, lunch and give-aways.
Corporate sponsorships are also available at the following levels: Gold, \$650 (includes fees for a four-person team and a hole sponsorship); Silver, \$400 (includes fees for two players and a hole sponsorship); and Bronze, \$200 (includes a hole sponsorship).
Awards will be presented to the Corporate Division champion and the top three finishers in each flight. Various on-course prizes will also be provided.
For more information, contact Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, 601-635-6327 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 327. Her e-mail address is shollings@eccc.edu.

Warrior Athletics

ECCC Selects Muse for Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

He was known as the “Sebastopol Flash” in high school, and parlayed his basketball talents at SHS into successful careers at then East Central Junior College in Decatur and Delta State University in Cleveland. He also experienced a successful coaching career on the hardwood.

Dr. Clyde Muse, currently serving his 33rd year as president of Hinds Community College in Raymond, is being recognized for his athletic accomplishments with his selection to the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony was held April 26, 2011, at the Hilton Jackson on County Line Road.

Dr. Muse, who was chosen for the honor by the ECCC Alumni Association Officers and Board of Directors, said he was “pleased and very honored” that ECCC had selected him as its newest inductee into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame.”

The longtime Hinds Community College leader said he has “many fond memories” of his two years as a student-athlete on the EC campus.

“I have a great fondness for the days I spent at East Central, particularly the great coaches and teachers that I was privileged to have as a student,” said Dr. Muse. “The opportunity given to me by Coach Vincent to play basketball at East Central was one for which I

will forever be grateful.”

He continued, “East Central certainly gets part of the credit for the achievements in my lifetime. Had it not been for ECCC, I would not have traveled the path that led to a satisfying and rewarding career in education.”

Dr. Muse was a three-year letterman at Sebastopol and helped lead the Bobcats to several championships, including the Scott County Tournament title in 1946. He received most valuable player honors and was chosen team captain his senior season.

After a successful high school career, the 6-3, 170-pound center was headed to Southeastern Louisiana College but was denied a basketball scholarship.

Muse later enrolled at East Central, thanks to assistance from SHS school principal Leo Burns and EC president Dr. L.O. Todd.

“I owe a great deal to Mr. Burns and Dr. Todd,” Muse stated. “Mr. Burns recommended me to Dr. Todd who gave me a job washing dishes in the school cafeteria to help me pay for my college expenses.”

When he was not soaking his hands in dishwater, Muse was sinking baskets for the 1947-48 and 1948-49 Warrior basketball teams, coached by the late Arno Vincent who later served as ECCC’s third president from 1953-62.

Muse often led the Warriors in scoring and accounted for 23 of East Central’s 57 points in a three-point



MUSE

win over arch rival East Mississippi near the end of the 1947-48 season. In recognition of his success, Muse - who served as team captain - was named most valuable player his sophomore campaign.

He was also a member of the 1948 EC track team, specializing in the mile run.

After his EC career, Muse accepted

a scholarship offer to Southwestern Louisiana, but later decided to enroll at Delta State, where he was a member of the 1950-51 and 1951-52 basketball squads and served as captain his senior season.

He helped lead the Statesmen to the NAIA Regional title and a berth in the national tournament.

Although he does not recall the win-loss records of the teams he played on at Sebastopol, East Central and Delta State, Muse said he does recall that he never played on a squad that had a losing record.

After graduating from DSU with a bachelor’s degree in science with minor emphasis in health and physical education in 1952, Muse began his coaching and teaching career at Canton and led the boys’ basketball team to a Choctaw Conference title.

He later coached at Starkville High School and led the 1960-61 boys’ basketball squad to a state title. Muse’s personal success included serving as an All-Star basketball coach in 1957.

While living in Starkville, Muse invented the game of T-ball, which continues to be enjoyed by young major league hopefuls!

Muse, who holds master’s and doctoral degrees in school administration from Mississippi State University, began his work in administration in 1959 as high school principal and later as assistant superintendent at Starkville Public Schools. He was named Hinds

County Superintendent of Education in 1969 and became Superintendent of Meridian Public Schools in 1971.

On Jan. 13, 1978, Muse was named the sixth president of Hinds Community College. He is the longest serving president in the college’s history and has had an active career in education for 60 years. On a statewide level, Muse has played a lead role in the progression of the modern-day community college. As the long-time Legislative Committee Chair of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges, he led efforts to establish Mississippi’s two-year colleges as a national model for workforce training.

Dr. Muse is a member of the Mississippi Coaches Hall of Fame and has received “Alumnus of the Year” recognition from ECCC, Delta State and the MSU School of Education, among his many honors.

He was selected for the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007.

Dr. Muse was married to the former Vashti Underwood of Leland for 58 years until her death in 2010. They had two daughters, Mrs. Sellers (Julia) Cole of Philadelphia and Mrs. Randy (Susan) Rucker of Oxford, and a son, Vernon Clyde Muse Jr., of Raymond, who is married to the former Gail Weaver. The Muse family also includes eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

ECCC Netters Sweep Holmes

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College’s tennis teams recorded victories over Holmes Community College March 10 on the Goodman campus.

The Lady Warriors posted a 5-4 decision and the Warriors cruised by a 7-2 margin.

In women’s singles, Cassie Munn of Decatur defeated J. Holland, 6-4, 6-0; Lauren Lurk of Decatur blanked T. Morgan, 6-0, 6-0; Carrie Rushing of Decatur beat K. Evans 7-6 (7-3) and 6-4; and Anna Alexander of Little Rock clipped M. Petit, 6-1, 6-2. Madison Nowell of Louisville fell to C. Applewhite, 6-3, 3-6, 1-0 (10-7) and Danielle Pierce of Union lost to M. Lott, 6-1, 6-2.

Munn and Lurk blitzed Holland/Morgan 6-0 in women’s doubles. Nowell and Rushing

lost to Applewhite/Eaves, 8-3, and Alexander and Pierce fell 8-2 to Lott/Petit.

Warriors winning their respective singles matches included Zac White of Union, who blanked C. Macumber, 6-0, 6-0; Jason Loris of Moss Point, over H. Herrington, 6-3, 6-0; Matt Griffin of Union over M. Parkman, 7-5. 4-6, 1-0 (11-9); Walt Stinson of Philadelphia over B. Williams, 6-3, 6-2; and Josh Blackburn of Morton over J. Lyon, 3-6, 6-4, 1-0 (10-7). One match was forfeited.

In men’s doubles, White and Loris defeated Herrington/Parkman 8-2, and Griffin and Stinson beat Macubber/Johnson, also by an 8-2 score. One match was forfeited.

ECCC tennis coaches are Dianne and Pat O’Neill and Kyle Watson.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

EC Soccer Warrior Scoggin Inks Scholarship: East Central Community College soccer standout Aaron Scoggin (left) of Decatur is shown signing a national letter of intent to continue his career at Central Christian College in McPherson, Kansas. Central Christian is a member of the NAIA and NCCAA and competes in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference. Also pictured is ECCC soccer coach Kenneth Thompson. Scoggin was a freshman midfielder for the Soccer Warriors in 2010 and earned MACJC All-State honors. He is a product of Newton County High School, where he received various awards including All-District recognition his sophomore and senior seasons. He was also selected team most valuable player his senior season and earned most valuable offensive player honors as a sophomore. Scoggin spent his junior year at the Mississippi School for the Arts in Brookhaven, where he received All-District honors in soccer. His parents are Suzanne and Cliff Scoggin.

EC’s Luke Brown Finishes 10th in Region 23 Tourney

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College golfer Luke Brown of Carthage tied for tenth in the NJCAA Region 23 Championship held April 18-19 at Riverbirch Golf Club in Amory.

Brown posted rounds of 75 and 77 for a 152 total and barely missed qualifying for All-Region 23 honors and a second-straight berth in the NJCAA Division II Golf Tournament.

The Carthage High School product earlier received first team MACJC All-State honors after posting rounds of 76 and 74 for a 150 total in the state tournament held April 11-12 at Deerfield Country Club near Canton.

Brown participated as an individual in the Region 23 Championship, won by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College with scores of 293 and 306 for a 599 total, which is 23 over par. Northwest finished second at 606 (294-312), followed by Copiah-Lincoln, 614 (304-310), East Mississippi, 622 (314-308) and host Itawamba, 660 (330-330).

Gulf Coast’s Jared Smith won medalist honors with two rounds of 72 for an even-par 144. The Gulf Coast team and



BROWN

players with rounds of 149 and under qualified for the All-Region 23 Team and participation in the national competition scheduled May 17-20 at Goose Pond Colony in Scottsdale, Ala.

Brown tied for 38th in the 2010 NJCAA Division II Golf Tournament held at the Palm Valley Golf Course in Goodyear, Arizona. He carded rounds of 73, 77, 76 and 76 for 302 total, 14-over par. He was among 130 golfers from throughout the country participating in the four-day event.

Brown is a graduate of Carthage High School, where he received All-State and All-District honors.

His parents are Paula and Jimmy Brown of Carthage.

Chris Clark serves as ECCC golf coach.

EXTRAORDINARY ATHLETE

Leal Goes Beyond Measure

By RACHEL RAMIREZ
News Editor

Baseball season is in full swing and the East Central Diamond Warriors ranked 15th in JUCO. Guarantee everyone knows an individual could not have done this alone, it takes a team effort and great leadership to hold a national rank in JUCO, but one athlete from across the waters of the Atlantic Ocean has caught everyone’s attention. Carlos Leal is a resident of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. He plays hind catcher for the Warriors and walks out to a

song artist named Tego Calderon that keeps the crowds in the stands trying to figure what the song is saying.

Leal has played the American sport since he was five years old. He was inspired by his father, Carlos Leal, not only because his father played the sport but because of the game itself. Before coming to East Central, Leal played third base and hind catcher for Colegio San Ignacio de Loyola in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. When his long time friend of thirteen years, Ricky Velez Benitez, told him that there was an opening

for hind catcher at East Central he took a chance and jumped on a plane to try out.

Warrior head Coach Neil Holiman said, “Carlos Leal is someone that has really brought in exactly what we are looking for in our team. He has a great personality and has been a great asset to our team.”

This summer Leal will be playing Cawtawba, NC for the Cawtawba Valley Stars as hind catcher. When asked, “Where will you play after East Central” he responded, “Wherever the ball takes me.”

Leal is the son of Milly and

Carlos Leal, and brother of Michelle and Patricia Leal. He is majoring in Business and would like to open one of his own someday. His favorite baseball team is the Florida Marlins and on his down time, besides playing baseball is hanging out with friends.

Leal wants to be remembered as a hard worker, generous and good guy that strives to do more than what is needed to accomplish his goals in life. According to Assistant Coach Jesus Aleman, “He is a game changer behind the plate.”

We want Your News!

E-mail information about your club/organization to gphillips@eccc.edu.

Warrior Athletics

ECCC Softball Capture States Crown; Prepares to Defend Title

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Scott Hill will no doubt have a last- ing memory of his 42nd birthday. The ECCC softball coach had plenty reason to celebrate a special occasion made even more so as his Lady Dia- mond Warriors defeated top-seeded Mississippi Gulf Coast 7-6 in extra innings April 29 in the finals of the MACJC State Softball Tournament held on the Perkinston campus.

EC, the South No. 2 seed, scored the go-ahead and eventual game-winning run in the top of the eighth inning when Haelie Allen of Leake Academy crossed home plate following an in- field grounder by Chelsea Jones of En- terprise. Gulf Coast responded in the bottom of the frame with a runner at third but the scoring threat was nixed when centerfield Summer Alexander of Newton County hauled in a fly ball for the third out and the celebration began for the Lady Diamond Warriors, who improved to 32-11 under Hill and assistant Kristin Chaney. Gulf Coast dropped to 34-11.

The state championship is yet another milestone for the College's softball program, as the 2010 team captured a first-ever Region 23 title and finished fourth in the NJCAA Divi- sion II Softball Tournament. "What can I say about this spe- cial group of young ladies," said Hill after the championship battle, which followed the Lady Warriors' 4-3 semi- final win over Pearl River in a grueling 10-inning battle earlier in the day. "These girls have such a strong de- sire to win....they always believe in themselves and have a never-say-die attitude. They are just a very special group....and provided me with a won- derful birthday gift!"

Hill especially noted the perfor- mance of sophomore pitcher Taylor Bailey who was on the mound for all 18 innings Friday. Bailey also hurled seven scoreless innings and allowed one hit in a 4-0 shutout over North- west in first-round tournament action Thursday. Bailey is a product of Bowie High School in Austin, Texas.

"Taylor was simply outstanding in all three games," Hill said. "She is such a remarkable athlete....and very com- petitive, just like her teammates. Her arm may be sore for a while but I know she will be ready to go for the Region 23 Tournament this week."

The Lady Diamond Warriors are set to defend their Region 23 Tournament title at the three-day event, which be- gins May 5 at Traceway Park in Clinton.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

EC jumped out to a 3-0, first-inning lead over Gulf Coast following an RBI double by Kasie Buckley of Newton County, a sacrifice fly from Alexander, and a run-scoring single by Brittany Pounders of Southeast Lauderdale. Scoring those first three runs were Joiner, Nicholas and Buckley.

The lead stretched to 5-0 in the second inning after Abbie Joiner of Neshoba Central stole home and Buck- ley's single brought home Nicholas from third.

Gulf Coast tied the contest with five runs in the bottom of the frame, high- lighted by run-scoring doubles from Leslie Williams, Courtney Moore and Courtney Fairly

The Lady Diamond Warriors re- gained the lead at 6-5 in the fourth inning following Buckley's sacrifice fly, scoring Jones from third.

Moore's sacrifice fly in the sixth knotted the score at 6-6.

The contest remained tied in the seventh and forced extra innings.

The additional period begins with a runner placed at second base. Allen was the designated runner for EC and advanced to third following a sacrifice by Kelsi Watson of Smithville. Allen scored the eventual game-winning run on a ground-out by Jones.

Buckley, Joiner and Pounders had three hits each to lead the EC offense. Buckley belted a double and two singles, and Joiner and Pounder were credited with three singles. Lauren

Nicholas of Neshoba Central had two singles. Singles each were recorded by Bailey and Roberts. Buckley collected three RBIs and Alexander, Pounders and Jones knocked in a run each.

Runs were scored by Joiner (2), Nicholas (2), Buckley, Jones and Allen.

Bailey allowed six earned runs on 11 hits in the eight-inning matchup. She fanned three batters and walked three.

ECCC 4, PEARL RIVER 3

EC took a 1-0 lead in the first inning following Pounders' sacrifice fly, scor- ing Joiner from third.

The lead was extended to 2-0 in the fourth inning, when Bailey scored after earlier reaching base on a fielder's choice.

Pearl River tied the contest in the sixth inning. The contest remained tied after seven innings and went into extra innings.

The Lady Wildcats grabbed a 3-2 lead in the top of the eighth, but EC rallied to tie the contest at the bottom of the frame when Joiner scored fol- lowing a single by Alexander.

The score remained deadlocked until the bottom of the tenth, when Joiner's single to left field brought home Watson for the winning run. Watson was the designated runner at second base and advance to third fol- lowing a sacrifice by Jones.

EC hitters were Buckley, double; and Joiner, Nicholas, Alexander and Roberts, singles each.

Joiner, Alexander and Pounders were each credited with an RBI.

Runs were scored by Joiner (2), Bailey and Watson.

Bailey allowed just two earned runs on eight hits. She fanned six batters.

ECCC 4, NORTHWEST 0

EC began tournament action with a 4-0 shutout over Northwest.

The Lady Diamond Warriors scored all the runs they would need in the first inning, when Joiner scored follow- ing an infield grounder by Alexander who also reached base on the play.

EC added two runs in the second, as Bailey scored on an error and Watson tallied following a single by Nicholas.

Alexander scored the final run in the third inning following a single by Roberts.

Joiner and Buckley led the offense with two singles each. Alexander con- tributed a double. Singles each were recorded by Nicholas, Bailey, Roberts and Jones. Nicholas, Alexander and Roberts were also credited with an RBI each. Runs were scored by Joiner, Alex- ander, Bailey and Watson.

Bailey allowed just one hit and registered seven strikeouts to notch the victory.

ECCC Softball Squad Sweeps Southwest in Home Finale

Roberts and Pounders each belted two-run homers and led the playoff- bound Lady Warrior softball squad to an 8-0 win in the first game of a MACJC South Division doubleheader with Southwest Mississippi Commu- nity College in Decatur.

ECCC took the second game by a 6-3 margin to complete the sweep in the regular season home finale, which also paid tribute to sophomore team members.

EC's record now stands at 27-11 overall and 14-7 in league play. Regu- lar season competition concludes with the Hinds Community College Lady Eagles April 22.

Roberts put EC ahead to stay with her two-run blast in the second inning, which also scored Summer Alexander who had earlier singled.

EC added four runs in the fourth inning, highlighted by Roberts' mis- handled fly ball in short right field which scored Pounders and Bailey for a 4-0 advantage. Pounders had earlier walked and Bailey reached base fol- lowing a single.

Watson added to EC's run total in the fourth inning with her double to left field which scored Haelie Allen from third. Allen was a courtesy runner for Roberts. Watson scored EC's sixth run following a single by Jones.

Pounders' two-run blast came in the

fifth inning and ended the game due to the eight-run rule.

Pounders also blasted a double and finished with two RBIs. Buckley con- tributed a single.

Bailey picked up the win in the five-inning matchup and allowed just four hits. She fanned five batters and walked one.

In the second contest, Alexander gave EC a 1-0 lead in the first inning when her single brought home Nicho- las who had earlier reached base on a throwing error.

EC scored four runs in the second inning, highlighted by Joiner's two- run double, which scored Allen and Watson. Allen was courtesy runner for Roberts who reached base after be- ing hit by a pitch. Watson had earlier singled. Joiner later scored following a single by Nicholas. Nicholas gave EC a 5-0 advantage when she scored fol- lowing a single by Alexander.

EC scored its sixth run in the fourth inning when Nicholas scored on an er- ror after Buckley singled to right field.

Alexander led the offense with three singles and two RBIs. Watson contributed two singles.

Joiner and Roberts each doubled and singles were recorded by Nicholas, Buckley and Pounders. Joiner was also credited with two RBIs and Nicholas knocked in a run.

Bailey went the distance to notch the win. She allowed three runs on five hits in the seven inning matchup. She also fanned four batters and walked one.

ECCC, Pearl River Softball Squads Split Doubleheader

Alexander's three-run homer pro- vided ECCC's softball team with a 3-0 win in the first contest with Pearl River Community College but the Lady Wild- cats rallied to take the second game by a 2-0 margin in doubleheader action April 16 on the Poplarville campus.

Following the split, EC's record stands at 25-11 overall and 12-7 in the MACJC South Division.

In addition to Alexander, Nicholas belted two singles and scored on Alex- ander's dinger along with Buckley.

Bailey was the winning pitcher. Bailey hurled seven scoreless innings and allowed five hits. She fanned four batters and walked one.

In the second contest, EC hitters were Bailey, Buckley, Joiner and Jones, singles each.

Bailey took the loss, allowing two runs on six hits through five innings. She also fanned two batters. Allen hurled one inning.

ECCC, Gulf Coast Split Softball Doubleheader

Buckley and Alexander had three hits each to lead the EC offense in the opener. Buckley belted a home run, double and single and Alexander slapped two doubles and a single. Buckley was also credited with two RBIs and scored three runs. Alexander knocked in a run and scored once.

Other hitters were Jones, double and single; Pounders and Bailey, doubles each; and Joiner and Nicholas, singles each. Pounders also knocked in two runs and Jones, Joiner and Nicho- las each had an RBI.

Also scoring runs were Nicholas, Bailey, Jones and Roberts.

Taylor got the win in the five-inning matchup, which was called due to the eight-run rule. She fanned six batters and allowed just two hits.

In the second game, EC jumped out to an early 3-0 lead following Pound- ers' two-run homer but the Lady Bull- dogs rallied to tie the division battle in the fifth inning and later claimed victory with two runs in the eighth inning.

In addition to Pounders, other EC sluggers were Alexander, double and single; Joiner and Bailey, two singles each; and Nicholas and Buckley, singles each. Alexander also knocked in a run and scored a run. Joiner also scored.

Bailey went the distance and took the loss, allowing four runs on eight

hits. She also fanned two batters and walked one.

ECCC, JCJC Split

ECCC's softball team remained in second place in the MACJC South Division following a split of their divi- sion doubleheader with Jones County Junior College April 5 on the Ellisville campus.

In the first game, EC hitters were Nicholas, Buckley and Jones, two sin- gles each; Roberts, double; and Joiner, Alexander, Watson and Bailey, singles each. Nicholas was also credited with an RBI. Watson scored EC's lone run.

Bailey took the loss, allowing five earned runs on 11 hits through six innings. She fanned three batters and walked one.

In the second contest, EC scored three runs in the top of the eighth in- ning and held on for the key division victory. The game was tied 3-3 after seven innings.

Alexander led the offense with a triple and two singles. She was also credited with an RBI and scored one.

Other sluggers were Pounders, double and single; Joiner and Nicho- las, two singles each; Watson, double; and Buckley, Bailey, Roberts and Jones, singles each.

Watson was also credited with two RBIs. Joiner, Pounders and Jones knocked in a run each.

Also scoring runs were Allen, Wat- son, Jones and Burnett.

Bailey picked up the win, allowing three earned runs on six hits through 7 2/3 innings. She fanned three batters.

ECCC Softball Squad Sweeps Co-Lin in Key Division Battles

ECCC's softball squad took sole pos- session of second place in the MACJC South Division standings following a doubleheader sweep of Copiah-Lin- coln Community College in Decatur.

The Lady Diamond Warriors posted a 3-0 shutout in the opener and claimed a 3-2 victory in the second contest to complete the sweep and improve to 22-8 overall and 9-4 in league play.

Alexander's three-run homer in the first inning provided EC's offense with all the runs needed for the shutout vic- tory in the first contest.

Nicholas contributed a single and scored on Alexander's dinger with Joiner who reached base following a walk.

Bailey hurled seven scoreless in- nings to notch the win. She allowed four hits and fanned five batters.

In the second contest, Jones' single to right field scored Burnett from sec- ond base in the bottom of the seventh and provided EC with the game-win- ning run.

The Lady Diamond Warriors tallied single runs in the first and second in- nings to take an early 2-0 lead but Co- Lin tied the contest at 2-2 in the fifth.

Joiner led the offense with two singles.

Other hitters were Nicholas, Bailey and Roberts.

Nicholas and Allen also scored runs in addition to Burnett.

Bailey went the distance in pick- ing up the win, allowing two runs on three hits. She fanned two batters and walked one.

ECCC Takes Pair from Hinds

The Lady Diamond Warriors cruised to pair of victories over Hinds Commu- nity College in games played March 30 in Decatur.

EC won the opener 9-1 and regis- tered an 8-0 shutout in the second contest.

In the first game, Pounders belted a double and a single and collected five RBIs to lead the offense.

Other sluggers included Watson, triple; Buckley, double; and Joiner, single.

Runs were scored by Joiner (3), Buckley (2), Alexander (2), Pounders and Watson. Alexander was also cred- ited with two RBIs.

Bailey notched the win and allowed one run on seven hits in the five-in- ning battle. She fanned one batter.

Hitters in the second contest were Nicholas and Bailey, three singles each; Alexander and Pounders, two singles each; Buckley, double; and Jones, Bur- nett and Watson, singles each.

Runs were scored by Buckley (3), Alexander (2), Nicholas, Pounders and Burnett.

Bailey was the winning pitcher in the five-inning matchup and allowed just two hits. She fanned two batters.

ECCC Lady Diamond Warriors Sweep Southwest

ECCC's softball team grabbed a pair of victories over Southwest March 26 on the Summit campus.

The Lady Diamond Warriors won the opener by a 3-1 margin and held on for a 2-0 decision in the second contest.

Nicholas slapped two singles and Buckley and Bailey each doubled to lead the EC offense in the opener.

Nicholas also scored a run. Other hitters were Joiner and Rob- erts, who had singles each. Joiner also scored a run.

Alexander was credited with two RBIs and Pounders scored a run.

Bailey picked up the win, allowing the one run on three hits. She fanned four batters and walked one.

In the second victory, Pounders belted a double and single to lead the offense. She was also credited with an RBI.

Other sluggers were Alexander, double; and Joiner, Nicholas, Buck- ley, Bailey and Roberts, singles each. Alexander also scored a run and Joiner knocked in a run. Watson also scored.

Bailey was again the winning pitcher, allowing just two hits in the shut-out. She fanned three batters.

ECCC, Pearl River Split Softball Twinbill

After posting a 5-1 victory in the opener, ECCC's softball team dropped a 6-5 decision in the second contest to split a doubleheader with Pearl River Community College.

Jones belted two solo home runs and Joiner blasted a double and two singles to lead the Lady Diamond War- riors in the first contest.

Joiner was also credited with an RBI and scored once.

Alexander also excelled at the plate by pounding a double and single. She also knocked in a run.

Other hitters were Nicholas, Buckley and Watson, singles each. Watson also scored a run.

Bailey (7-2) tossed a three-hitter in the seven-inning contest to notch the victory. She fanned seven batters.

In the second contest, EC rallied from a 4-1 deficit to tie the contest at 4-4 in the fifth inning but the Lady Wildcats responded with two runs in the sixth and held on for the one-run victory.

Buckley slapped two runs and collected four RBIs to lead EC in the second matchup.

Also credited with multiple hits were Watson, double and two singles; Joiner, three singles; and Nicholas, two singles. All three scored a run each and Nicholas knocked in a run.

Pounders contributed a single. Buckley (2-5) took the loss, allowing one earned run on three hits through three innings. She fanned two batters.

Bailey hurled four innings and allowed three earned runs on six hits. She fanned a batter and walked one.

Lady Diamond Warriors Win Seven Contests

Spring break proved a successful time for ECCC's softball squad, which won six of seven contests to improve to 15-7.

The Lady Diamond Warriors began competition by participating in the Judson College Tournament held March 11-12 on the Selma, Ala., cam- pus.

EC won three of four contests in the two-day event by posting wins over Calhoun Community College (10-1), Wallace-Dothan (2-1) and Concordia (22-1). The lone setback was to Darton (2-1).

Warrior Athletics

Playoff-Bound Diamond Warriors Sweep Southwest

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The playoff-bound EC Community College baseball team completed regular season competition on a successful note by grabbing a pair of victories from Southwest Mississippi Community College April 28 at the Clark-Gay Baseball Complex.

The Warriors cruised 10-3 in the opener and posted a 9-3 victory in the nightcap of the MACJC South Division doubleheader, which was originally set for Wednesday, April 27 but was rescheduled due to the weather. The regular season finale was also “Sophomore Day,” as sophomore players and family members were recognized during pre-game activities.

Following the sweep, EC improved to 26-18 overall and 13-11 in league play. The Warriors are tied for third in the South with Pearl River (27-18, 13-11), which swept Copiah-Lincoln Community College Saturday to qualify for post-season play. Jones County (31-13, 17-5) won the division and Gulf Coast (18-20, 11-9) finished second. The top four teams in the South and North divisions will participate in first-round playoffs scheduled May 6-7.

In the first win over Southwest (23-20, 7-15), EC jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning, highlighted by Charles Hill’s two-run double which scored Jeremy May of Newton County and Vincent Kortbawi, a product of Hale County High School in Moundville, Ala. Hill is a product of Carthage High School. B.J. Martin, a product of Franklinton High School in Mt. Hermon, La., gave EC a 1-0 lead with his RBI single, scoring Darmaal Moore of Stone County.

EC put the game out of reach with a five-run second inning, which extended the lead to 8-0. Kortbawi belted a run-scoring double and Carlos Leal of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, knocked in a run with a single to lead the effort. Two runs also scored via walks from Southwest pitchers.

Darmaal Moore led the offense with three singles. He also scored three runs.

Other hitters included Kortbawi, double and single; May and Martin, two singles each; Hill, double; and Leal, single. Martin led in RBIs with three, and Hill and Leal knocked in two runs each. Kortbawi, Fred Hampton of Nanih Waiya and Tyler Brant of Southaven were credited with a RBI each.

Starter Bobby Bryan of Crossett (Ark.) High School was the winning pitcher. The southpaw allowed three hits and no earned runs through five innings. He fanned six batters and walked two. Right-hander Joel McKee of Neshoba Central hurled two innings in relief and allowed two hits and no earned runs. He also fanned a batter.

In the second contest, scoring began with Hampton’s three-run homer in the fourth inning. EC added six runs in the fifth for the easy victory.

In addition to Hampton, other EC sluggers were Kortbawi, two singles; and Martin, Brant, Jerrod Myers of Jackson St. Andrews, singles each.

Neal, Brant, Myers and Tanner Noakley of Ocean Springs were also credited with an RBI each.

Starter Colton Mitchell of Lake was the winning pitcher. The southpaw allowed one earned run on two hits through 5 1/3 innings. He fanned nine batters and walked two. Southpaw Willard Bacon of Choctaw Central hurled 2/3 innings and allowed two hits. He also fanned two batters. Right-hander Cal Cossich of Ocean Springs pitched one inning and allowed two hits.

EC’s baseball program is led by head coach Neal Holliman and assistants Michael Avalon, Hunter Vick and Jesus Aleman.

EC wins 9-3 over Pearl River to Split Twinbill

After falling 7-2 in extra innings in the first contest, EC’s baseball squad responded with a 9-3 victory in the nightcap behind home runs by Hill

and Martin to split an MACJC South Division doubleheader with Pearl River Community College April 20 at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex.

In the opener, EC jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning of the opener following run-scoring singles by Hill and Martin. Moore scored the first run after earlier reaching base with a single. Long tallied on Martin’s single. Long reached base after being hit by a pitch.

Pearl River picked up single runs in the second and third innings to tie the contest at 2-2 at the score.

EC had an opportunity to win the opener in the bottom of the seventh with the bases loaded but Myers grounded to a fielder’s choice to end the threat.

Pearl River responded with five runs in the eighth inning.

Moore, Hill and Martin led the EC offense with two singles each. Both also knocked in a run. Long contributed a single.

Mitchell took the loss in relief. Mitchell hurled 1 2/3 innings and allowed two earned runs on four hits. He also fanned three batters. Bryan went six innings and allowed one earned runs on eight hits. He fanned a batter and walked two.

In the second contest, Martin’s three-run homer in the first inning and a grand slam by Hill in the third frame powered EC to victory. Hill also contributed a double.

Other hitters were Long, double and single; Leal, double; and Brant, single. Long and Leal were also credited with an RBI each.

Bacon was the winning pitcher. He allowed one earned run on five hits through five innings. He also fanned seven batters and walked three. Ward hurled two scoreless innings in relief and fanned four batters.

EC, Co-Lin Split Baseball Twinbill

After rallying for a 7-3 win in the opener, EC’s baseball squad was unable to hang on to an early 5-0 advantage and fell 8-7 in the second contest to split a doubleheader with Copiah-Lincoln Community College April 16 in Wesson.

Myers, Long and Martin, had two each hits to lead the EC offense. Myers belted a triple and a single, and Long and Martin had two singles each. Martin was credited with two RBIs, and Myers and Long knocked in a run each and scored once.

Fred Hampton of Nanih Waiya contributed a single and was credited with two RBIs.

Mitchell went the distance to get the win. Mitchell allowed three earned runs on eight hits. He also fanned three batters and walked one.

In the second game, EC jumped out to a 5-0 lead following Long’s three-run homer in the third.

The Warriors extended their lead to 7-1 in the fifth inning but the host Wolves rallied for three runs in the fifth and four in the seventh to notch the victory.

In addition to Long, other EC sluggers were May and Brant, double and single each; and Martin, Hill, Moore and Leal, singles each. May and Hill were also credited with two RBIs each.

Wooten took the loss, allowing four earned runs on three hits in 2/3 inning of work. Starter Mann went 4 2/3 innings and allowed two earned runs on four hits. He also walked four batters. Cossich pitched one inning and fanned a batter. Ward hurled 1/3 inning.

EC/HINDS Split Double-Header

EC split a doubleheader with Hinds Community College in Raymond April 13, falling 4-1 in the opener and winning the nightcap by an 8-3 margin.

Kortbawi had a triple and a single to lead EC sluggers in the opener. He also scored a run.

Other hitters were Hill, Hampton and Moore, singles each. Hill also knocked in EC’s lone run.

Kidd took the loss. He pitched 1/3 inning and allowed one earned run on one hit. Bryan hurled three innings and allowed one earned run on three hits. Dalton, Wells and Ward also made brief appearances on the mound.

In the second game, EC extended a 1-0 lead by tallying five runs in the sixth and two in the seventh to clinch the victory. Hinds scored its three runs in the seventh.

Long and Martin had two singles each to lead EC at the plate. Both were also credited with an RBI each.

Other hitters were May, double; and Hill, Brant and Leal, singles each. Brant and Leal also knocked in two runs each. May and Noakley were each credited with an RBI.

Bacon got the win. Bacon hurled five scoreless innings and allowed three hits. He also fanned a batter and walked one.

Wooten pitched two innings in relief and allowed three earned runs on six hits. He fanned two batters.

Warriors Sweep Gulf Coast; Mitchell Hurls No-Hitter

Mitchell hurled a no-hitter, Hill belted two home runs and Leal contributed a dinger to lead EC to an 11-0 shutout of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in the first of two victories over the then division-leading Bulldogs at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex.

The Warriors took the second contest by an 8-4 margin as several Warriors again found success with the long ball. Brant blasted two home runs, and Hill and Martin, each homered.

In recording the no-hitter, Mitchell fanned six batters and allowed just two base runners, both of whom reached base after being hit by a pitch. The contest was called after five innings due to the 10-run rule.

Hill also contributed a single and went 3-for-3 in the opener with four RBIs. His two-run blast in the bottom of the fifth ended the game. His first dinger was a solo blast in the fourth inning.

Leal added a single to his first-game stats and was credited with two RBIs. His two-run homer in the second inning gave EC a 3-0 lead.

Other hitters were Kortbawi, double and single; Martin, double; and Long and May, singles each. Martin and Long also knocked in a run apiece.

In the second game, Brant added a double to his two home runs and was the top run producer with three RBIs. He belted a two-run homer in the third inning and registered a solo blast in the fourth.

Martin, in addition to his home run – a two-run blast in the second inning – slapped a single and finished with two RBIs.

Other sluggers were Noakley, double and single; Moore, two singles; and Kortbawi and Myers, singles each. Moore was also credited with an RBI.

Mann picked up the win. Mann, a southpaw, allowed two earned runs on four hits. He also fanned two batters and walked one. Dalton, Wells and Wooten hurled an inning each. Dalton allowed two earned runs on three hits and walked a batter. Wells allowed one hit and no runs and Wooten pitched a scoreless inning and allowed no hits.

ECCC Sweeps Beville-Fayette

The nationally-ranked EC baseball squad grabbed a pair of non-division victories following a doubleheader sweep April 5 of visiting Beville State Community College of Fayette, Ala.

The Warriors posted an 8-3 decision in the opener and cruised 14-1 in the nightcap improved to 19-13. EC was ranked 15th in the latest NJCAA Division II poll.

Kortbawi belted a double and two singles to lead the EC offense in the first victory. He was also credited with two RBIs and scored twice.

Also with multiple hits were May, triple and single; and Long and Hampton, double and single each. May also had two RBIs and scored a run and

Long knocked in a run. Hampton also scored a run.

Other hitters were Hill and Leal, singles each. Both were also credited with an RBI each.

Kidd picked up the win. Kidd allowed one earned run on two hits through two innings of work. He fanned a batter and walked three. Cossich was the starter and allowed one earned run on four hits through four innings. He also fanned two batters. Also appearing on the mound were right-hander Casey Wells of West Jones, who gave up one earned run on three hits through two innings, and Wooten, who hurled a scoreless seventh inning and allowed no hits. He fanned one batter.

In the second contest, Kortbawi again led the offense with a home run, two singles and five RBIs. He also scored three runs.

Hill also had three hits – all singles – and was credited with two RBIs.

Other hitters were Myers, two singles and an RBI; Long, double and two RBIs; and Leal and Taylor Parks of Manchester Academy in Yazoo City, singles each. Parks, Hampton and Martin were also credited with an RBI each.

Also scoring runs were Moore (2); Myers (3), Long (2), Kyle Moore (2) of Southaven, Leal and Tyler Neal of Edinburg.

Dalton was the winning pitcher in the five-inning battle. He hurled three scoreless innings and allowed no hits. He walked a batter. Humphries and Ward hurled an inning each. Humphries allowed one earned run on one hit and Ward hurled a scoreless final inning and fanned a batter.

EC, Pearl River Split Twinbill

Moore’s solo home run in the top of the seventh snapped a 1-1 tie and provided the Warriors with a 2-1 victory over Pearl River Community College in the first of two contests on the Poplarville campus.

Pearl River rallied from a 3-0 deficit to post an 8-5 decision in the second contest and earn a split of the MACJC South Division doubleheader.

In addition to Moore, other EC hitters in the opener were May, two singles; and Hill and Noakley, singles each.

Noakley gave EC a 1-0 lead with his RBI single in the second inning, which scored Hill. Pearl River tied the game in the fifth frame.

Mitchell was the winning pitcher, allowing one run on five hits through 6 2/3 innings. He fanned 11 batters and walked one. Wooten recorded the final out with a strike out.

In the second contest, EC jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the third inning following Kortbawi’s run-scoring double. The Warriors added two more runs in the frame to take a 3-0 advantage.

Pearl River rallied for a 4-3 advantage in the fourth inning but EC reclaimed the lead at 5-4 in the top of the fifth after Kortbawi knocked in a run and later scored.

The Wildcats tallied four runs in the sixth to grab the lead for good.

Kortbawi led EC hitters with a double, single and two RBIs. He also scored twice.

Long collected two singles and knocked in a run.

Other hitters were Brant, double and RBI; and Hill, Noakley and Martin, singles each. Hill also scored twice and Martin scored a run.

Cossich took the loss, allowing one earned run on two hits through two innings. He also fanned a batter and walked two. Mann was the starter and allowed one earned run on no hits through three innings. He fanned three batters and walked three. Dalton hurled 1/3 inning and allowed three earned runs on three hits. Bacon pitched the final 2/3 innings and allowed two hits.

Warriors Post Key Wins Over Copiah-Lincoln

A three-run homer by Kortbawi and a single blast from Richie Long

powered EC’s baseball team to an 8-4 decision over Copiah-Lincoln Community College in the first game of doubleheader in Decatur, and the Warriors continued their strong offensive performance with a 10-1 victory in the nightcap to complete the sweep.

Kortbawi finished with four RBIs in the opener. Long also collected a double and scored twice.

Hill also had a productive outing at the plate, as the sophomore outfielder belted three singles, knocked in a run and scored twice.

Other hitters included Noakley, two doubles; and May and Brant, singles each. May also scored a run and Brant was credited with an RBI. Martin also scored a run.

Bacon picked up the win, as he hurled three scoreless innings and allowed three hits. Dalton was the starter and allowed two earned runs on five hits through two innings. He also fanned a batter.

In the second contest, EC exploded for six runs in the third inning and cruised to the easy victory.

Hill helped ignite the scoring onslaught when his double to right field scored Myers and Kortbawi and gave EC a 3-1 advantage. Brant and Moore of Stone County followed with run-scoring doubles in the inning and the route was on.

Kortbawi had another strong performance at the plate by blasting his second homer of the day. He also singled and scored twice.

Hill, Brant and Moore finished with doubles. Hill was the top run producer with three RBIs and scored twice. Brant and Moore also knocked in a run each and scored once.

Martin and May contributed singles each.

Bryan was the winning pitcher, as he allowed one earned run on five hits through five innings. He also fanned three batters. Wooten and Joel McKee of Neshoba Central hurled an inning each.

Warriors Sweep Nationally Ranked Hinds

EC Community College’s Warriors grabbed a pair of wins over nationally ranked Hinds Community College at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex.

Kortbawi belted a two-run homer in the fourth inning and gave EC thelead for good in an 8-3 victory in the opener, and Kortbawi doubled and singled and drove in four Warriors in a 10-0 shutout in the nightcap to complete the sweep. He also scored twice.

Kortbawi also doubled in the first contest and finished two-for-four at the plate with two RBIs. He also scored twice.

May also had a productive outing for EC, collected two singles, an RBI and scored on Kortbawi’s two-run blast.

Other sluggers for EC included Hill, Long, Martin and Brant, who had doubles each; and Moore and Noakley, singles each. Hill was also credited with two RBIs and May, Long and Moore each knocked in a run.

Mitchell picked up the win for EC, allowing five hits and two earned runs through six innings. Mitchell also fanned two batters and walked one. Cossich hurled the seventh inning, allowing one earned run on one hit. He also walked a batter.

May also continued his hitting streak in the second contest, as he collected a double and two singles. He also knocked in a run.

Also having multiple hits were Moore, double and single, and Martin, two singles. Moore also had two RBIs and scored twice. Martin knocked in a run and scored once.

Other hitters were Hill and Moore, singles each. Hill also had two RBIs.

Mann hurled four scoreless innings in notching the victory, which was called after five innings due to the 10-run rule. He allowed two hits, fanned a batter and walked one. Wooten pitched the final inning and fanned a batter.

GRADS

From Page 1

Castillo, Adra Cole-Emerson, April Denise Croft, Nandi Franklin, Lisa S. Johnson, Susan Renee Jones, Whitney Monique Nash, Richard M. Pace, Jr., Laurice S. Sanders, Lisa Tillman, Kathryn Laire White and Cynthia Evonne Williams, all of Meridian; and Shajauna Barrett and Bonnie Bell Shelton, both of Tooomsuba.

LEAKE: Loren Atkinson, Cass Beem, Brandon Keith Caldwell, LaTia Clayton, Cassandra Faye Dawson, India L. Dickerson, Ariel Jade Doggett, Austin Marcus Dye, Misty Ellington, Sallie Marie Evans, LaShonda MeShell Griffin, Bradley Horn, Alicia M. Jayroe, Alisha Denise Jones, Chassidy Sharlyn Kelly, Jerodrick Leavy, Jacob Lewis, Richie Long, Pervis Mann, Ruby McCurdy, Stacey Pogue Mobbs, Jeremy A. Moore, Antonio D. Nash, Jeremy B. Pilgrim, Chance Sistrunk, Emily Thomas, Julius Lashard Wash, Linda Watkins and Gregory Cameron Wood, all of Carthage; LaShannon Marshall Brown, LaPorshia Antionette McBeth and Kimberly M. Patterson, all of Lena; Alton Junior Clark, Sebastopol; and Joseph William Adams, Tyler Lane Comans, Adam Chase Dove, Felicia Holifield, Ashley Nicole McDill, Karen K. Moorehead, William P. Pierce, Charles Dusty Russell, Carmen Shuler and Alicia Wheeler, all of Walnut Grove;

MADISON: Whitney Lee Willis, Canton;

MONROE: Chad Andrew Mangum, Aberdeen;

NESHOBA: Delynn Shirakatrice Agee, Choctaw; Richard Adams, Tabatha Adcock, Belinda Nicole Alexander, Cyril Kane Amos, Willard Bacon, Jr., Morgan Dion Bailey, Felisha Martin Ball, William Chandler Barfoot, John Travis Blount, II, Terrell F. Brantley, Johnathon Breedlove, Sarah Kathryn Breland, Tiffani LeAnn Briscoe, Crystal Bryan, Laurel Burnett, Hanna Elizabeth Burt, Dana Nicole Sims Byrd, Melva J. Clemons, Michael Cox, Leah Dennis, Bradley Drury, Warren D. Flake, Jessica Renee Gibson, Brian Keith Hancock, Lisa K Harrell, Yulon Stewart Huff, Shauna Jackson, Joshua Taylor Jarriel, Abbie Joiner, Daphne LaJean Kelley, Sharla LaRose King, Brittany Ann Madere, Robin L. Miller, Brandon McFarland, Joel Kirkland McKee, Meredith Brooke McKee, Jakiala McWilliams, Shikira Kieanna Moore, Sequita D. Phillips, Kristin Allie Pilgrim, Whitney Paige Richardson, La’Kia Ricks, Charles Walton Stinson, April C. Stribling, Jamie Lee Thomas, Matthew Tingle, Tracy Michelle Triplett and Katie Warren, all of Philadelphia; and Lauren Leigh Nicholas, Preston; Katharyn Emily Grace Benson, Rusty Thomas Boykin, Christine Camille Camp, Angela Cruz, Rhoda Valerie Davis, Steven Felter, Edward Owen Fondren, Shellie Renee Germany, Matthew Rich Griffin, Marcus Lee Herrington, III, Tracy Henley Kilpatrick, Tracy Matthews, Adrianna Vasquez Salgado, Nikki Sheeley, Cody Spence, Dicie Lekesha Taylor, Syndey Tucker, Taylor Joyce Upchurch, Brittany Whittle and Stacy Elizabeth Willis, all of Union;

NEWTON: Lindsey Bishop, Nicole N. Harvey and Laken Molliann Vaughn, all of Conehatta; Kim Denise Amerson, Ashley Lauren Amis, Celia L. Boggan, Brittany Hope Brown, Stephanie Rigdon Dean, Patrick Ezell, Melinda Caroline Haralson, Jean Harrington, Christopher Coburn Harris, Kelli Virginia Harris, Courtney Paige Lanier, A.J. Mapp, Brittany Marquette Parker, Jolene D. Smith, Monica Janine Vincent and Tiffany Mechelle Wright, all of Decatur; Angela Melton, Rahel Latoshia Morgan, Denise D. Walker and Stephen J. Walker, all of Hickory; Tonya Lynn Evans, Lake; Miata Abril Evans, Marcus E. Gardner, Colby Eugene Harvey, Hannah Ashley Peoples and Mary Jessica Shoemake, all of Lawrence; Anna Melissa Alexander, Summer Leigh Alexander, Sarah Eakes Barrett, Kasie LeAnn Buckley, Russell Jordan Clark, Whitney Clearman, Donna Nicole Culpepper, Jessica Lynne Harrison, Bridgett Hines Hitt, Jeremy May, Lachelle Moss, Barbara A. Rigdon, Brooke Jensen Roberson, Crystal Tate and

Jamie Lyn Truett, all of Little Rock; Ashley Boulton, Whitney O. Bowden, Spencer Leonard Cash, Ethan Forbes Chance, Michael E. Chapman, Mia Lyles Claiborne, Kimberly Loeue Evans, Laurie Godwin, Andrew William Harrison, Amie Hillie, Brenda G. Hubsher, Lisa Michele Jay, Melissa A. Jones, Danny L. Jones, Sr., Stephanie Latrice McLaurin, Breshawn Calita McNeal, Kayla Christine Meaders, Wesley Devon Robinson, Laura Walley and Bryan M. Wiseman, all of Newton; and Jon Moore, Union;

OKTIBBEHA: Kasey Akins and Chikeda Collins, both of Starkville;

RANKIN: Alise M. Bryant, Brandon; Mary Kathryn McCormick, Pearl; and Tamara Ann McPhail, Pelahatchie;

SCOTT: Joevennia Roshelle Allen, Tasha Black, Jeffrey W. Chisolm, Aleshia Renee Crimm, Jerilynn Crosby, Sherman Logan Curry, III, Dustin Cushman, Michael Ann Durham, Andrew Michael Lee Gibbs, Marissa Janae’ Gordy, Laura Elizabeth Gunn, Marley Elyse Hanna, Cody Ross Harrell, Mia M. Holifield, Meaghan Austin Huseman, Shaquinta Shantell Ickom, Melody Jones, Brian DeRay Kimble, Teresa Lofton, Edna R. McDonald, Jennifer Elizabeth Moore-Pope, Quentinette Ni’Cole Odom, Tybrica Odom, Tina Marie Pittman, John Carl Riser, Latoya Robinson, Veronica Smith, Sarah Leann Summerlin, Lori LeAnn Thompson, April Denise Vivians and Audranna Walker, all of Forest; Karley Mitchell Al-

len, Joyce Ais, Kiswana Burnside, William Quinton David, Amber Gray, Fredrick Bernard Harris, Nigil Sinclair Horton, Colton Mitchell, Donnatello Rappheal Pittman, Brittney Antonio Smith, Melanie L. Stroud and Joseph C. Williamson, all of Lake; Rebecca Ruth Cole, Lawrence; Samantha Lynne Elkins, Lena; Nakesha Lashay Kincaid and Cynthia B. Perry, both of Ludlow; Sherrell Bilbro, Joshua Garrett Blackburn, Matthew Harrison Blackburn, Joshua Glenn Kennedy, James H. Lindstrom, III, Pierre Miranda, Flory J. Mitchell, Patrice Yentel Moore, Vicki Sawyer, Kayla Rae Stevenson, David C. Torrence, Autumn N. Walker and Kimberly Nicole Weems, all of Morton; and Jeremy Shane Hunter, Sebastopol;

SMITH: Brittany Harrison and Kelsey Derrel Wedgeworth, both of Pulaski; and Melissa Ann Cox, Raleigh;

WINSTON: Latanya Ann Ball, Willie Ruth Coleman, Charles C. Covington, Gregory Tyler Dalton, Geralyn Stewart Grey, Fonda Rae Goss, Dian-nie M. Grisson, Kelsey Hope Hill, Logan Earl Hilliard, Jeffery H. Hudson, Douglas Wade Janz, II, Kayla Joe, Charles E. Johnson, Kaylin Jones, Meredith Jones, Linda Love, Carmen Noel Matzek, Renae Metts, James Scott Ming, Avery K. Morgan, Heather Lane Page, Jacob C. Pilgrim, Amy M. Rogers, Gretchen Giraud Russell, Jay D. Shotts, Katlin Alice Woodruff and Tyler Wright, all of Louisville; Stacy Carter, Def-fany Moore Phillips and Ethel

Marie Spiva, all of Noxapater; and Bernita Nell Miller, Mc-Cool;

GRENADA: Jesus Emmanuel Martinez, Grenada;

ARKANSAS: Bobby Bryan, Crossett;

LOUISIANA: Olivia Moree Maher, Gonzales;

ALABAMA: Frank J. Harris, Lisman; Vincent Kortbawi, Moundville; and

NEVADA: Johannah L. Johnson, Tonopah.

AUGUST 2010 GRADUATES

CLARKE: Brandon Edward Kelly, Quitman;

HINDS: Monica Johnson, Jackson;

JASPER: Ethan Wade Lewis, Rose Hill;

LAUDERDALE: Karrie E. King, Meridian; Tamika Tronzell Brown, Toomsuba;

LEAKE: Kayla Catherine Cook, Kerri Cook and Brittany Powers, all of Carthage; and Jerekia Harris, Lena;

NESHOBA: Jonee Brantley, Brandon Gregory Griffin, Monty Lewis, Ashley Nicole Pettis, Jayson D. Sharp, Buffy M. Todd and Ashley Nicole Tolbert, all of Philadelphia; Jerome Rashad Evans, Christopher Pearson and Dale Yates, all of Union;

NEWTON: Sandra Denise Lampkin, Conehatta; Jamaica Chapman, Casey Don Shoemaker and Chassidy Smith, all of Decatur; Kristian Martinae Evans and Ashley Strebeck, both of Hickory; Thomas C. Gibbs, Lake; Timothy Martin Seibel, Lawrence; Nicholas Kyle Alexander, Little Rock; Shan’Nee-ci Brown, Mallary Cumberland, Audra Walker and Joaquina

Shaunte’ Watts, all of Newton; and Jonathan Adkins, Union;

SCOTT: Lakeisha D. Lyles, Davida Macon-Jones, Casie McClendon, Jacqueline Pace and Janet Ricks, all of Forest; Roshanda T.N. Butler and M. Christina Gibbs, both of Lake; Caleb A. Brown, Morton;

SMITH: Ava Green, Magee;

WINSTON: Jermaine Omar Glass, Courtney Richardson, Vana Jean Rush, Brigitte Sullivan and Mary F. Sullivan, all of Louisville; and TreLynda Monique Lewis, Noxapater;

GEORGIA: Lournetta Rochell Moore, Brunswick; and

ALABAMA: Raymond Schendel, Gilbertown.

DECEMBER 2010 GRADUATES

CLARKE: Kay Lyn Milstead, Quitman; and Damarcus Lewis and Radarius Tywan Owens, both of Stonewall;

HINDS: Brandon Tarrío, Jackson;

LAUDERDALE: Tara Kalanya Lewis, Bailey; Cassandra Renae Landrum, Marion; and Miranda L. Fox, Jovunius V. Miller and Adam T. Morrison, all of Meridian;

LEAKE: Anahi Esqueda, Manuel Essqueda, Robert Donald Faulkner, Sonya D. Jones-Jenkins, Anthony Russell Loper and Brandon E. Quick, all of Carthage;

NESHOBA: Bobby Keith Mitch, Crystal L. Roach, Nashima Breann Thompson and Vincent Wilson, all of Choctaw; Amanda Leigh Partridge, Collinsville; Daniel Evan Bell, Anthony Brown, Kelly Fay Dansby, Lance W. Garner, Amy

Johnson, William Carothers Land, Brewer Keith McGee, Paula Johnson Nash, Racquel Simmons, Derick Sims, Carrie Renee Stokes, Rhonda Michelle Stovall and Phillip Michael Williamson, all of Philadelphia; and Antionette L. Poole, Union;

NEWTON: Hannah Marie McCloud, Chunky; Jamie Vale Anderson and Jessica M. Coleman, both of Conehatta; Jimmy Andrews, Todd Philip Blount, Reginald Keeyon Davis and Jared Wilson McElhenney, all of Decatur; Laura Dianne Alexander, Tyler Davis, Cory L. Fitzgerald and Barbara A. Rigdon, all of Little Rock; Maree Antronette Kidd, Brittany Lynn Morrison and Latoya Nicole Needham, Evelyn K. Smith, Asia K.M. Tingle, all of Newton; and Bobby J. Harrell, Union;

SCOTT: Mercedes Brown, Chiquita S. McClendon and Candace A. Patrick, all of Forest; Nancy L. Stroud and Laura Reshelle Weeks, both of Lake; Ysabel Avalos, Jasmine Nicole Earby, Benjamin Bryce Harrell and Jenna DeLane Hatch, all of Morton;

WINSTON: Lindsey Donald, Leslie H. Fussell, Clarissa Latrice Harris, Paige R. Harris, John R. Hatcher, Codi Taylor Ingle, Sarah Lawson Page, Quinn Andrew Roark, Dustin Levi Stewart, Anthony Tatum, Patrick J. Watson and Jessica L. Williamson, all of Louisville;

ALABAMA: Essica M. Smith, Cuba; and Megan E. Carlisle, Gilbertown; and

TEXAS: Kylie Anne McDon-ald, San Antonio.

STOP BEFORE you DROP

...that Class

- **Be aware of Refund dates. If you drop a class, you will still have to pay for it!**
- **Dropping a class may affect your financial aid status for Pell grants and student loans now and in future semesters. Ask a Financial Aid Office employee to be sure!**
- **Dropping a class may affect scholarships, VA benefits, and other aid programs. Be aware that in most cases you will lose money, and you may lose the entire scholarship or benefits. Ask the VA representative in the Admissions Office how dropping a class will affect your VA funds. Ask someone in the Financial Aid Office to be sure how dropping classes will affect you and your scholarships or other aid programs!**
- **Dropping to less than full-time status (12+ hours) may adversely affect automobile or medical insurance coverage.**
- **Have you talked to your instructor about dropping the class? Ask your instructor for advice!**
- **Is the class a prerequisite for another class you need? Will dropping this class delay graduation or transfer plans? Ask your advisor to be sure!**
- **Are you working too many hours? If so, is there another solution? More work hours often leads to lower grades.**
- **If after careful consideration you decide to drop a course, please complete the appropriate paperwork.**

Scenes from Senior Day 2011



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Carthage Students Participate in ECCC Senior Days: Carthage High School students (from left) Keeyanna Harris, Gabrielle Wilson, Niqueria Thomas and Larencia Lance were among those who attended East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. They are shown with ECCC recruiter/Tech Prep Career Center Director Romonica Evans.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Lake Students Attend ECCC Senior Days: These Lake High School students attended East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. From left are Megan Everett, Sharnecqua Holifield, Taurus McBeath and Chris Allen. They are shown with ECCC Director of Housing/Student Life Marcie Pinson.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
CCHS Students Attend ECCC Senior Days: These Choctaw Central High School students attended East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. From left are Breanna Vaughn, Mason Farmer, Jonathan Cotton, Austin Rivers and Zach Billie. They are shown with ECCC academic counselor Michael Alexander.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Forest Students Attend ECCC Senior Days: These Forest High School students attended East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. From left are Victor Diaz, Terrance Shepard, Daniel Hernandez, Sonyndrea Moore, Martha Huerta, Shelby Patterson and Nathan Reynolds.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Participate in ECCC Senior Days: These students from Edinburg High School were among those attending East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. Pictured are (from left) Jamie Odom, Tanner Joiner, Kerry Palmer and Elizabeth Burnside. They are shown with ECCC recruiter/Tech Prep Career Center Director Romonica Evans.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Leake Academy Students Attend ECCC Senior Days: Leake Academy students (from left) Tanner Winstead, Kris Potts, Hunter Grundy, Alex Weir and Jacob Harthcock.

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Everett Attends ECCC Senior Day: Kayla Everett (left) of Forest, a senior at East Rankin Academy visits with Vice President for Student Services Randall Lee.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Participate in ECCC Senior Days: East Central Community College Vice President for Student Services Randall Lee (second from left) talks with Leake Academy students (from left) Ally Loper, Meghan Johnson and Alex Weir.



Louisville Students Attend ECCC Senior Days: These Louisville High School students attended East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. From left are Deonta Hawthorne, Earl Gooden and Mercedes Leach. They are shown with ECCC academic counselor Lanette Hanna.



NCA Students Participate in ECCC Senior Days: Newton County Academy students (from left) Andrew Hanna, Tiana Grover and Lauren Shimfessel were among those attending East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently on the Decatur campus. They are shown with ECCC academic counselor Lanette Hanna during



Participate in ECCC Senior Days: Louisville High School students (from left) Jasmine Slaughter, Deniqua Glenn, Decembra Roberts and Deandra Goss.



Kidd Attends ECCC Senior Day: Denise Kidd (left), a senior at Newton High School, tries her hand with a Laproscopic Trainer during the Information Showcase held as part of East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. At right is Surgical Technology instructor Leann Shirley whose class uses the surgical equipment.



Morton Students Participate in ECCC Senior Days: Morton High School students (from left) Brittany Foster, Jarell Lynch, Jeremy Lopez, Amber Jolly and Darshae Sanders.



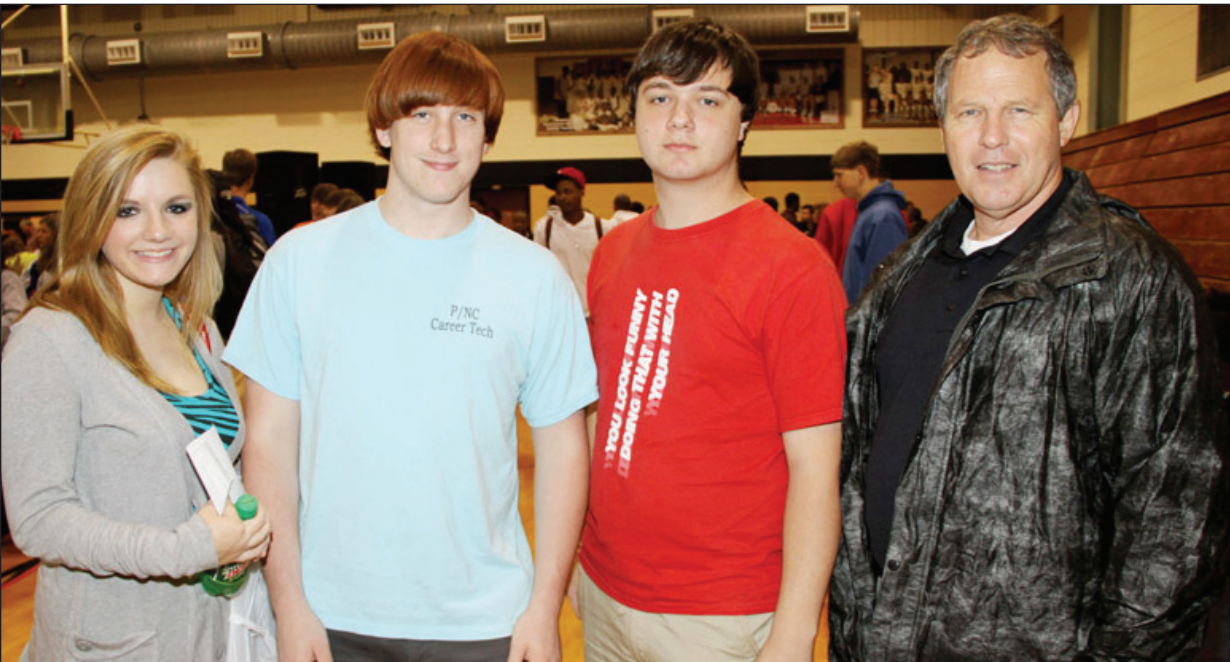
Philadelphia Students Participate in ECCC Senior Days: These Philadelphia High School students attended East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. From left are Russell Bennett, Shakira Young, Abby Posey, Yue Xing Lu, Blake Gordon and Michael Withrow. They are shown with ECCC academic counselor Michael Alexander



Nanih Waiya Students Attend ECCC Senior Days: These Nanih Waiya High School students were among area seniors participating in East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. Pictured are (second, from left) Yunika Gill, Chris Resh, Kayla Hall and Ashley Stokes. They are shown with mathematics instructor Sylvia Wright.



SCHS Students Participate in ECCC Senior Days: These Scott Central High School students attended East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. Front row, from left are Labilius Lofton, Jamillah Williams, Ellen Black, Tyisha Amis and Shaquille Evans. Second row, from left are Jeremy Thames, Tevin Nickols, Shaquille Patrick, Marcus Bland, Nick Robinson, Hubert Patrick, Davoddrick McKee and LaRomeo McKee.



Neshoba Central Students Attend ECCC Senior Days: These Neshoba Central students attended East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. From left are Katherine Upchurch, Spencer Sims and Austin Savell. They are shown with ECCC academic counselor Michael Alexander.



Sebastopol Students Attend ECCC Senior Days: These Sebastopol High School students attended East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. From left are Katie Gill, Blake Germany and Christina Creighton. They are shown with ECCC academic counselor Michael Alexander.

Scenes from Senior Day



South Leake Students Attend ECCC Senior Days: Among South Leake students participating in East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently were (from left) Tarus White, Ebony Norris, Maggie Selmon and Lakeneth Weidman.



Union Students Participate in ECCC Senior Days: Union High School students (from left) Chance Lowery, Jerri McDonald, Nigel Hunter and Kortney Johnson were among those attending East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities.



Winston County Students Attend ECCC Senior Days: These Winston County students were among area seniors participating in East Central Community College's annual Senior Day activities held recently. Pictured are (from left) Robbie Gregg and Brian Young, both of Noxapater; and Mia Arnault, Nathan Stone and Alexa Graham, all of Winston Academy. They are shown with history instructor Marc McCool.

Licensed Practical Nursing Club holds Bake Sale, Raffle



VICTORIA PIERCE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
On March 21, ECCC Practical Nursing Student Organization held a Raffle and Bake Sale that raised \$213. EC's Practical Nurses who helped included: (left to right) Ashley Broach, Melissa Winters, Tami Godwin, Stephanie Peters, Caleb Alexandra, Kimberly Thomas, Kimberly Noblie, Sandra Phillips, Nancy Sciple, Olivia Jackson, Chestina Ingram, and Rose Eichelberger. Holding the bake sale sign is (left) Babs King and (right) Brook Aday.



Thanks
for all your hard work!
The Award-Winning
Tom-Tom Staff!



The Tom-Tom staff members for 2010-11 are: front row, from left, Anna Alexander of Little Rock; Raychal Reed of Louisville; News Editor Rachel Ramirez of Forest; Assistant Editor Christina Nollie of Carthage; Ashley Moore of Carthage; and Stephanie Lunsford of Collinsville; back row, from left, Colby Harvey of Lawrence; Dana McKee of Conehatta; Photographer Victoria Pierce of Union; Aly Hall-Stringer of Louin; Meghan McIntosh of Carthage and Tyler Yates of Decatur.

Warrior Scene



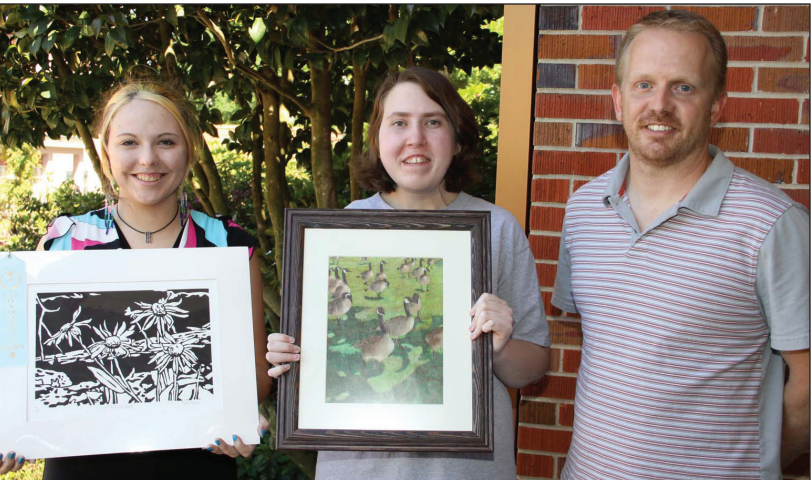
SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Pit Band for ECCC's 'All Shook Up' : Members of the pit band for the East Central Community College musical presentation of "All Shook Up" were Natalie Emmons (seated), band leader/piano; and (standing from left) Ed Girling, electric drums; Tom Carson, electric guitar; and Ryan Clarke, bass guitar.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
ECCC Participants at Etiquette Workshop: These East Central Community College career-technical instructors and students attended an Etiquette Workshop held recently at Mississippi State University-Meridian. The workshop included a Dress for Success Demonstration and provided information on Networking Skills and Dinner Etiquette. Seated from left are business technology instructors Christy Ferguson and Judith Hurtt, and sophomore business technology students (standing from left) Tina Pittman of Forest, Belinda Alexander of Philadelphia, Barbara Rigdon of Little Rock and Mia Claiborne of Newton.



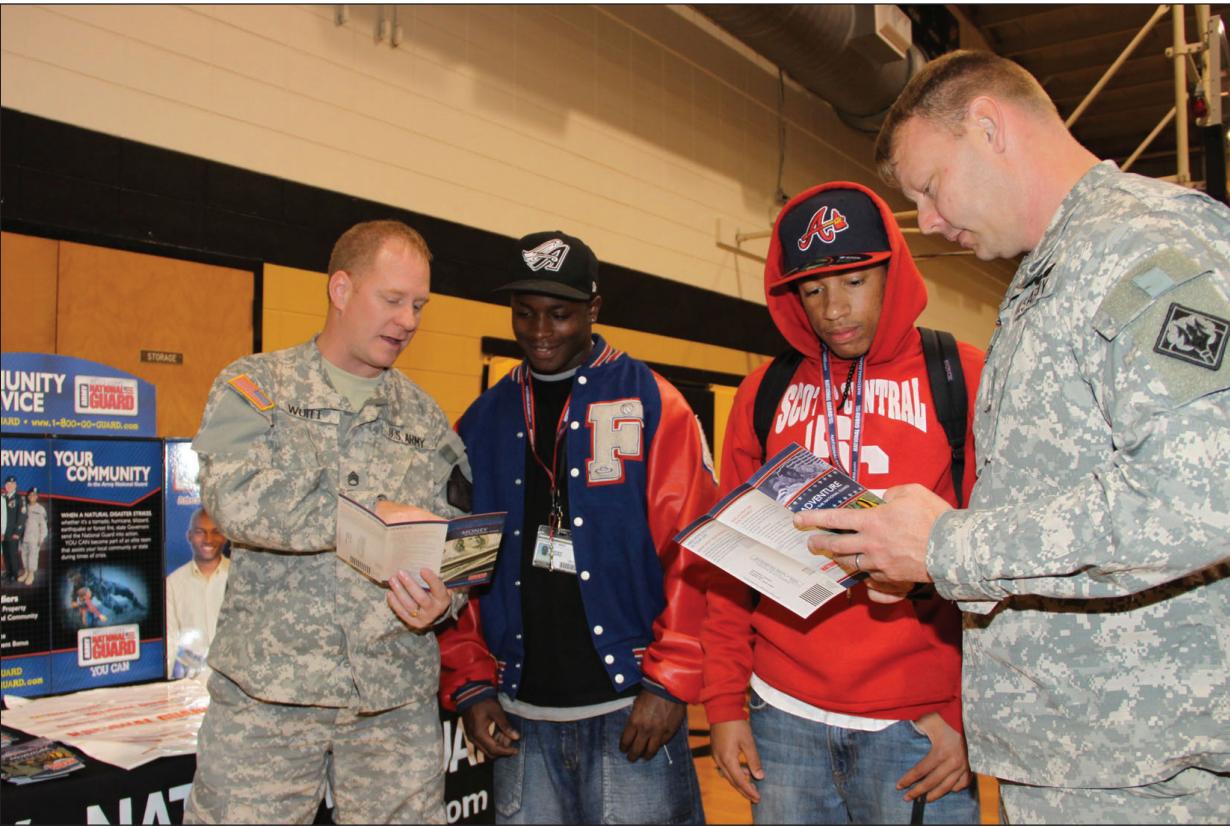
SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
ECCC hosts EC's Got Talent: East Central Community College held their annual talent show Tuesday, March 8, 2011 in Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium. Pictured left to right are: EC's Got Talent's Grand Prize Winner Layna Shackelford, a freshman liberal arts major from Columbus, who sang and played on the guitar "Loving You is Easy;" second place winners, an acapella duo, sophomore Computer Networking major Carolyn Young of Philadelphia and freshman liberal arts major Avery Ward of Morton; and third place winner was Austin Dye of Carthage, a sophomore engineering major, who played guitar and sang "Man of Constant Sorrows."



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
ECCC Award-Winning Art Students:Displaying their award-winning artwork are East Central Community College students (from left) Tara Martin of Forest and Brittany Bobo of Union, who are shown with art instructor Christopher Brady on the Decatur campus. Martin won honorable mention in printmaking for her linocut print "Wild Daises" at the 2011 Mississippi Community/Junior College Art Instructors' Association State Art Competition held at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville. Bobo also won honorable mention for her photo "D.C. Geese" at the Goodwill Art Show held in Jackson. The photo was taken during a visit to Washington, D.C. The Goodwill Art Show is sponsored by Goodwill, Greater Jackson Arts Council and Very Special Arts, the international organization on arts and disability.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
ECCC's 'William Winter Scholars: Sophomore Anna Alexander (left) of Little Rock and English instructor Ann Durham (right) of Forest represented East Central Community College in Decatur at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration held Feb. 24-27, 2011. The 22nd annual event is held to recognize outstanding students and teachers in the humanities division of Mississippi's colleges, community colleges and universities. The honorees are referred to as "William Winter Scholars" in honor of former Gov. Winter (center), who has served as the Celebration's director of proceedings since it began in 1990. Alexander, a communications major and President's List scholar, holds leadership positions in several campus organizations. She is also a recipient of numerous honors, including first-place awards in public speaking and parliamentary procedure in the statewide Phi Beta Lambda competition. A home-schooled student, Alexander is the daughter of George and Cindy Alexander of Little Rock. Durham joined the ECCC English faculty in August 2006. Durham was previously employed with the Forest Municipal School District, where she served as teacher, division chair, personnel liaison and student teacher mentor. She received several awards for excellence during her 20-year career at Forest, including STAR Teacher, Principal's Choice and Teacher's Choice. At EC, Durham teaches Beginning English, Intermediate English, English Composition I and II and American Literature. She is a recipient of the 2009 Lamplighter Award, which is presented to the state's outstanding community and junior college instructors. Durham holds an associate's degree from ECCC, a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree from Mississippi State University. She is married to Mike Durham. They have two children and one grandchild.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Promoting MS National Guard: Mississippi National Guard recruiters SGT James E. Woitt (left) of Carthage and SGT Chris Petermann (right) of Newton discuss career opportunities with East Central Community College students Rodtrellius Amos (second from left) and Tybri Odom, both of Forest, at the College's Business, Education and Healthcare Expo held in March. Approximately 45 vendors participated in the annual event, held in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM
Collegians Rocked the EC Campus: The Collegians of East Central Community College presented their spring concert April 11 in Huff Auditorium. The popular rockers performed selections by The Zac Brown Band, Pink, John Mayer and many more popular artists. Special guest performers will be The Tripp Rush Band, featuring young drumming phenol, Tripp Rush. Group members, shown in a recent performance during the 2011 Senior Day activities, include vocalists Jessy Harrison, Tyler Barrett, Ava Marie Adkins, Tiffany Spence Wright, Richie Ferguson and Monica Vincent, all products of Newton County High School, and Ava Marie Adkins and Bailee Viverette, both of Union; rhythm section members Jordan Vance (lead guitar), Trinity Episcopal in Natchez, Colby "Rico" Horton (bass), Neshoba Central, Travis Smallwood (drumset), West Lauderdale, Brandon Boulton (keyboards), Newton County and Stacy Willis (auxiliary percussion), Union; wind section members Graylon Foster (trumpet), Philadelphia, Bobby Branning (trumpet), West Lauderdale, Ruby McCurdy (trumpet), Carthage, Audrey Cannon (mellophone), Northwest Rankin and Tyler Yates (trombone), Newton County; and technicians Alex Chappell, Union; Cole Stanley, Sumrall; Danny Smith, Carthage; and Dale Alberts, West Lauderdale. Thomas W. Carson serves as director and also plays rhythm and acoustic guitar for the talented group.