

Campus Events

Saturday, April 12
Color Guard Auditions @ 8:00
Percussion Auditions @ 9:00
Drum Major Auditions @ 11:00
Baseball vs Itawamba, Summit, MS @ 2:00

Tuesday, April 15
Baseball vs Jones, Summit, MS @ 3:00

Thursday, April 17
Residence Halls Close at @3:00 for the Easter Holiday

Friday, April 18 -April 21 Easter Holiday

Monday, April 21
Admin Offices Closed
Residence Halls Open @ 4:00

Tuesday, April 22
Softball vs Meridian, Summit, MS @3:00

Thursday, April 24
Bear Necessities Day

Saturday, April 26
Baseball vs East MS, Summit, MS @ 3:00

Sunday, April 27
Sunday Buffet @ 11:00

Monday, April 28
Final Exams Begin
Spring Online (Full Term)

Tuesday, April 29
Baseball vs Pearl River @ 3:00

Wednesday, April 30
Awards Day / Faculty Appreciation Day

Tuesday, May 6
Final Exams:
3rd Period MWF @ 8:00, 4th Period MWF @ 10:15,
A Period Tue/Thur @ 1:00, and 6th Period MW @ 3:15

Wednesday, May 7
Final Exams:
5th Period MWF @ 8:00, C Period Tue/Thur @ 10:15,
2nd Period MWF @ 1:00, and E Period Tue/Thur@ 3:15

Thursday, May 8
Final Exams:
B Period Tue/Thur @ 8:00, 1st Period MWF @ 10:15, and D Period Tue/Thur @ 1:00

Friday, May 9
CTE Graduation @ 10:30, RN Graduation @ 1:00, and Academic Graduation @ 3:30

Last Day for 8-Week Online and 4-Week Online Classes

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above: George Harris; second row: Avery Ardis, Anna Rai Cline; third row: Ruth Bishop, Braden Paulk, Caroline Barcelona, Abby Bieker, Kassidi Watts; fourth row: Breanna Godbold, Savannah Arnold, Jaden Pierre, Olivia Goldman dance to “Thriller.”
photo by Chuck Barnes

Dancing in the Streets

By Ella Pattie, Editor/
Lorelai Davis, Co-Editor

The Stageband captivated audiences with their highly anticipated annual spring show, "Dancing in the Streets." Over four exhilarating days, the performers, crew, and directors poured their hearts into every moment, delivering a performance that many, students, faculty, and visitors alike, are regarding as Stageband's best show yet. Each of the four shows was uniquely spectacular and left the audience in awe. The interactive visuals, charismatic singers and dancers, and brilliant band all played a part in the show's massive success.

The show was produced by the following: Lorin Lewis, Director; Laci Godbold, Choreographer; Joe B. Raymond, Director of Bands; and Greg Haskins, Assistant Director of Bands. Other important players in the production included Nathan Wells, Tech Specialist and Crew Director; Gus Paulk, Set Builder; Billy Powe, Audio Engineer; Caleb Brown, Social Media; and Troy Douglas, Lighting Engineer.

Students put in countless stretches of long hours to ensure the show would be a success. They gave their complete and total dedication when it came to

rehearsing for the show throughout the semester. Whether it was the singers, dancers, band members, or crew, each and every person involved in Stageband showed their hard work as they prepared the show for audiences. Needless to say, their hard work paid off as they gave four incredible performances of “Dancing in the Streets.”

As the curtains parted, the show opened with a medley that began with Brit Vine and Taylor Jackson performing “I Gotta Feeling,” featuring a saxophone solo by Ramirez Jennings. They continued the medley joined by Olivia Goldman, Aly Lynch, George Harris, Tristan Byrd, and Shayla Varnado for “Everybody Dance Now,” “Dancing Machine,” and “Dancing in the Streets.” The audience came alive as performers danced through the aisles clothed in neon sequined dresses, light-up sneakers, and hair feathers while tossing light-up wands to the crowd.

The Stage Band Instrumental Ensemble opened the instrumental performances with “Copa Cabana,” featuring solos by sophomores Raynie Dunaway on the Clarinet and Amber McAlister on Saxophone. Brooklyn Spence enticed the crowd with her groovy rendition of “Dancing Queen,” accompanied by the

Southwest Kids. The show then transitioned to honoring active duty, reserve, and fallen service members with “God Bless the USA,” performed by Aly Lynch. Stage Band danced through the decades in a skit titled “The Southwest Radio Show,” hosted by DJ Haskins, which included “Hand Jive” by Bryan Walsh, “Boot Scootin Boogie” by Abi Thomas, “The Macarena” by Bryce Leblanc, and “Bye Bye Bye” performed by heartthrobs Justin Cole, Jeb Robinson, Jaden Pierre, George Harris, Braden Paulk, Jabari Garner, and Gabriel Hawthorne. Other notable performances included “The Cupid Shuffle” by Dashara Hannon, “The Git Up” by Brit Vine, “Wobble” by George Harris, “Whip and Nae Nae” by Jabari Garner, and “Footloose” by Bryce LeBlanc.

Avery Ardis, Isabella Conn, and Justin Cole took the crowd to church with “Old Church Choir.” The kick line wowed with Isabella Conn’s charming solo of “All That Jazz.” Dana Pena hypnotized spectators with her cover of “Landslide,” and Jordyn Nellum, Aly Lynch, Justin Cole, and Bryan Walsh produced a harmonious sound for their rendition of “Sunshine on My Shoulders.” Arguably, the best performance of the night was the cast’s haunting

interpretation of “Thriller.” Kaylee Stringer’s performance of “Tiny Dancer” left the audience in awe, followed by the male vocalist swooning the crowd with “A White Sport Coat,” led by Justin Cole. Bryan Walsh made a name for himself in his alluring rendition of “Sway.”

The sophomores performed a medley consisting of “I Will Remember You,” “I Hope You Dance,” and “I’ve Had the Time of My Life.” Olivia Goldman was accompanied by Lindsey Greer and Bryan Walsh on ukulele as she gave it her all in “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” Gabriel Hawthorne gave a touching performance of “No More Night.” Stage Band energized the crowd with “Disco Fever,” a medley that included “Stayin’ Alive,” “It’s Raining Men,” and “Celebration.” The instrumentalists spiced up the set list with their Latin Nights medley. The cast was led by Gabriel Hawthorne and Tristan Byrd in the crowd favorite “I Speak Jesus.”

The closing number was a medley of “Everybody Dance Now,” “Dancing Machine,” “Locomotion,” “Twist,” “Straight Up,” and finished with “Y.M.C.A.” The audience was left buzzing with excitement and wanting more.

Biomedical Research course offered

By Ella Pattie,
Editor

Biomedical research is essential to the understanding of health and human disease and the advancement of medical technology. For many students, the world of scientific research can feel intimidating and overwhelming, particularly for those in rural areas who may be unsure of how to get started or what the research process involves. Introducing students to research through a hands-on approach early in their academic career helps to inspire students to pursue degrees in science and ease the nerves of those already interested.

Mrs. Lucy McKone is a Biomedical Research instructor at Southwest, who has fostered enthusiasm for science and research at the high school and college level. Her journey into this field began in an unexpected way. She was a sophomore at Copiah Lincoln Community College majoring in education, with the hopes of becoming a his-

tory teacher, when she was approached by an instructor about a scholarship opportunity for science majors. McKone loved and excelled in her science and math courses, but she always felt underqualified to pursue science any further. However, the scholarship presented her with an opportunity that she could not pass up, leading her into a science education degree focused on biology, with a minor in chemistry.

After graduating from the University of southern Mississippi, she taught at Parklane academy for two years before spending twenty-eight years as a high school teacher at Lincoln County schools.

As she progressed in her career, she continued to improve her teaching methods through workshop in Mississippi and Louisiana. Ten years before her retirement, McKone was tackling the complex topic of electrolysis when she realized that she had never performed these experiments herself. Determined to improve her and her student’s

understandings of such subjects, she sought after professional more prestigious professional development opportunities.

At age forty, she attended her first Ivy League workshop at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. The following summer she expanded her knowledge at Harvard University located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and participated in a workshop at Princeton University settled in New Jersey. At these workshops, she met active researchers and had the opportunity to hear multiple Nobel Prize winners speak, further fueling her excitement and knowledge of research. She also went on to earn her master’s degree during this time.

In 2011, she became part of a grant, funded by Princeton, that shipped laboratory equipment to teachers so they could introduce their students to research methods. The grant was intended for a five-year period, and although it was not renewed, she was able to continue utilizing the equipment to further expand knowledge

within her community. She organized and led weekend workshops for local teachers, each lasting ten hours—five hours one Saturday and the other five the following weekend.

After retiring from full time teaching, she began teaching part time at Co-Lin, where her husband Dr. McKone was the Physics instructor. Dr. McKone moved to Southwest to teach Physics in the fall of 2023. He mentioned the Biomedical research program his wife led at Co-Lin, which sparked the interests of many students. As a result, she moved to Southwest where she started offering the Biomedical Research course.

She believes that it is important for underclassmen to be informed and involved with research because of the rapid development of the world through technology. Healthcare is becoming more personalized due to the developments in DNA research and genetics. The courses, BIO1712A and BIO1722A, are offered at Southwest the spring semester.

Collegiate DECA wins at State now on to San Francisco International Competition

By Ella Pattie,
Editor

Southwest’s Collegiate DECA attends the Mississippi Collegiate DECA State Career Development Conference in Gulfport, MS, from February 19 – February 21. Collegiate DECA prepares students for careers in business, marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. It also offers opportunities for scholarships, networking, and leadership development through competitive events. At the conference, students complete either a business simulation case study, test, or presentation. This allows them to be assessed on their knowledge, leadership, and professionalism in a business or industry setting. Southwest receives the Collegiate DECA Foundation Gold Star Award for the 15th consecutive year. Ja’Keyia Bell places first in Marketing Management. Khyland McGill places first in Retail Management and second in Professional Sales. Allisen Moore places second in Financial Accounting and sixth in Professional Sales. Natali Moore places first in Professional Sales and serves as a Conference Voting Delegate. Tamiya Stallings places third in Professional Sales. Jakira Tobias places second in Restaurant and Food Service Management, fifth in Professional Sales, and serves as a Conference Voting Delegate.

All competing students from Southwest have the opportunity to compete at the 2025 Collegiate DECA International Career Development Conference, which will be held in San Francisco, CA, from April 4 – April 9.

Brister named 2025 Finalist

Congratulations to Karinlee Brister for being named a 2025 Pinnacle Awards Finalist!

As a recruiter for Southwest Mississippi Community College, Karinlee is dedicated to student success. She also serves as the SMCC Bear Tracker sponsor, Pike County Miss Hospitality Pageant director, and owns Weddings by Karinlee.

She is currently developing Kristilee and Karollee’s Love Bears All Things, a program providing Prayer Bears to mothers who have experienced infant loss, offering comfort during their hospital stay.

Winners will be announced — don’t miss it! 🏆🌟 Get your tickets now: <https://www.sale-sandmarketingprofessionals.org/events/2025-mississippi-pinnacle-awards-presented-by-sales-marketing-professionals>.



The Pine Burr

Editor.....Ella Pattie
Co-editors.....Emily Caston, Anna Comeaux, Lorelai Davis, Olivia Ellison, Natali Moore
Staff Writers... Lauren Coon, Maci Haygood, Charlie Harrell, Takhya Hunt, Cameron Leon, Dylan Meyers, Allisen Moore, Karen Wimberley
Advisor..... Joyce Mabry

The *Pine Burr* is published during regular academic sessions. Views expressed in the newspaper are not necessarily those of the faculty and administration. Writers express themselves under their by-lines. Offices are located in Kenna Hall, Room 29; the telephone number is 276-3843. The staff invites readers to submit opinion columns and letters to the editor. *Pine Burr*, Kenna Hall, Summit, MS

pineburr@smcc.edu

Southwest Mississippi Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and grievances regarding the non-discrimination policies: Rhonda Gibson, Director of Disability Support Services, 601-276-3885; 1156 College Dr., Summit, MS 39666.-



Joyce Mabry



BEAR AWARE

In order to effectively communicate emergency information to SMCC employees and students, SMCC has implemented a rapid alert and notification system developed by SchoolCast. BearAware is a service that allows employees and students of SMCC to receive alerts, news, or other emergency information via text, email, or by phone. Participation in Bear Aware is not mandatory but encouraged. At this time, the only information entered into the SchoolCast database is the student's "smcc.edu" email address.

Please read the following because our procedures for handling Bear Aware have changed. An email has been sent to all current students, faculty, and staff with their login information for Bear Aware. Students, faculty, and staff no longer need to request this information by emailing bearaware@smcc.edu.

Dear Students,

You should have received an email with your Bear Aware Login Information on August 2024. An additional email will be sent to your email account at 9:00 AM with your login information. It's basically the same email that was sent on August 2024. If you have already logged in and set up your account, no additional action is required on your part. We will be sending more of these login information emails on the 20th of each month this semester to encourage participation in the system. Again, if you have already set up your account, no action is required on your part. We do recommend logging in to Bear Aware at least once a month and verifying the accuracy of your information. Please read the login information email in its entirety. It will explain why your password may be represented by asterisks (*) and what to do if you cannot log in or if you forgot your password.

If you have any questions, send them to bearaware@smcc.edu from your SMCC email account. We cannot communicate about Bear Aware accounts from other personal or business email accounts you may have. You do not have to contact bearaware@smcc.edu for your login information unless you don't get a login information email.

Editorial: My Amazing Freshman Year

Wow! It's hard to believe my freshman year is almost over. It feels like August was just yesterday, and I was nervous about starting classes, making friends, and, most of all, editing a newspaper. Looking back, I never considered myself qualified to do this job, and I was intimidated by the idea of filling the shoes of last year's editor, the amazing Lorelai Davis. However, the support and guidance from my advisor, Mrs. Joyce Mabry, and my co-editors, Lorelai Davis and Natali Moore, have made all the difference. They pushed me beyond my comfort zone, both in writing and in life, and I can never thank them enough for the confidence they have instilled in me.

This experience has taught me invaluable lessons about work ethic, collaboration, and time management. While I was no stranger to the time and effort it takes to plan, create, edit, revise, and produce projects, I initially struggled with the workload. Over time, I learned how to balance the responsibilities of being an editor with the demands of my schoolwork and social life. It was a long process of trial and error, but I became more time-efficient and organized in my personal and professional life.

I am incredibly grateful to the photographers, graphic artists, and writers who have collaborated with me throughout the year. Each one is uniquely talented and hard-working, and their creativity and dedication played a key role in the success and impact of *The Pine Burr*. Thank you, Southwest, for giving students, such as myself, a platform to share our opinions and passions, whether it be my love for hockey or capturing and preserving memories for my fellow peers and the Bear family far away.

Lastly, I want to thank all those

who have eagerly anticipated each edition of the newspaper and for showing their support to my staff and me. Your words of appreciation and positive feedback kept us grounded during the overwhelm of exam season and deadlines.

All of your kind words mean more than you will ever know. With all of that being said, it has been my honor to serve as this year's Editor of *The Pine Burr*. While I am not returning as Editor of the newspaper, I will be the Editor of the yearbook next year, and I am leaving the newspaper in good hands with my long-time friend and former co-editor in high school, Masten Moak. I am excited to see her fulfill her potential as a writer and Editor. I hope you all have an amazing summer! See you next year as a contributor! It's a great day to be a Bear! Go Bears!



Ella Pattie
Editor



The Pine Burr staff wins awards at the MS Press Association's competition: above: Emily

Caston, Co-editor; Lauren Coon, Cartoonist; Lorelai Davis, Co-Editor; Ella Pattie, Editor; Olivia Ellison, Co-Editor; Joyce Mabry, Advisor

photo by Jennifer McLaughlin

By Ella Pattie,
Editor

Under the direction of Journalism instructor and advisor, Joyce Mabry, *The Pine Burr* staff was recognized and awarded by the Mississippi Press Association's Better News/Media Contest for college newspapers at

the O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference in Jackson, MS. The winners included Levi Lovett, who earned Second Place for Best Cartoon Overall in the University and Community College Division; Dylan Meyers, who took Second Place for Best Sports Photo; Ella Pattie, who received Second Place for Best

Editorials; Lorelai Davis, who earned Second Place in Best Editorials; the Staff, who received Third Place for Best Design Out of All Colleges; the Staff, who won First Place for Best Front Page; and the Staff, who also secured Second Place for General Excellence. Throughout the academic year,

the staff collaborated to write articles, took pictures, and illustrated graphics and cartoons. These students dedicated hours to creating newspapers for the enjoyment of their peers, faculty and staff, and alumni. The acknowledgement that the staff received was well deserved.



"Take Control"

photo by Dylan Meyers



"Celebration"

photo by Dylan Meyers

Band performs at the Memphis Grizzlies Game

By Brit Vines, Staff Writer

The Southwest band has gone national. Under the direction of Joe Raymond, the band had the privilege of performing on a national stage at the Memphis Grizzlies versus Phoenix Suns basketball game in Tennessee. Performing the national anthem at an NBA game is an honor, and the band proudly claims that prestigious achievement. I interviewed band member and guitarist Jeb Robison to learn about his experience.

The day was March 10th, the first official day of spring break, when all the band members who were able to attend this event loaded onto the bus and left for Memphis, Tennessee. Jeb told me that the band left the school at about nine in the morning in order to get to the FedEx Forum in time to practice for the national anthem. When I asked how the drive went, Jeb said, “It was good. We ate at a barbecue restaurant outside of Memphis. It was alright.”

Upon arriving at FedEx Forum, the band got the chance to do a run-through in a mostly empty stadium. Jeb mentioned the handful of fans in the stands at 4:30 during their practice. Among the spectators were staff members and some actual fans; it surprised me that they let attendees in that early. Afterward, the band watched the players warm up from the courtside seats. Jeb recalled being shocked by Kevin Durant’s height when he took the court in warm-ups. He also told me that Phoenix Suns shooting guard, Devin Booker, said hey to him, which I thought was pretty cool. I then told Jeb that Devin Booker had spent some time living in Mississippi during high school, and he didn’t know that. I couldn’t help but point out how ironic that was.

Then, the moment finally arrived. The band performed the national anthem before the tip-off at seven. I asked Jeb what it was like to perform in such a big venue, to which he replied, “It was really fun. There were a lot of people in the stadium.” This made sense to me because the Grizzlies are good this year, and the Suns have a widespread fan base. After performing the national anthem, the band went up to their nosebleed seats and watched the entire game. Jeb told me that it was a close game and Kevin Durant had a chance to tie the game at the end but missed the shot. The Grizzlies won the game 120-118 cementing their place as a top contender in the Western Conference. After the game, the band loaded back up onto the bus and drove home. Jeb recalled getting home at about three in the morning and staying up until about five. Thankfully, it was spring break, so no harm was done. That concluded the trip. I must say, performing for an NBA is a seriously insane feat, and I am honored on behalf of the band. To perform in an environment like that with that many people has to be truly special, and I envy the band for that. I hope the band and other groups on campus continue to get these types of opportunities, and hopefully we can all make Southwest proud wherever we go.

Announcement

Bear Necessities Day!!
Thursday, April 24, 2025
Friends, Food and Fun



Choir: Jamesha Mitchell, Zhyrieal Ard, Taylor Philebar, Kaylee King; second row: Joe Elliott, Director; Laci Cooper, Kearia Dawson, Kayla McGee, McKayla Jones, Sara Beth Jackson, Catherine Cooper, Alecia Mitchell, Gabriel Hawthorne, Jabari Garner, Alaric McDowell, John Morrilly, Sadie Cupit, Krystalynn McKinney, Carolyn Fenn, Accompanist; third row: Amanda Jamison, Kenzie Hatfield, Tearalyn Faust, Lillian Nettles, Felicity Cash, Abby Bieker, Shawn Vielee, Michelle Dillon, Amber McAlister, Lindsey Greer, Skylar Bush, Tahlaya Royal, Jordyn Nellum, Brookelynn Breaux, Madison Turner; fourth row: Kylie Dunaway, Emily Caston, Madison Carraway, Jacob Rutland, Brit Vine, John McGee, Jeb Robison, Kysten Reeves, Jamarc Guy, Antoni Moran, Parker Wilkinson, Jonathan Haygood, Cornelius Johnson, Dana Pena, Kaylee Stringer, Isabella Conby

photo by Chuck Barnes



PTK Induction Ceremony: Mason Davis, Kaylee Stringer, Devin Williams, Josi Spears, Tiaona Frick, Anna Grace Amacker, Arely Diaz; second row: Abigail Thomas, Simmons Newman, Tinley Smith, Ruth Bishop, Caroline Barcelona, Colby Terrell, Cooper Reid, Savannah Arnold, Sara Jackson, Mackenzie Hatfield, Orlando Hernandez, Taylor Jackson, Jeysson Cruz, Adeline Stanford, Mallory Martin, Lagen Harvey, Anna Rai Cline, Karen Wimberley; third row: Kayla Arterberry, Jesus Duarte, Raul Alegre, Brian Sanchez, Cooper Powell, Darrell Coleman, Chris Hunter, John Husband, Jamarc Guy, John McGee, Ethan Legg, Daniel Holifield, Sadie Cupit, Lillian Nettles, Gracie Miller, Ca’Lis McGowan; fourth row: Qytishiya Francis, Taylor Dunbar, Camren Strittman, Lauren Coon, Brad Holmes, Noah Crawford, Kody Hewitt, Bryan Walsh, Kylie Dunaway, Isabella Conn, Corin Talbot, Kate Clements, Evelle Dillon, Shakira Williams, Aniya Johnson, Blake Carraway; fifth row: Jontai Daniels, Fazl Oshodi, Joshua Schonback, Christopher Baughman, Olivia Ellison, Bryanna Andrews, Jackson Boyd, Martina Troncoso, Emily Caston, Thomas Simpson, Jay Magee, Jacey Jones, Anna Comeaux, Bailey Stewart, Lucious Prejean, Blaire Martin

photo by Chuck Barnes



Princess Ball: top: Jackson Brister-McDaniel, Kathrynlee Brister-McDaniel; second row: Braden Paulk, Isabella Bryant, Karinlee Brister, Annabella Gaskin, Jeb Robison pose for the photographer; above: Princesses dance at the Princess Ball.

photo by Manuel Scott

PTK: All-Mississippi Academic Team



Madeline Rabalais

By Ella Pattie, Editor

Three Southwest students were recognized for their outstanding leadership achievements and scholarly success by the All-



Noah Sutton

Mississippi Academic Team. The All-Mississippi Academic Team is a program that collaborates with Phi Theta Kappa, the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges, and the Mississippi Community College Board to reward and celebrate the accomplishments of community and junior college students. Noah Sutton, SMCC Transfer Pathway, places 1st in Team Designation. Madeline Rabalais, SMCC Transfer Pathway, places 2nd in



Samia Tate

Team Designation. Samia Tate, SMCC Workforce Pathway, places 2nd in Team Designation. Congratulations to these students for their exceptional dedication and hard work.

Tri-Beta attends MS Academy of Science

By Lorelai Davis, Co-Editor

The Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society recently attended the Mississippi Academy of Science annual meeting on the coast in Biloxi, MS. A group of six students from the team of officers, as well as advisors Dr. Alana Gabler and Robin Kuntz, were in attendance: Hannah McKennon, Co-President; Lorelai Davis, Co-President; Shelby Fortenberry, Secretary; Bailey Arnold, Co-Treasurer; Dana Pena, Co-Treasurer; and Miranda Dunaway, Historian. During the two days the group spent at the meeting, they attended lectures on multiple disciplines across the field of science, such as Biology, Chemistry, Health Sciences, and History and Philosophy of Science. Each lecture brought the students a newfound plethora of knowledge, which inspired them to think outside the box and benefited them in their academic pursuits. The group was also invited to attend a luncheon designated for community college students transferring to a four-year university with the purpose of encouraging the students to get involved with research. The attendees heard from a panel of professors who were asked questions about their research and their advice to undergraduate students who are looking to be involved. Overall, the meeting was a great experience for everyone involved. Students were able to learn new scientific concepts and make contacts with people who could help propel them along to achieve their future goals. Whether the highlight was the knowledge they acquired or simply the fun times spent as a group, each student was sure to have gained something positive from the experience.

Bears shine in all three facets in road sweep of Gulf Coast

By Travis Connelley, SID

Following a weekend off due to a bye in the schedule, the Bears returned to action Tuesday at Gulf Coast and put together arguably their best series of the season thus far, excelling in hitting, pitching and defense in a sweep of the Bulldogs, taking Game 1 10-5 and Game 2 9-1.

“It was a really good day, we played baseball all day from the first pitch to the last pitch, like we knew we were capable of doing,” Southwest head coach Jack Edmonson said. “It was a great day.” The Bears (14-23, 5-7 MACCC) struck first in the first inning as Jake Meilstrup led off with a single and scored two at bats later, on a Lane Steinwinder sacrifice fly. With the 1-0 lead, starter Brodey Walker kept the momentum on the visiting side in the bottom half of the inning battling back from a leadoff walk by getting a double play and retiring the ensuing batter, preserving the lead. His offense provided additional help in the second as Davis Knight hit a double to center field scoring both Trace Roy and Cody Presley increasing the Southwest lead to 3-0. After the Bulldogs scratched one run across in the bottom of the second, the Bears responded immediately in the third on a Presley ground out which allowed Justin Domiano to score once again making it a three-run lead for Southwest at 4-1. Gulf Coast rallied in the bottom half of the inning with two runs to pull within one at 4-3. But it was as close as they would get for the remainder of the contest. The Bears grew their lead in the fifth on a Domiano sacrifice fly and an RBI single from Cam Bolden. Another run came in the sixth as Gage Hinnant joined the fray with a sacrifice fly of his own, making it a 7-3 game. Pitcher Jackson Hawsey sat the Bulldogs down in order in the sixth, marking the second-consecutive 1-2-3 inning for the sophomore. Additional offense came in the seventh when Bolden doubled to left allowing Presley to score increasing the lead to 8-3. Gulf Coast narrowed the lead to 8-5 in the seventh with a run each on back-to-back at bats but Southwest got the last laugh getting those two runs back in the ninth on an RBI single from Bolden and Presley stealing home, making the score the eventual final.

Community for Success: Southwest Mississippi Community College

By Karen Wimberley, Staff Writer

Southwest Mississippi Community College (SMCC) is a community, a family, not just a place of higher learning. No matter what your previous experience with education has been — whether you breezed through school or struggled to graduate— you can succeed on our campus. Though I have always loved learning and gaining knowledge about numerous subjects, it never comes easily to me. I am never without anxiety over tests or speaking out in class. My journey at SMCC is shaped by supportive instructors and dedicated Academic Success Coaches; the atmosphere of encouragement comes from every level of the institution.

The faculty’s commitment to student success is one of the most remarkable aspects of SMCC. From one-on-one meetings and extended hours with academic coaches to personalized support during high-stress moments such as exams, the experience continues to change how I view education. During an exam, one of my instructors noticed my anxiety and took the time to help me settle down. Gently setting down my pencil, the instructor held my hands while looking into my eyes, said, “Take a deep breath and don’t overthink it.” Never in all my educational experiences has that ever happened. This instructor cared that I succeeded.

The library is more than just a place to find books, it is a quiet sanctuary to study, with private study rooms and individual study desks. The library student support staff and librarians are quick to help and give quick lessons on signing into research materials online or advising and pointing you in the right direction for research.

At SMCC, support extends beyond the classroom. The encouragement I receive from cafeteria workers, maintenance staff, and administrative personnel is heartwarming. A simple conversation in passing or a kind word from a maintenance worker on a stressful day makes all the difference. They strive to create a positive environment that values and cares for students.

One of the most inspiring aspects of SMCC is the leadership’s dedication to student success. Southwest President, Dr. Steve Bishop, athletic coaches, support staff, maintenance workers, and every individual on campus genuinely want to see students succeed in academic and personal settings. SMCC is not just a place to earn a degree, it is a family. The leadership’s open-door policy and engagement with students fosters a culture of inclusivity and motivation. We all spot the president walking the campus, visiting classrooms, stopping and speaking with students, listening to their concerns, and celebrating their achievements. This level of involvement is rare and positively impacts each student’s experience.

Beyond academics, SMCC offers a vibrant campus life with activities and student organizations. Students are encouraged to support men’s and women’s sporting events. These activities provide opportunities for personal growth, networking, and life-long friendships.

My favorite events are the Stageband performances and supporting the marching band. These moments add richness and culture to the Southwest experience, making the SMCC experience educational and enjoyable. I have enjoyed writing for *The Pine Burr* and working with the exceptional staff and advisor. They are truly a jewel. Reflecting on my time at Southwest Mississippi Community College, I am grateful for the unwavering support and encouragement I received.

What started as a temporary plan stretched into decades. The years slipped away, filled with long shifts, bills, and obligations. At first, she told herself she wasn’t ready. Then she convinced herself she wasn’t good enough. Eventually, she let the dream go entirely.



DECA Winners: Ja’Kevia Bell, First place Marketing Management; Natali Moore, Frist Place Professional Sales and Conference Voting Delegate; second row: Jakira Tobias, Second Place Restaurant and Food Service Management, Fifth place Professional Sales, and Conference Voting Delegate; Tamiya Stallings, Third Place Professional Sales; Allisen Moore, Second Place Finanical Accounting and Sixth Place Professional Sales; Khyland McGill, First Place Retail Management and Second Place Professional Sales



TriBeta attends Conference: Robin Kuntz, advisor; Hannah McKennon, Co-President; Lorelai Davis, Co-President; Bailey Arnold, Co-Treasurer; Miranda Dunaway, Historian; Shelby Fortenberry, Secretary; Dana Pena, Co-Treasurer; Dr. Alana Gabler, advisor



PTK: PTK Omicron Delta Chapter recently attended the PTK MS/LA Regional Conference in Oxford, MS, March 6-7. Omicron Delta Chapter was awarded 5-star chapter, received Distinguished Officer Team award, and Distinguished College Project Award. Madison Carraway earned the Golden Key Award and Dr. Jennifer McLaughlin was recognized as an Advisor Horizon Award Recipient. Pictured are officers Braden Paulk and Luke Dickerson, and members Ruth Bishop and Olivia Ellison

Turning Pages: Lessons from the Non-Traditional Student

By Karen Wimberley, Staff Writer

Eleanor “Ellie” Bennett had spent forty years in the printing business, helping other people’s words come to life while burying her own. At sixty-five, she finally sat in a college classroom, surrounded by students young enough to be her grandchildren. Some were kind, others indifferent, and a few were openly puzzled.

“What’s she doing here?” Ellie overheard a whisper on the first day of her creative writing class. She pretended not to notice, gripping her notebook tighter. She had asked herself the same question a hundred times. The answer, though, was simple: Fear had ruled, no smothered her life long enough.

Ellie had always dreamed of writing books, not just printing them. But after a painful divorce in her twenties, she chose stability over ambition, taking a job in a printing company to support herself.

What started as a temporary plan stretched into decades. The years slipped away, filled with long shifts, bills, and obligations. At first, she told herself she wasn’t ready. Then she convinced herself she wasn’t good enough. Eventually, she let the dream go entirely.

But dreams, Ellie discovered, don’t die quietly. They linger, whispering at the edges of the mind, waiting to be acknowledged.

Returning to school at her age felt like stepping onto another planet. Technology had changed everything—her classmates typed their notes on sleek laptops while she clung to her old-fashioned notebook and pen.

One afternoon, during a group discussion, Jasmine, an outspoken nineteen-year-old with purple-dyed hair, turned to Ellie. “So, why now?” she asked. “Why go to college at sixty-five?” Ellie hesitated. The honest answer was complicated, tangled in decades of self-doubt. But she took a breath and spoke anyway. “For years, I let fear make my decisions for me,” she said. “I wanted to write, but I was terrified of failing. I thought if I never tried, I couldn’t fail. But do you know what I realized?”

Jasmine leaned in. “Not trying is its own kind of failure,” Ellie continued. “Worse, actually—because failure at least means you tried.” Jasmine blinked, then nodded. “That… makes a lot of sense.”

Ellie’s words stirred something in the students. In quiet moments after class, they began opening up to her. One worried that they’d never be good enough to land

their dream job. Another confessed they wanted to switch majors but were scared of disappointing their parents.

Jasmine, who had always been the loudest voice in the room, revealed something unexpected. “I want to be a filmmaker,” she admitted one day. “But every time I think about submitting my work to a festival, I freeze. What if I get rejected? What if people think it’s awful?”

Ellie smiled, recognizing the fear all too well. “You’re asking the wrong question,” she said. “Not ‘what if I fail?’ but ‘what if I don’t even try?’”

Jasmine fell silent, considering that. When Ellie’s professor assigned a personal storytelling presentation, she nearly backed out. Standing in front of a room full of young students, baring her vulnerabilities, felt overwhelming. But then she thought of all the years she had let fear silence her. And she refused to let it happen again.

Standing at the podium, she told her story. She spoke about the dreams she had shelved, the nights she had spent editing other people’s books instead of writing her own. She described how fear doesn’t just stop you from taking chances—it builds walls around your potential. “The hardest thing to do is take

the first step,” she said. “But once you do, fear loses its power.” For the first time in her life, Ellie wasn’t just thinking about writing—she was living it. And her story was already making a difference.

Jasmine submitted her short film to a festival. She didn’t win, but she did get selected—and the experience gave her the confidence to keep creating.

Another classmate applied for an internship they thought was out of reach. Someone else finally confronted their parents about changing majors.

And Ellie? She finished the first draft of her novel. She no longer cared if it got published. The victory wasn’t in the outcome—it was in the act of trying.

Months later, Ellie stood in front of an audience again. This time, it wasn’t in a classroom. It was at a small bookstore, where she was reading from the pages of her very own book.

She glanced up and spotted Jasmine in the crowd, grinning. Ellie had spent a lifetime helping others bring their words to life. Now, finally, she had found the courage to share her own.

And in doing so, she had taught an entire generation that the only real failure is never starting at all.

Princess Ball: Loved By All

By Lorelai Davis, Co-Editor

On Friday, March 21st, the SMCC Bear Trackers hosted the 12th annual Princess Ball. The evening was an exciting outing, where girls and their fathers could dance the night away. The event also served as the largest fundraising effort for the Bear Trackers, the college’s student recruitment team. Each member of the organization was instrumental in the success of the event, whether it be by setting up and decorating for the event, running the check-in desk on the night of the event, portraying a prince or princess, or cleaning up at the end of the night.

Across the week leading up to the momentous event, the Bear Trackers prepared heavily. They spent hours blowing up balloons on the evenings prior to the ball. The group also gathered decorations and helped move them to the Student Union. On the day of the Princess Ball, each Bear Tracker showed up and dedicated a few hours before and after the event to decorating and cleaning up, in addition to the hours they worked at the ball itself.

Throughout the entire process, the Bear Trackers displayed their hard work and dedication, all while maintaining a positive attitude and a willingness to help. They demonstrated the very best qualities of a student at Southwest and served as a shining representation of the college.

The night was nothing short of a success. Fun was had by each and every attendee, as well as the Bear Trackers, who enjoyed their time alongside the fathers and daughters on the dance floor. As the event dwindled down, happy faces and laughter filled the room. The Princess Ball was once again a smashing hit and remained something that the community could look forward for many years to come.

Lady Bear Softball’s Gabby Carr signs with Alcorn State

By Travis Connelley, SIDR

Regardless of the level of play and the school or team for whom she is representing, Gabby Carr has found success on the softball diamond up to this point in her playing career. And now she will get the chance to shine on the next level after recently signing with Alcorn State.

“I feel like the little girl living her dream wanting to play college softball at the next level,” she said. “And I know that my mom would have loved to see me here at this point. I’m just happy that I made it this far.”

Carr’s mom passed away when she was younger, yet Carr felt her presence among many members of her family along with her Southwest teammates and coaches who all gathered recently to celebrate and recognize her signing with a four-year school.

Carr added that her mom was the main person who pushed her to pursue her dreams of playing softball. “She never played softball a day in her life, never played a sport,” Carr said. “She actually put me and my sisters in softball and she wanted us to have something in life other than school. She wanted us to be involved in the community and play our best. She always pushed me to do better and to do my best. I know that she’d be happy to see me at the place I’m at now.” Carr is no stranger to Alcorn as members of her family attended the school. When she got the offer from the Braves, she knew that it was the right fit for her. “Both of my aunts graduated from Alcorn,” she said. “I feel like I am following in their footsteps.” Of course, Alcorn checked other boxes for Carr as far as appeal. “Coach (Brianna) Billie and her assistants just gave off a great aura and I really like that about them,” she said. “Their team was just so welcoming on my visit. The campus was beautiful and I just feel like that is some place I want to be at for the next two years.” Another factor that played a role in Carr’s decision was proximity to home.

Bears power over Hinds



By Travis Connelley, Sports Information Director

March 3, 2025

In similar fashion to how Darius Dampier, Trace Roy and Cody Presley helped power the Bears over Hinds earlier in the week, it was a different group of sophomores in Jake Meilstrup and Noah Russ who led the charge Sunday, helping Southwest get past No. 22 Lansing 5-2 in Game 1 of a three-team round robin tournament. The Bears unfortunately lost the nightcap 9-0 to No. 5 Pearl River.

Russ got the win in Game 1 going 5.1 innings giving up only two hits, two runs (one earned) and three walks while striking out one.

Meilstrup led the offense going 2-for-3 with two runs scored. After the game, he said that his speed is a factor in his offensive performance.

“My speed gives me the chance to get on base so if I put the ball in play, I always have a chance to get on base,” he said.

Meilstrup also set a new career high with four stolen bases in the game.

After the games, Southwest head coach Jack Edmonson said that other than a rough outing to start Game 2 against the Wildcats, he was pleased with how his team played all day against two tough opponents.

“I thought that we played really well all day,” Edmonson said. “If you take away the first inning of the second game and we played really good all day. That makes 6-8 games (lately) that we have played really good baseball.”

In Game 1, the Bears (7-12) fell behind early as an unfortunate error put the Stars up 1-0.

But Southwest answered right back in the second, continuing its stellar play with the bats. Cooper Lewis led off with a single and touched home three at bats later on an RBI single from Presley, tying the game at 1.

Russ — who got his first start of the season — settled down afterward and kept Lansing from answering, picking up a strikeout in the process as well.

“I felt great up there, I just wanted to go in and throw a lot of strikes, get ahead of batters and that is what I did,” Russ said. “I started getting in a little groove, hitting all of my spots, trusting the pitch call and it worked out pretty good.”

He got help from his offense in the second as Meilstrup singled and later scored.

Cam Bolden kept the momentum on the home side with an RBI

double to right scoring Lewis and giving Southwest a 3-1 lead.

Russ retired the side in order in the third and fourth innings before a Lane Steinwinder double in the bottom half of the fourth brought Meilstrup home, making it a 4-1 game.

Lansing responded with a run in the fifth, cutting the Southwest lead in half. But the Bears got the run back in the bottom of the sixth, once again making it a three-run lead at 5-2 following a Roy single allowing Steinwinder to touch home.

Davis Knight, who came on in relief of Russ, kept up with the strong pitching, shutting the door on the Stars to preserve the win and pick up the save.

In addition to Meilstrup’s big day, Steinwinder also shined going 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI.

In the nightcap, the Bears unfortunately ran into trouble early on against the Wildcats, falling behind 6-0 in the first inning.

They tried to answer and got a single from Steinwinder in the first but he was stranded.

Jackson Hawsey, who came on in relief on the mound, kept the Wildcats mostly at bay over the next few innings giving up only one run in the third,which made the score 7-0.

The offense tried to get into rhythm and got another single by Jonathon Miller in the third but he was unable to score.

Pearl River scored its final two runs in the fifth before taking the game.

March 5, 2025

After playing a good brand of baseball over the weekend in a home round robin with Lansing and Pearl River, the Bears were hoping to follow it up with more quality play Wednesday with another round robin, this time in Ellisville and this time against No. 12 Jones and Northeast.

And even though the Bears put up a fight, they unfortunately fell in both contests, dropping Game 1 7-2 to the Bobcats and Game 2 9-1 to the Tigers.

"We have to figure out how to get going in the right direction. We have been playing really good baseball but today wasn't a good day," Southwest head coach Jack Edmonson said.

In Game 1 against the Bobcats, the Bears (7-14), grabbed the upper-hand first. In the second inning, Cody Presley led off with a walk and advanced to third when ensuing batter Trace Roy singled to right. Two at bats later, Presley touched home when Tanner Moore grounded out, putting Southwest ahead 1-0.

The momentum was unfortunately short-lived as the Bobcats answered back in the bottom half of the inning, tying the game.

Jones rallied the following inning, plating four additional runs putting Southwest down 5-1.

The Bears cut into the lead in the fifth when Cooper Lewis sin-

gled in Bruner Rushing making it a 5-2 game.

But the Bobcats added a run in the fifth making the deficit four once again, before scoring their final run in the sixth, making the score the eventual final.

Trace Roy led the Bears with two hits.

In the second game against the Tigers, the Bears fell behind in the first as Northeast scored three runs.

Rushing tried to rally the Bears in the second, continuing his productive day with a double to left, but he was unfortunately stranded.

The deficit grew for Southwest in the second when Northeast added two to make it a 5-0 game.

A single run in the fifth was followed by three in the sixth for the Tigers putting the Bears down 9-0.

Southwest kept fighting and scored a run in the seventh when Cam Bolden scored on a Zayne Landry sacrifice fly.

Southwest was led by Rushing who went 2-for-3 with two doubles.

March 12, 2025

The Bears' bats came alive in Game 2 of Wednesday's conference-opening doubleheader at Mississippi Delta as they matched their season high in hits with 13 in a 10-0 win in six innings over the Trojans. Southwest, unfortunately, endured a heartbreaker in Game 1, falling 4-3 in 10 innings. "A lot of teams, after losing the first game like we did would have just packed it up and went home but we were able to flush it, come out in Game 2, jump on them early and play a really good game," Southwest head coach Jack Edmonson said. "I think that showed a lot of toughness in our team to be able to flush that first game and win the second one, especially in the fashion that we did."

In addition to the pristine hitting in the nightcap, the Bears (10-15, 1-1 MACCC) got strong pitching performances from starter Dawson Richard and reliever Carter Hathcock as the duo combined in the shutout to give up only four hits and one walk while striking out two.

Right out of the gate, the Bear offense shined and it showed on the scoreboard. With Jonathon Miller and Gage Hinnant on base via a walk and a single, respectively, ensuing batter Justin Domiano brought both home with a single of his own making it a 2-0 game in favor of the visitors.

Southwest added to its lead in the second. Hinnant singled in Cam Bolden before Domiano singled in Miller. On the Domiano RBI, Hinnant also scored on a throwing error and when the dust settled, the lead grew to 6-0 for the Bears.

Lane Steinwinder kept it going in the second with an RBI single of his own making it a 7-0 game.

A 1-2-3 inning for Richard and the Bear defense in the bottom of

the second kept the momentum on the Southwest side and it resulted in another run in the third when Zayne Landry scored on a Hinnant ground out.

A Miller RBI single in the fifth inning was followed by a Tanner Moore RBI double in the sixth pushing the Bear lead to 10-0. Hathcock came on in relief in the sixth preserving the shutout win. Domiano led the Bears going 3-for-4 with one run scored and three RBIs. Hinnant also finished with three RBIs to go along with two hits and two runs scored.

In Game 1, the Bears struck first in the third inning when Steinwinder sent a 1-2 pitch over the right field wall giving Southwest a 1-0 advantage.

That score stayed true until the fourth when the Trojans scored two on a double to right.

Trailing 2-1, the Bears tried to claw their way back into the contest but the deficit unfortunately increased in the sixth when Delta added another run.

Down to their final three outs in the ninth, the Bears mounted a comeback. Bolden walked and was joined on base by Cru Bella who singled. Next up was Hinnant who brought Bolden home with a double to right making it a 3-2 game. Later in the inning, Domiano hit a sacrifice fly to left allowing Bella to race home tying the game at 3.

In the 10th after Southwest was unable to get the go-ahead run, the Trojans rallied and scored the game-winning on a wild pitch.

March 16, 2025

The Bears closed Sunday's home doubleheader against Northeast Mississippi on a high note as the offense of Lane Steinwinder and the pitching of Rhyson Carroway led the charge in an 11-0 win over the Tigers in Game 2. Earlier in the day, Southwest fell to Northeast 8-6 in Game 1. During the opening game, the Bears set a new season high in hits with 17.

"I was really pleased that we were able to bounce back in Game 2," Southwest head coach Jack Edmonson said. "I thought that we played really hard in Game 1, we just didn't quite execute enough to win. We were in positions to win, but we just have to execute and rise to a couple of occasions."

In the nightcap, the Bears (11-16, 2-2 MACCC) set the tone early with the pitching of Carroway. The freshman from Shreveport, LA retired three of the first five batters he faced, striking out two in the process and keeping the Tigers off of the scoreboard. Carroway said that he was feeling good entering his start and received some extra motivation from a teammate. "I am a superstitious guy and I have my routine that I go through," he said. "When I was in the pen, my teammate Brodey Walker came up and said, 'you have to get it done in this game, we need a win'. I believe in him and I believe in

my teammates and we got it done." Jake Meilstrup led off with a double and touched home during the ensuing at bat when Gage Hinnant singled to right. After Steinwinder kept it going with a single of his own he scored during the next at bat when Justin Domiano grounded out, making it a 2-0 Bear lead. Carroway went right back to work in the second before the offense provided additional help. Cam Bolden led off with a double before singles from Zayne Landry and Meilstrup followed. Hinnant followed with an RBI single before Steinwinder continued his big day with a two-RBI double increasing the lead to 5-0. Domiano added two more runs with a single before a sacrifice fly from Cody Presley and a ground out from Tanner Moore rounded-out the scoring in the inning pushing the Bear lead to 9-0. Southwest added two more in the third when Domiano singled to left before Trace Roy hit a sacrifice fly to center making the score 11-0. Over the next two innings, Carroway really locked in retiring the Tigers in order in both, picking up three additional strikeouts in the process, and helping the Bears claim the win.

Carroway went all 5.0 innings allowing only one hit and four walks while striking out nine. Steinwinder went 3-for-3 with three runs scored and two RBIs.

After the game, Steinwinder – who celebrated his birthday on Sunday – talked about his motivation entering the games.

"I got to see my family this morning for my birthday, and it was nice to see them," he said. "I felt really locked in today in the cages and on the field. I was seeing the ball really well today."

Hinnant recorded three hits, two RBIs and two runs scored while Domiano finished with two hits four RBIs and a run scored.

In the opener, the Bears fell behind 2-0 in the second inning following back-to-back doubles by the Tigers.

Northeast added a run in the third and fourth innings before Southwest responded in the bottom half of the fourth when Presley singled in Trace Roy making the score 4-1.

The momentum, unfortunately, swung back over to the visiting side in the fifth as the Tigers added two more runs increasing the Bear deficit to five at 6-1.

The Bears pushed a run across in the fifth when Cooper Lewis grounded out. Another Southwest run was posted in the seventh when Lewis singled to center bringing Steinwinder home cutting the Northeast lead in half at 6-3. After the Tigers added two runs in the top half of the eighth, the Bears responded in the bottom. Steinwinder grounded out allowing Meilstrup to score before an RBI double from ensuing batter Domiano pulled Southwest within three at 8-5.The Bears tried to rally in the ninth and pushed one run across on an

RBI single from Bolden, but it wasn't enough as the Tigers claimed the Game 1 win.Steinwinder led the Bears with three hits, two runs scored and an RBI. Presley also had three hits to go along with one run scored and one RBI.

March 22, 2025

The bats were key for the Bears Saturday at Coahoma as the offense produced 20 hits between both contests including 13 in Game 1 alone, as Southwest split with the Tigers taking Game 1 13-7 while dropping a heartbreaker 4-3 in the nightcap.

The Bears (12-19, 3-5 MACCC) struck first in Game 1, getting a sacrifice fly from Justin Domiano to take a 1-0 lead.

It was unfortunately answered in the bottom half of the inning when the Tigers scored in similar fashion. But a rally from Southwest in the third gave the visitors the upper-hand once again. A single from Cody Presley was followed by walks to Cam Bolden, Zayne Landry, Jake Meilstrup and Gage Hinnant with the latter half of the four resulting in a run apiece giving Southwest a 3-1 lead.

The Bears added another run in the third on an RBI double from Cooper Lewis before three more runs in the fifth on an RBI double from Lewis, and RBI single from Presley and Landry made it a 7-1 lead.

The Tigers rallied in the bottom half of the inning with three runs of their own making it a three-run deficit once again.

Southwest answered with on another rally in the sixth, led off with a solo home run from Meilstrup. A Lane Steinwinder RBI ground out, was followed by and RBI single from Trace Roy and an double from

Presley increasing the Bear lead to 11-4. Two runs apiece from the Bears and the Tigers highlighted the seventh inning, making the score the 13-6. Coahoma scored its last run in the ninth before Southwest sealed the win.Hinnant and Presley both had three hits to lead Southwest while Lewis recorded two doubles.In Game 2, Coahoma scored the game's first run in the second taking a 1-0 lead.

But Southwest grabbed the upper hand in the fourth when Presley doubled to center allowing Lewis and Steinwinder to touch home giving the Bears a 2-1 lead.The lead grew to 3-1 in the sixth as Lewis continued his big day with yet another double, this time scoring Steinwinder. But the momentum, unfortunately swung back to the home side as the Tigers got two runs in the bottom half of the sixth, tying the game at 3. Both teams continued to battle over the next few innings, forcing extra innings.In the eighth, an unfortunate Bear mistake allowed a Tiger baserunner to race home for the game-winning run. Steinwinder led the Bears with two hits, and two runs scored.

Lady Bears take two from Mississippi Delta

March 11, 2025

With the factors of conference play and being at home both in play Tuesday, that was all the motivation the Lady Bears needed against visiting Mississippi Delta as Southwest got big performances from Corin Talbot and Alyssa Leggett in a sweep of the Lady Trojans taking Game 1, 7-1 and Game 2, 12-7.

"Anything you can get to .500 in our conference, it is a good thing," Southwest head coach Shea Johnson said. "I felt like our girls had control the whole time. The girls came out and held on to it the whole time and I thought that was big for us."

Several players stepped up for Southwest (8-14, 2-2 MACCC) but it was the offense of Leggett and the pitching of Talbot that led the charge. Leggett had big performances in both contests finishing the day with five total hits including a home run and a double to go along with seven RBIs and three runs scored.

"I just felt really confident going into today, doing what I needed to do to help my team," Leggett said. "I tried my best to get hits to help the pitchers feel more confident on the mound."

Leggett's stellar play helped Talbot in the circle in Game 1 as she got the start and locked in early on striking out two Lady Trojans in the first inning, helping to set the tone.The offense immediately responded in just the second at bat when Liberty Gillihan

sent an 0-1 pitch over the right field wall giving Southwest an early 1-0 lead.

Talbot helped her own cause following with a double during the ensuing at bat. After advancing to third on a single by Allie Ladnier, Talbot touched home during the next at bat when Leggett reached on an error, making it a 2-0 game.

Having the lead helped motivate Talbot as she struck out three of the four batters she faced in the second, keeping the Delta offense at bay.

Malley Chase Faulkner, who got the start at second base, made the most of her opportunity to shine launching a double off the right field wall, scoring Lauryn Roebuck who singled in the previous at bat. Southwest led 3-0 after two innings.

Leggett made it a 4-0 game with an RBI double in the third before she smashed a two run home run during her next at bat in the fifth, increasing the Lady Bear lead to 6-0.

Delta scratched a run across in the sixth but it was answered in the bottom half of the inning as Faulkner delivered again, this time with an RBI single. After the game, she said that she was glad that she took advantage of her opportunity.

"I've been waiting for this," said Faulkner who felt a sense of responsibility and motivation battling ninth, crucial spot in the lineup. "It is not just the motivation for myself but also for my team. I

want to do what's best for my team and make sure that I get the runs in and get on base so that somebody can bring me in."

Faulkner recorded two hits and two RBIs. Ladner also had two hits to go along with two runs scored. Leggett led the charge with two hits, a run scored and four RBIs.

Talbot came on in the seventh and put a bow on her huge performance closing out the Lady Trojans to seal the win. She went the distance for the Lady Bears giving up only three hits, one run (earned) and four walks while striking out a new season high of 12 batters surpassing her previous mark of seven.

"In warm ups, I felt really good and from the first pitch to the last, all of my balls were moving and I felt my rise (ball) working today," said Talbot.

Southwest carried over the momentum built into Game 2 and got the bats going early in the first inning.

A sacrifice fly from Ladnier was followed by a Leggett RBI single, a two-run home run from Talbot, an RBI double from Abbey Pevey and an RBI single from Erin Acey. When the dust settled, the Lady Bears enjoyed a 6-0 lead.

Skye Sharp — who got the start in Game 2 — retired the side in order in the second.

The Lady Trojans, however, rallied in the third plating three runs and cutting the Southwest lead in half at 6-3.

The Lady Bears got one run back in the bottom half of the inning when Kate Clements scored as Acey reached on an error.

Delta scored two more runs in the fourth to inch closer and make it a 7-5 Southwest lead.

But a trio of RBI singles in the fifth from Maggie Wilks, Leggett and Clements grew the Lady Bear lead to seven at 12-5.

The Lady Trojans scored their final two runs in the sixth but Ladnier, who came on in relief of Sharp, shut the door on any future opportunities in the inning before retiring the side in order in the seventh, preserving the win for Southwest.

Leggett once again led the Lady Bears in Game 2 going 3-for-4 with two runs scored and three RBIs. Talbot and Clements both finished with two hits and two RBIs apiece.

March 25, 2025

After going toe-to-toe with the host East Central Lady Warriors for much of Tuesday's Game 2, the Lady Bears got a late surge and rode that momentum to a 5-3 win. Southwest unfortunately came up short in Game 1, falling 5-2.

"It was a big win," Southwest head coach Shea Johnson said referring to Game 2. "When you win on the road against a quality team, I think that it is a big feather in the cap for Southwest, for our program for our coaches, for our players. It was just a great night."

The Lady Bears (11-19, 5-7

MACCC) fell behind early in Game 2 as the Lady Warriors grabbed a 1-0 lead in the first inning.

But Southwest showed great resiliency and fought back in the fourth to jump ahead. After Alyssa Leggett got on base via a single, she scored during the ensuing at bat when Corin Talbot doubled to center. Talbot, who advanced to third on the throw, then scored two at bats later when Kate Clements singled to center.

Unfortunately, the 2-1 lead did not last as East Central responded in the bottom half of the inning plating two runs to once again take a one-run lead, this time at 3-2.

The back-and-forth tussle continued in the fifth as the Lady Bears tied the game at 3 when Maggie Wilks singled in Malley Chase Faulkner.

Southwest starter Skye Sharp battled out of a bit of a jam in the fifth, shutting down the Lady Warriors and keeping them from scoring despite having two baserunners on.

In the sixth, Southwest broke through with a big hit from Erin Acey who delivered a two-out single to left allowing Gabby Carr and Clements to score putting the Lady Bears up 5-3.

Sharp retired the side in order in the sixth and seventh innings, preserving the win.

Sharp went the distance striking out two while giving up only five hits, three runs (earned) and one

walk.

Liberty Gillihan led the offense with three hits. Clements had two hits one run scored and one RBI while Acey had one hit and two RBIs.

In Game 1, the Lady Bears fell behind early as East Central rallied in the first inning, scoring four runs.

The lead unfortunately grew in the fifth when the Lady Warriors added one more run making it a 5-0 game.

In the seventh, Southwest got its offense going, trying to mount a comeback. Faulkner led off the inning with a solo home run to right, her first of the season. Later in the inning, Lauryn Roebuck singled to center bringing Wilks home, making it a 5-2 game.

The Lady Bears tried to add more but a play at the plate during the ensuing at bat ended the game and gave the win to the hosts.

Leggett led Southwest with three hits.



Intramurals for Everyone

By Natali Moore, Co-Editor

Intramural sports gave students a fun, competitive way to burn off some steam after studies. Organized and implemented by Coach Bill Wallace, the weekly meetings brought students together for some friendly competition. Intramural sports included flag football, basketball, and dodgeball.

Flag football began its season with excitement and rolled on with touchdowns and tackles. The field erupted with sportsmanship as teams encouraged each other no matter if they won or lost. When flag football finished, basketball took its place. The screech of shoes on the gym floor signified the beginning of the intramural basketball season, and students clamored for the ball as they ran to and fro, from hoop to hoop. Intramural sports continued to be one of the numerous ways that students connected on campus.

Big come back not enough for Lady Bears in nightcap

By Natali Moore, Co-Editor

A big double-digit comeback in the nightcap of Wednesday's conference home double-header against Mississippi Gulf Coast wasn't quite enough for the Lady Bears as they dropped a heart-breaker to the Bulldogs 15-11. Southwest fell 7-0 in Game 1 earlier in the evening. "You're pleased as a coach when your team fights and doesn't quit, down by 11, to come back to tie it," Southwest head coach Shea Johnson said.

In the nightcap, Southwest (11-21, 5-9 MACCC) fell in a hole in the first inning, giving up nine runs. Despite the deficit, the Lady Bears continued to fight and pushed one run across in the bottom of the second inning on an Erin Acey sacrifice fly to left, allowing Kate Clements to touch home. Even though the Bulldogs added two runs in the third to make the score 11-1, the Lady Bears showed great resiliency to battle back with a huge rally in the bottom half of the inning.

Alyssa Leggett doubled in Maggie Wilks before bases loaded walks to Malley Chase Faulkner and Acey were accompanied by Abbey Pevey being hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and Allie Ladnier batting in a run while reaching on an error. Another walk with the bases loaded, this time to Liberty Gillihan was followed by an RBI single from Corin Talbot. When the dust settled, Southwest pulled within two at 11-9. Two innings later, the Lady Bears rallied again to pull even, getting a bases loaded walk to Clements and a Pevey ground out which brought home another run, tying the game at 11. The momentum, however, was unfortunately short-lived as Gulf Coast got three runs on a Southwest error putting the Lady Bears down 14-11. The Bulldogs added one more in the seventh before taking the game.

Leggett led Southwest going 3-for-4 with a double, a run scored and an RBI. Talbot recorded two hits, two runs scored and two RBIs.

Men's Golf Battle to Win

By Travis Connelley, SID

In the final event before the conference championship, the Bears battled hard Monday and Tuesday in Meridian at the Lou Hart Invitational before walking away finishing tied for 11th place along with Pearl River.

Gulf Coast won the event followed by host Meridian in second and East Central in third.

The top performer for the Bears was Dailon Kryzanowski who shot a 78 in Round 2 to finish 16-over, good enough for 40th place. Next up was Reece Stallings who shot 19-over.

MCJC Sports Hall of Fame: Robert "Tee" Felder



Robert "Tee" Felder

Robert "Tee" Felder will be inducted into the Mississippi Community and Junior College Sports Hall of Fame on April 22, 2025, at the Clyde Muse Center,

Hinds Community College.

Robert "Tee" Felder is a 1977 graduate of Southwest Mississippi Community College. While at SMCC, Tee played basketball under Coach Oliver Young, and they were runners-up for the State Championship during his freshman year.

Tee was given an Honorable Mention as an All-State player during his sophomore year. After graduating from SMCC, Tee moved to Pascagoula to pursue a career in welding at Ingalls and Avondale ship yards where he worked for approximately ten

years.

In 1982, his mom, Ruby Garner-Felder, became ill, and he moved back to McComb to care for her. At that time Dean Jerry Reid hired him to work at SMCC for the grounds department. In 1983 his mom passed away. He continued to work for SMCC for many years, but then on April 17, 2010, Tee lost the love of his life, his wife Mamie Jean Felder-Horbys.

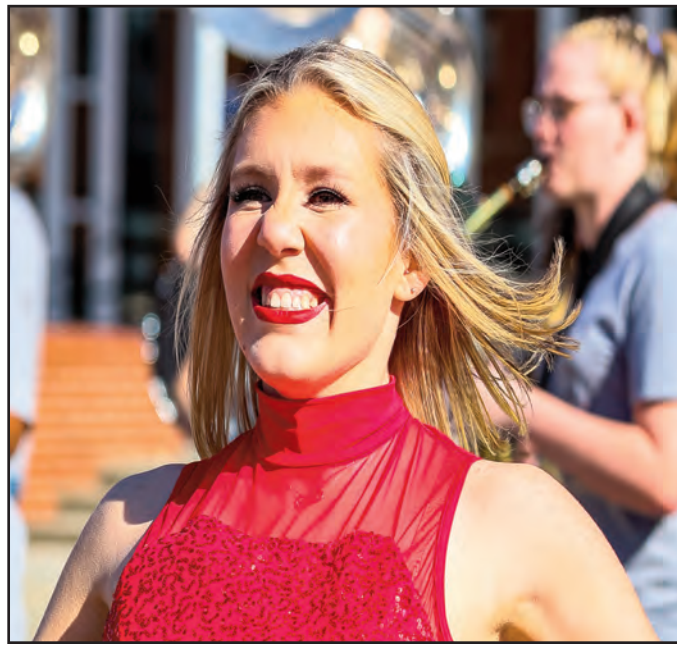
Tee continued to work for Southwest for forty years under three presidents: the late Horace Holmes, Oliver Young and Dr. Steve Bishop. Tee says they were

all great men to work for, and he is thankful that they were all able to put up with him!

Tee is a Sunday school teacher and serves on the Board of Deacons at Mt. Herman Missionary Baptist Church. He is a member of the Mississippi and East Louisiana Deacon Institute. He enjoys sporting events and his most notable saying is "No man is an island entirely of itself. It takes all of us working together." He and his late wife Mamie have three daughters: Kiffany, Renada, and Ebonee and four grandchildren.

Band performs at Grizzlies' Game in Memphis

photos by Manuel Scott



Bears honor Sophomores

By Travis Connelley, SID

On a day where many Bear Baseball sophomores were honored on Sophomore Day, several were key contributors for Southwest Monday in a 12-2 seven-inning win over visiting Florida Post Grad.

"Today was a really good day of baseball," Southwest head coach Jack Edmonson said. "Noah Russ got us going early on the mound and the offense gave us a couple of runs to get us off on the right foot. We had a really good day of baseball."

The Bears (16-26) made a statement in the first inning. After Russ kept the Marlins off the board in the top half, the offense made sure to grab the lead.

Jake Meilstrup led off with a single and scored during the ensuing at bat when Gage Hinnant reached on an error putting the Bears up 1-0. The lead grew during the following at bat when Lane Steinwinder singled in Hinnant. Cru Bella followed suit later in the inning with an RBI single of his own, scoring Steinwinder and giving the hosts a 3-0 advantage.

The Marlins pushed a run across in the second but the Bears rallied in the fourth to pull away. RBI singles from Hinnant and Cody Presley was followed by a fielder's choice which scored another run making the score 6-1 in favor of Southwest.

Another rally in the fifth produced four additional runs. A Jonathon Miller RBI single was accompanied by a Hinnant RBI double and an RBI single from Presley giving the Bears a nine-run advantage at 10-1.

Florida Post Grad scored its second run in the seventh but Southwest got the last laugh in the bottom half of the inning as Steinwinder hit a double to right scoring Miller and pinch hitter Tanner Moore giving the Bears the walk-off win.

After the game, Steinwinder – one of the sophomores recognized – said that he was aware of the walk-off situation and knew that he had to deliver.

"I knew going into the box I had a chance to be the hero," he said. "It felt good to come through and end the game."

Steinwinder went 2-for-5 with a double, two runs scored and three RBIs. Hinnant also had a big day with two hits including a double to go along with three runs scored and three RBIs.

The combination of Russ, Jackson Hawsey, Alden Spencer, Garrison Shows and Peyton Perdue gave up only three hits, two runs (one earned) and five walks while recording six strikeouts.

Announcements!

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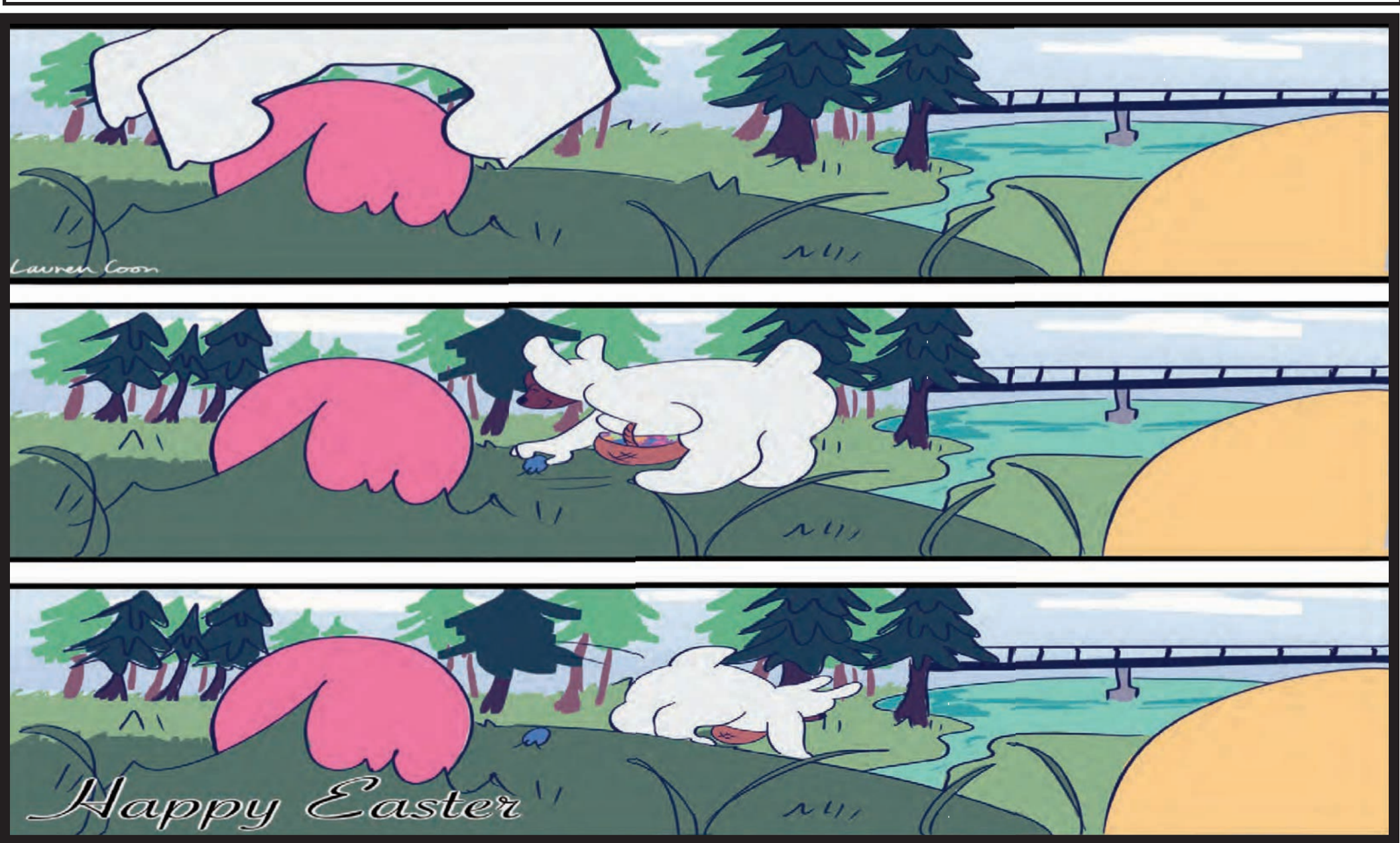
Announcements!

- Easter Egg Hunt on campus Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 14th – 16th 8:00 am – 8:00 pm each day or until they have all been collected – inside the streets of College Hall, Bear Drive and Lakeside Drive excluding the lake area. A golden egg will be hidden each day.
- The residence halls will close for the Easter holiday on Thursday, April 17th at 3:00 pm and reopen on Monday, April 21st at 4:00 pm.
- SGA will sponsor Movie Night on the football field on Tuesday, April 22nd 7:30 pm – gates will open at 7:00 pm. We will be showing Top Gun 2 – Maverick. Bring your blanket and come on out and enjoy the movie.
- Bear Necessities Day on the football field on Thursday, April 24th with check in at 10:30 am. Create your team and come sign up in Student Services in Kenna Hall. Six team members minimum and 7 maximum. I have attached a sign up sheet to this email, please complete and turn in to Student Services by noon on Thursday, April 17th.
- Award's Day, Wednesday, April 30th at 9:40 am. We will be on assembly schedule.



Easter Bear

by Lauren Coon



Student Government Association: Emily Caston and Ruth Bishop; second row: Madison Carraway, Kailea Dillon, Aysha Hare and Bethany Graves

The SGA officers and members along with their advisor Lauren Woodworth organized a relief drive for the Walthall County tornado victims by collecting plastic containers. They delivered the items along with the nursing departments items to the Walthall County area. The items were much appreciated by everyone that received them. The SGA members continue to serve not only Southwest but the surrounding communities as well.

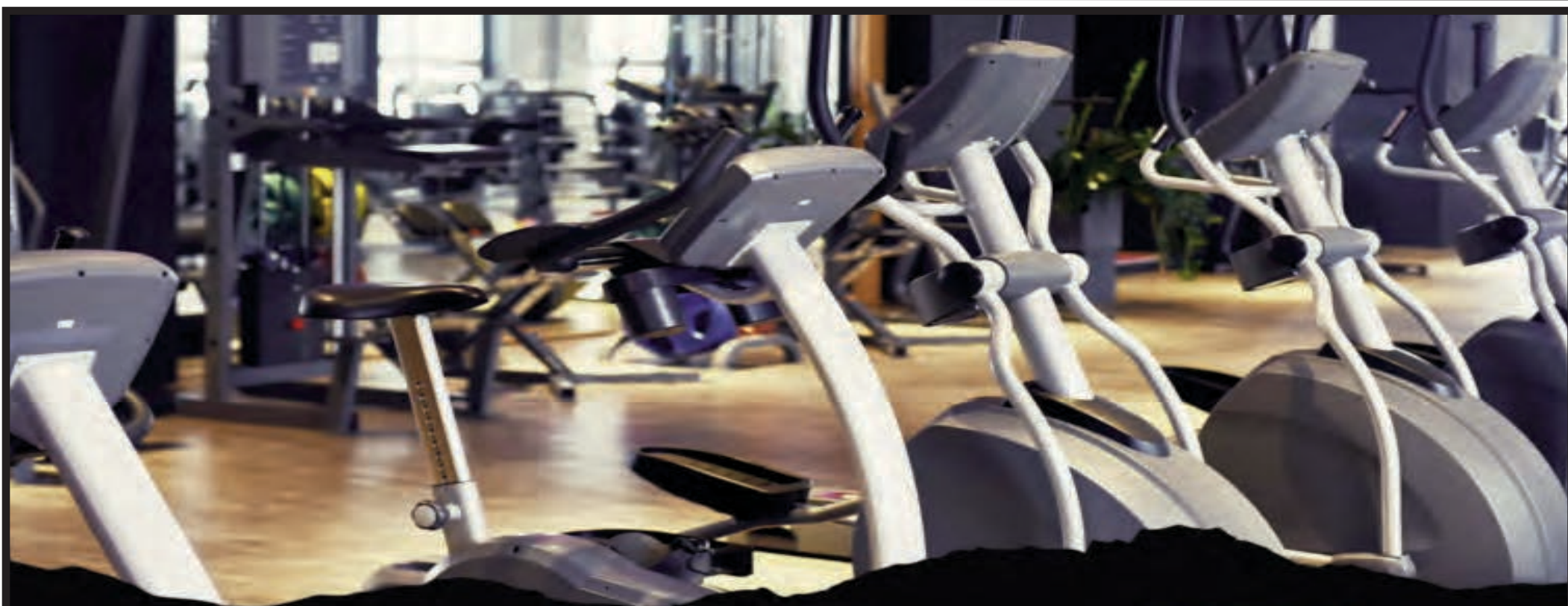
ADS



Who's Who



SMCC's Who's Who: Jaden Pierre, Mr. SMCC; Ruth Bishop, Freshman Class Favorite; Gracie Amacker, Freshman Class Favorite; Bella Gaskin, Sophomore Class Favorite; Addison Ward, Freshman Class Favorite; Lily Gaskin, Freshman Class Favorite; Malorie Dreher, Sophomore Delegate; Kailea Dillon, Sophomore Class Favorite; Jabari Garner, Beau; second row: Bryan Walsh, Freshman Class Favorite; Aysha Hare, Sophomore Delegate; Emily Caston, Freshman Secretary; Josi Spears, Freshman Treasurer; Olivia Goldman, Student Body Maid; Madison Carraway, Sophomore Class Favorite; Mary Katherine Gray, Sophomore Delegate; Grace Speights, Sophomore Class Favorite; Savannah Arnold, Freshman Class Favorite; William Cedotal, Beaus; third row: Matthew Brister, Beau; Jeb Robinson, Campus Favorite; Dana Pena, Campus Favorite; Joesph Kenny, Freshman president; Bethany Graves, Sophomore Treasurer; Evan Brumfield, Beau; Colby Terrell, Beau; Caleb James, Beau





Southwest FITNESS CENTER



\$25 PER SEMESTER

SIGN UP IN THE BUSINESS OFFICE
HOURS: MON-THURS 2PM - 6PM

LOCATED IN THE ALLIED HEALTH BUILDING

**SIGN UP
TODAY**

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