

Campus Events

Thursday, September 29
Football @ 6:30
SMCC @ East Central CC

Saturday, October 1
Soccer @ 3:00/5:00
Pearl River @ SMCC
Softball @ 3
SMCC @ MS Delta CC

Sunday, October 2
Corry Black Jamboree
Basketball
@ Carrollton, GA

Tuesday, October 4
Soccer @ 5:00/7:00
SMCC @ East Central CC

Thursday, October 6
Football @ 6:30
Hinds CC @ SMCC

Friday, October 7
Soccer @ 5:00/7:00
Northwest Mississippi CC
@ SMCC
Tennis
SMCC @ Northeast CC

Saturday, October 9
Basketball @ Mansfield,
TX

Monday, October 10
SMCC Fall Break

Tuesday, October 11
SMCC Fall break

Thursday, October 13
Football @ 7:00
SMCC @ Jones CC

Saturday, October 15
Soccer @ 2:00/5:00
Holmes CC @ SMCC
All-American Jamboree
Basketball @ Orlando, FL

Tuesday, October 18
Soccer @ 5:00/7:00
SMCC @ Hinds CC

Wednesday, October 20
Basketball @ Summit, MS

Friday, October 21
Soccer @ 5:00/7:00
SMCC @ Jones CC

Saturday, October 22
Football @ 5:00
Pearl River CC @ SMCC
Homecoming

Tuesday, October 25
Soccer @ 5:00/7:00
SMCC @ Mississippi Gulf
Coast CC
PTK induction @ 3:00
Workforce Center

Thursday, October 27
Football @ 3:00
SMCC @ Holmes CC

Thursday, October 28
Basketball @ Summit, MS

Tuesday, November 1
Basketball @ 6:00

Friday, November 4-5
Basketball @ Marianna,
FL

Monday, November 7
Basketball @ 6:00

Tuesday, November 8
Memorial Walk in Honor
of Dr. Bill Tucker @ 6:30
SMCC track
Basketball @ Henderson,
TN

Thursday, November 11
Basketball @ Utica, MS

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above:Homecoming Court: Mary Elizabeth Kuntz, Freshman Maid; Kaylee Pigott, Freshman Maid; Hannah McLaughlin, Freshman Maid; Jada Martin, Homecoming Queen; Katherine Bishop, Student Body Maid; Claire Busbin, Sophomore Maid; Joli Spears, Sophomore Maid; Sawyer McDowell, Sophomore Maid photo by Chuck Barnes

Homecoming: Out of This World

The SMCC homecoming theme is Southwest: Out of This World. It will be an event full of excitement with many friends and family attending for support, as well as our southwest students. The homecoming game is scheduled for October 22nd at 5:00 p.m. against Pearl River Community College. Southwest’s Homecoming Court is the following: Claire Busbin, Hannah McLaughlin, Jada Martin, Joli Maid, Katherine Bishop, Kaylee Pigott, Mary Elizabeth Kuntz, Sawyer McDowell. The SMCC students eagerly await homecoming week, where they have the opportunity to dress up for the designated themes that are chosen each day. Lauren Woodworth, Director of Student Activities, plans this exciting week along with the SGA officers. Much time and thought is put into this activity-filled week so that the SMCC students get the best experience.

Homecoming Queen Jada Martin is the daughter of Kendrick and Sheriel Martin. She attended South Pike High School, where she was a member of the National Honor Society, BETA Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Yearbook Committee, and a volunteer at MPACT (Martin’s Preschool and Christian Teaching). She was also a High School Honor Graduate, Cheer Captain of Varsity, MVP of the Varsity Cheer Squad, blood donor, and Homecoming Sophomore and Senior Maid. Jada is a member of Word Empowerment Ministries, where her father is a pastor. At Southwest, she is on SMCC Cheer Team, Stage Band, and is Vice-President of SGA and Sophomore Class Favorite. In her freshman year, Jada was Freshman Maid and Freshman Class Favorite. She is escorted by her father, Kendrick Martin.

Student Body Maid Katherine Bishop is the daughter of Steve and Melanie Bishop. She attends First Baptist Church of Summit. Katherine graduated from Parkane Academy with a wide variety of honors and awards. Throughout high school, Katherine was a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Club, Garden Club, and Cheerleading Squad. She was named Co-Captain of the Varsity cheerleaders, and also earned the title of Senior Class Favorite. At graduation, she received the Kathy Miller Spirit Award. She took her success onto Southwest’s campus. Here, she serves as a Tri-Beta Honors Society member, SGA Secretary, Co-Captain of the Redline, BSU member, Stage Band Dancer, Vice President of Bear Trackers, and President of Phi Theta Kappa. Recently, Katherine was elected as Miss SMCC. Katherine currently holds the name of Pike County’s Miss Hospitality, and she was selected as the third alternate in the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Pageant. Katherine’s

major is Biochemistry. After Southwest, she plans to transfer to a Mississippi University, where she will one day attend Optometry School. She is escorted by her father, Steve Bishop.

Sophomore Maid Claire Busbin is the daughter of Clay and Stephanie Busbin. She attended Salem High School where she was Cheer Captain, Yearbook Editor, Miss SHS, on the Volleyball and Softball teams, and was a member of Beta, HOSA, National Technical Honors Society and National Society of High School Scholars. She is an active member of First Baptist Church in Summit. At Southwest, Claire is Worship Leader of the BSU Praise Team, on the BSU Mission Team, and a member of Choir, Stage Band, Bear Trackers, and Phi Theta Kappa. She will continue her education at the University of Southern Mississippi with a major in Speech Pathology. Claire is escorted by her father, Clay Busbin.

Sophomore Maid Sawyer McDowell is the daughter of Reuben and Traci McDowell. She attends Calvary Baptist Church. Sawyer attended high school at Columbia High School, where she was a member of the Beta Club, Marching Wildcats Drum Major, CHS Fine Arts Member, ACT 25+ Club, Spanish Honor Society, AP Scholar, First Priority member, and CHS Tennis Team. She is majoring in Practical Nursing and planning to further her education in the SMCC ADN Nursing program. Currently, she is involved in the SMCC Band, where she serves as the Marching Band Drum Major. She is also in the Student Nurse Association, Southwest Steel Pans, Stage Band, and the Choir. Sawyer is being escorted by her father, Reuben McDowell.

Sophomore Maid “Joli” Aerin Spears is the daughter of Jason and Jo Ann Spears. Joli attended North Pike High School where she was awarded a myriad of honors. Some of these include Senior Most Beautiful, Most Photogenic, Superintendent Scholar, Football Maid, Hall of Fame, All American Cheerleader, Co-Captain of the Cheer Team, All Regional Soccer, Captain and All Regional and All-State Fastpitch Softball, and Azalea Court. She is attending SMCC on a Redline Dance Scholarship, along with a few others. She is very involved on campus, in activities that include Bear Trackers, SGA, Phi Theta Kappa, Stage Band, and BSU and mission team. Some of the high recognition that Joli has received here are Most Beautiful and Freshman Maid. She attends First Baptist Church of Summit. In the upcoming year, Joli plans to attend MS State University, where she will further her education in Marketing. She is escorted by her father, Jason Spears.

Freshman Maid Mary Elizabeth Kuntz is the daughter of Scott and Robin Kuntz. She



above: Jada Martin, HC Queen, smiles for the camera. by Chuck Barnes



above: Katherine Bishop, Student Body Maid, poses for a photo.

was a graduate of North Pike High School and she attends Centenary United Methodist Church. While attending NPHS, she served as President of the Beta Club and Captain of the Dance Team. Mary achieved the honor of American All-Star Dancer and Most Outstanding and Superintendent Scholar. She was a Girls’ Tennis Singles State Qualifier, member of the Tennis Team, Mu Alpha Theta, and North Pike Band. In her community, she was a member of Garden Club Garden Girls and Azalea Court, and Junior Auxiliary Crown Club. Here at Southwest, she is a member of the Dance Team and the Tennis Team. After graduating from SMCC, Mary Elizabeth plans to attend Mississippi State University, where she will continue her major in Biomedical Engineering. She is escorted by her father, Scott Kuntz.

Freshman Maid Hannah Grace McLaughlin is the daughter of Brian and Jennifer McLaughlin. She attends Calvary Baptist Church in Bogue Chitto, MS. Hannah attended Parklane Academy where she was involved in multiple activities and clubs, such as the Parklane Dazzler Dance Team for five years, National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta, Garden Club, and Parklane Yearbook

Staff for three years. Hannah was also very active in her community organizations, which is evident as she is a Junior Auxiliary of McComb Crown Club member. Here at SMCC, she is on the Redline Dance Team, Stage Band Vocalist and Dancer, and was also elected as Campus Favorite. In the upcoming years, Hannah plans to attend the University of Mississippi, majoring in Pre-Pharmacy. Hannah McLaughlin is escorted by her father, Brian McLaughlin.

Freshman Maid Kaylee Pigott is the daughter of Butch and Cheryl Pigott. She attends First Baptist Church of Summit, and she graduated from Salem Attendance Center. Throughout high school, Kaylee played softball, volleyball, and was the captain of the Salem Stars dance team. She was a member of the Beta Club for four years. She served as Student Council Vice President and as a member of the Yearbook Staff. Kaylee was also named Miss Salem High School. At Southwest, Kaylee is a Bear Tracker, Redline dancer, SGA Freshman President, and Freshman Class Favorite. After her time at SMCC, Kaylee plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi where she will further her education in Physical Therapy. She is escorted by her father, Butch Pigott.

Southwest receives recognition

Southwest Mississippi Community College was recently recognized as #2 out of all community colleges in the state of Mississippi by Niche. The college was also named #12 of 252 Best Online Colleges in America and #39 of 906 Best Community Colleges in America. Niche rankings are based on rigorous analysis of key statistics from the U.S. Department of Education and millions of reviews. According to a poll taken by SMCC students, 89% of them said that professors put immense amounts of work into teaching their classes in ways that accommodate the students’ wants and needs. SMCC offers a wide variety of classes and courses to take that align with a surplus of majors. Two majors with the most graduates each year from Southwest are Liberal Arts and Humanities and Nursing. Also, high percentages of graduates are in these departments: Welding, Cosmetology, Electricians, and LPN. Southwest is an exceptional place to not only earn a degree but also to make life long friends.

John I. Hurst Stadium gets new facelift and turf

By Mack Spencer
Enterprise-Journal

The field at Southwest Mississippi Community College’s John I. Hurst Stadium got a \$1.647 million facelift. College Trustees accepted a base bid and two alternates that expanded artificial turf playing surface installed. “I’m excited about the possibilities,” President Dr. Steve Bishop said. “This will make our stadium a multi-use facility for our athletic teams.” Along with turf installation, Dr. Bishop said that the project involved removing the inner lane of the track around the field and finishing the edges to prevent the crumbling that is plaguing the inner edge now, as well as installing electrical access on the field.

Removing the inner lane of the track allowed for expansion of the turf playing surface to allow the school’s soccer teams to use the stadiums for games, he said. While the approximately 68-foot width of the field would still be a little short of the 70-foot minimum of most soccer stadiums. Bishop said he and the soccer coaches believe the closeness to the usual width would allow SMCC to host state or regional soccer playoffs. Making Hurst Stadium usable for soccer also allows the college to forgo upgrades at the existing soccer facility, though it will be maintained for practicing or emergency use.

The turf installation made it easier for SMCC to host its games and hold summer camps. Dr. Bishop said, and “the other sports use the stadium if they need to.” He also said the turf would be helpful in hosting high school or even junior games, and keep the school from having to make North Pike football move to the district’s middle school field on SMCC’s homecoming weekend.

“When we have homecoming on Saturday and North Pike plays on Friday Night, we can’t let them play here because it tears up the field,” Dr. Bishop said. “That’s not their fault. That’s just what happens when you play on a (grass) field.” The playing surface is supposed to last 10 to 15 years, he said, and a pad installed under the turf should last at least 20 years and help to prevent some injuries.

The Pine Burr

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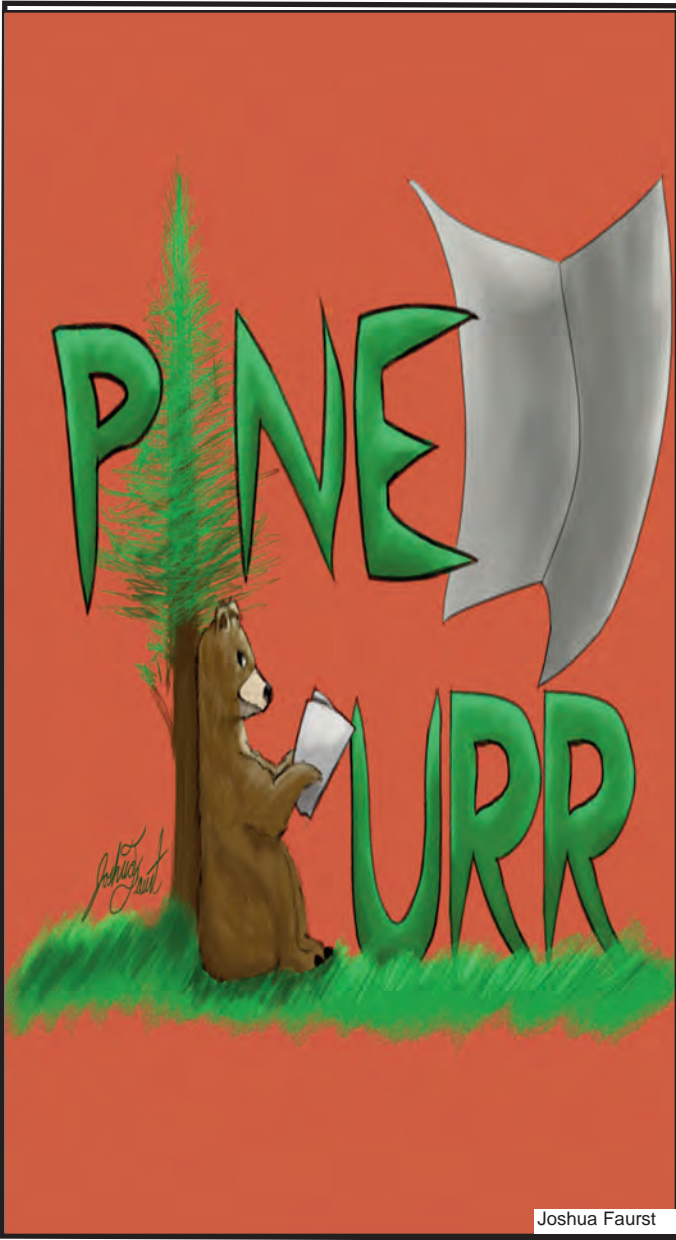
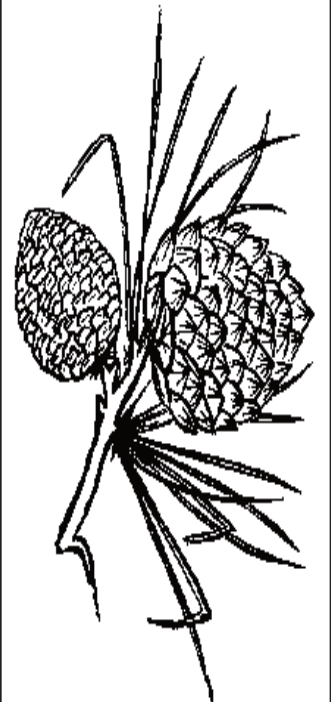


Joyce Mabry
Advisor

The *Pine Burr* is published monthly 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 39666.

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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.-



Joshua Faurst

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 2022. 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 2022. 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: Welcome to Southwest

by Leah Sterling

We're back home! The start of the school year at Southwest Mississippi Community College is full of excitement and anticipation. Whether students are new or coming back for their second year, we are all ready to see what Southwest has in store for the upcoming season.

With the start of a new school year comes many SMCC festivities. The incoming students are eager to join in the annual SMCC beginning of the school year traditions, such as the Back to School Breakfast, Meet the Bears, and the first Pep Rally! Also, Who's Who, Homecoming Court, and SGA officer elections all take place in the first semester. Speaking of excitement taking place, a great addition made on campus is the new turf on the SMCC football field. It was a project that required a surplus of hard work and order; nevertheless, it is finished!

For freshmen, the change from high school to college is a pretty big jump; however, the key is to stay focused. Of course, have fun, but academics come first. Go to class, write down your notes, and

stay on top of your schoolwork. You will be happy that you did! PTK is a great organization that offers several scholarships all based on your academic GPAs, so be sure to set a goal to get into this group. Also, do not be afraid to ask your teachers or classmates for help. It is not a sign of weakness to need help; however, it is a sign of pride if you do not ask.

Because the world of high school is very different from the college freshman realm, the change can be immense and scary. So, I've come up with a few simple tips to help new students thrive here on campus. First, be sure to get involved in the activities that Southwest offers. There are so many people for you to meet! The Baptist Student Union, or "BSU," is a great place to start. Real friendships are formed here. The BSU holds a worship night on Mondays and a course bible study on Tuesdays, both starting at 7. In addition to the BSU, the Wesley Chapel is also a great place to attend to strengthen your faith and meet new friends! Both of these groups are really worth

your while. I highly suggest checking them out.

My next tip is to make the most of your classes. Really. You see, you're taking these necessary courses all because they are stepping stones to your future goals, so why not try your best in them? SMCC is known for its amiable, caring instructors, who are more than happy to assist your needs. However, you have to be the one to ask! They truly want to help you, so don't be afraid to set up an appointment during their office hours, and hopefully, they can guide you in the right direction. Also, the William & Lula B. Ford Library offers tutoring and a quiet place to study. Personally, I find that I get so much more work done when I put myself in this environment. I really recommend it.

My last thought for you is a bit different than my previous advice. It is said so much that I think that sometimes it loses its meaning; "Be Yourself" is a common quote or phrase, but I think that it needs to be applied more often than it is. It can be so easy to get caught up in everyone



Leah Sterling
Editor

else's habits, thoughts, and actions. It is so important to stay true to the person that you are at your core; besides, there's only one of you, so why would you want to be anyone else?

Southwest is a place where students have the independence and opportunity to achieve great things. Core memories, long-lasting friendships, and beautiful moments are all created on campus. These are sure to stay in your heart forever. I wish all of you a successful school year filled with so much joy. As always, Go Bears!

IN MEMORIAM

DR. BILL TUCKER

The Dr. William B. Tucker Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established by the SMCC Board of Trustees and Administrative Council.

If you would like to contribute please contact the SMCC Foundation at bemory@smcc.edu

 **SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION**

Light Up the Night

in memory of Bill Tucker

Tuesday November 8th
Start at 6:30 pm
Location: Southwest MS Community College Track
Sign up via RunSign Up
<https://runsignup.com/Race/MS/Summit/LightUpTheNight2MileDrBillTuckerMemorialWalk>

Light Up The Night 2 Mile Dr. Bill Tucker Memorial Walk

Southwest MS Community College Phi Theta Kappa is sponsoring a memory walk in honor of Dr. Bill Tucker; Dr. Tucker was a long time employee of SMCC, and he is a community leader, loving husband, father, and grandfather. Dr. Tucker tragically lost his life spring 2022 due to gun violence. We are sponsoring a memory walk in his honor to raise money for the Dr. Bill Tucker Foundation, raise awareness, and create unity for our SMCC family and community family. Dr. Bill Tucker was an avid outdoorsman; he hiked the Appalachian Trail. In addition, he was an athlete, and he religiously walked or ran 2 miles every morning at the SMCC track before work. We plan to Light up the Night in memory of his dedication to his family, community, and his faith.

*****Must register for walk by October 21, to be guaranteed a t-shirt. We will not have extra at the event. The memorial walk will start and stop at the Southwest MS Community College track in Summit, Mississippi. You can pick up your race t-shirt on Tuesday, November 8, at the SMCC track from 5:30 pm until the start of the walk at 6:30 pm. Glow bracelets and necklaces will be given out to every participant. Hotdogs and drinks provided after the walk.



Back Together Again

photo by Sarah Grace Meyn

Visit Utah

By Larina Anderson, Co-editor

Out of the many adventures I've enjoyed in the past summer, I can say that Utah by far has been one of the most adventurous places when it comes to doing nature activities, such as sightseeing, hiking, cycling, and more. Utah, a hot, humid state is full of canyons, mountains, and lakes that can be wonderfully seen everywhere you look. The adventures were even more amusing because I got to enjoy them with the family. In celebration of my cousin's birthday, we went to Splash Summit Waterpark, Olive Garden, and University Place Mall in the city of Orem. In Utah, it can be seen that the public uses natural resources in so many positive ways. I noticed that instead of using and abusing the nature around them, they preserve, reuse, or even use nature in its natural state as an advantage. The real estate displayed on the magnificent geographical features is set in a way for nature to still thrive as beautifully as it can. For example, on the front of the mountains, there are letters that signify the name of the counties that are within that region. My family lives near a mountain with a G on the front which indicates that they are in Grove county or Pleasant Grove county. In that area are also other shopping centers, trails, parks, and a canyon to explore.

Instead of staying within the area of Pleasant Grove, my family and I decided to extend our adventure out into Draper, Utah where we went to "Loveland Living Planet Aquarium." There we saw many aquatic animals, insects, and birds such as penguins, turtles, starfish, crabs, and more. Alongside exploring the fascinating creatures of Loveland, I also stopped to get a snack at the food area consisting of sweets, chips, drinks, and lunch items. The Loveland Aquarium holds some fascinating creatures as well as informative information about those creatures. I highly request for any person that has a love for exploring nature or likes to engage in any nature activities to visit Utah.

Monkeypox

By Larina Anderson, co-editor

In my opinion out of all of the diseases that have been announced, monkeypox is one of the most terrifying diseases to the people in the US because of its long-lasting side effects. For many, the disease first starts as a rash, and then it evolves into a lesion; because of that, it became more painful. The lesions spread throughout the arms and legs of the body causing body aches and more. Not only do they affect the body externally, but there have been cases where the lesions have affected the body internally, such as in the back of the throat or the roof of the mouth, also known as the hard palate. Receiving this disease is not only physically damaging but it can also be emotionally damaging because of the remaining scars left after the healing process.

After the lesions are gone, they leave permanent scars that can greatly affect a person's appearance if it spread throughout the neck and face area. Not only can it affect one's appearance, but in many cases, it has made its way inside eyeballs, destroying the lens and optic nerve, causing permanent blindness. Even though there is a cure for the monkeypox disease, there is a limited amount of doses that can be distributed. For many, this is a huge issue because the disease attacks the respiratory system more than any other organ in the body. Considering the fact that a strong respiratory system is needed in order to survive, many deaths have been a result of this.



Women's Soccer Team: Zach Mills, Head Coach; Ella Silvan, Alexandra Shimasaki, Ashlinn Palm, Chloe Folse, Jayda Ransom, Emma Breaux; second row: Londyn Nation, Manager; Tatiana Wood, Haven Jarvis, Peyton Alexander, Alexis Taylor, Olivia Burroughs, Taylor Levy, Makenzie Mir, Manager; third row: Emily Sturdivant, Kaitlyn Williams, Jennifer Neal, Alexa Manning, Breana McDonald, Gracie Alford, Ellie Wood, Rose Coats, Nicole Daigle, Assistant Coach; Dalton Cooper, Assistant Coach

photo by Travis Connelley



Men's Soccer Team: Luis Loy, Manager; Kaleb Jones, Rory Humphrey, Parker Morgan, Landon Gagliano, Jordan Jones, Samuel Velazquez, Hayden Peek, Noah Harris, Juan Boteo, Kelston Seymour, Antonio Martinez, Cesar Pena, Jacob Cochran, Isaiah Lessard, Manager; second row: Zach Mills, Head Coach; Cody Collins, Jade Baartman, Jason Lopez, Christian Sherrill-Jordan, Rajae Thompson, Boe Frazier, Cooper Odom, Holden Helms, Jamie Chamberlain, Joshua Thomas, Franco Fasoli, Thomas Peralta, Nick Jenkins, Caleb Trisdale, Nicole Daigle, Assistant Coach; Dalton Cooper, Assistant Coach

photo by Travis Connelley



Cheer Team: Kylee Girau, Olivia Magee, Haley Kinabrew, McKenna Pearson, Jada Martin, Madison Thibodeaux, Abby Jordan; second row: Myles Jones, Gariun Wells, Jamichael Dillon, Austin Ethridge, Zander Varaksa Jr., Michael Kees, George Crockett, Levi Savoie, Jamieson Hooks, Kane White; not pictured: Lexi Freeman

photo by Chuck Barnes



Redline: Ashley Patterson, Melaine Parsons, Katherine Bishop, Jerica Brown, Sydney Parker, Madeline Alford, Joli Spears; second row: Sarah Grace Karas, Kaylee Pigott, Mary Kuntz, Hannah McLaughlin, Ashlyn Parker, Presley Gordon, Lauren Bates

photo by Chuck Barnes



Color Guard: Savannah McCullough, Kelsey Jones, Erin Davis, Rebecca Nordstorm, Emily Case, Breana Ladnier; second row: Charlie McWilliams, Emily Peltier, Kristen Land-Orr, Demond Byrd, Tanyia Lee

photo by Chuck Barnes

Callie Venable joins softball staff

By Travis Connelley | Sports Information Director

With the beginning of fall play rapidly approaching, Southwest Softball Coach Shea Johnson needed to fill an open slot in his coaching staff...and he did not have to look far to do so.

Enter Callie Venable. The former Silliman and Jones College softball star is joining Johnson's staff and will coach middle infielders, a position she played.

"I'm extremely excited," she said. "I have always wanted to be able to give back to the game that gave so much to me. When this opportunity arose, I really couldn't say no. I loved my time playing in the junior college league. There are a lot of special people in the league and that I can make an impact here with the other coaches that are on staff."

In addition to Coach Johnson, Venable will be working with Coach Michael Clements who returns for his third season with Lady Bear softball.

For Venable, taking the job with the Lady Bears was also a chance for her to fulfill a want of moving back to Mississippi.

She brings a wealth of knowledge of the game, one that she has been involved with since the sixth grade. During her senior year at Silliman, Venable helped deliver a State Championship for the Lady Wildcats.

The success continued on for Venable as she moved on to the junior college ranks. She was a part of the 2018 National Championship team at Jones.

"It was an experience that I really can't even put into words," she said. "I loved my time there."

Following her time at Jones, Venable finished up her undergrad at Southern Miss getting her degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences. In the Summer of 2022, she finished her Masters in Speech Pathology at Southeastern Louisiana University.

Venable's previous coaching experience centers around former Silliman Coach Trey Weaver. For the past three years she was an assistant under him and was a travel ball coach with him for two summers coaching a pair of teams, one of 18-year-olds and the other 12-year-olds.

Coach Johnson was very pleased to get the opportunity to add Venable to his staff.

"She's a great kid and brings a bundle of enthusiasm and great knowledge of the game," he said. "Recruiting-wise you always want a young lady on the squad to help go out. She really knows talent, has played on a high level and has the ability to identify talent at a very-young age. I think that alone with her offense ability, I think that brings a lot to the table also."

The Learning Spectrum

By Milloree Brown, staff

College can be a hard adjustment for any student, but it may be a bit harder for students on the autism spectrum. As college starts up around the United States, many students will be going into dorms, finding roommates, and adjusting to a new environment. More students with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) are attending college than in the past, and according to the CDC, 1 out of 54 students has autism. Things that students with autism may have trouble with in college are socializing, or being sensitive to loud noises. Of course, there are varying degrees to which each student may experience this, such as reacting strongly to loud noises or not reacting at all.

Whatever the case may be, all students should be treated with the same amount of respect as anyone else, because at the end of the day, we are all people trying our best to learn and make a way for ourselves.

Meet the Bears

By Leah Sterling,
editor

We all know what the first gathering on the SMCC football field of the year means: Meet the Bears. Our Bears are proudly introduced to the thrilled and enthusiastic crowd for the start of the many, many sports events we have on campus. Every one of these talented individuals works through trial after trial to play their games and play them successfully, at that.

The first SMCC group called out is the “Bear TV.” This group of four stands along the sidelines, at the tops of the stands, and in the press box to film all of our home games. They record so that we can watch in person, and also watch online as soon as we arrive at our homes.

Next up, is our diligent SMCC Football team that dedicates so much of their time to their game. The many athletes, trainers, and assistant coaches are introduced. Finally, our Head Coach coming back for his second year at Southwest is named: Cliff Collins! Coach Collins greatly improved our team during his first year on campus, so we are eager to see what he will bring to us this year.

Both the 2022 Men’s and Women’s Basketball teams are introduced. In fact, the new SMCC Men’s Basketball Coach, Corey Schmidt, is named and welcomed to Southwest! Schmidt has served as an assistant coach for the past two years, but it is now his turn to lead his team into victory. In a recent interview, Schmidt says, “I was very excited (when I found out) and it’s an honor to be in charge of a program and there’s no better place that I want to do that than here at Southwest.”

Team after team is introduced. The SMCC Cheerleaders proudly show off their new routines and cheers, which makes the crowd excited! Our outstanding band plays one of their signature songs, which makes us all eager to soon see their halftime show that they put hours upon hours of work on. The SMCC Redline presents their energetic choreog-

Welcome to Southwest

By Tay Srithong,
co-editor

Welcome to a new semester, everybody, and welcome to Southwest for those that are new! By now, I am sure that everyone has chosen their subjects and classes, and has at least got a glimpse of what it is. The first week is most nerveing as that’s the time when everyone meets new faces, but it’s also the easiest as there isn’t a lot of teaching going on. When the lecture starts, try not to lose focus. If you don’t understand what’s going on in class, ask the instructor for help, so you don’t fall behind in class. Different courses vary in how hard the subject is, but students shouldn’t stress too much about it. Most courses aren’t too bad. For me, I say just have fun.

There are many fun things to do at Southwest. You can be the shy unsocial type and still find yourself at a competition, gathering, event etc... There are mural sports for athletes, organizations where you can meet others with similar interests, and concerts that sing gospel and 80s music if you’re into that. Most of these events are advertised through the school outlook email, so be sure to check on that from time to time if you want to get involved. Overall just have fun and keep up with classes. Southwest welcomes you!



SGA Freshmen Officers: Amy Mabile, Treasurer; Kaylee Pigott, President; Leah Sterling, Vice-President; Jack Brewer, Secretary *photo by Chuck Barnes*



Wesley Foundation: Seth Caire; Jim Beam-Ingram, Director; Noah Agnor, President; Hayden Godbold, Vice-President; and Allannah Barre *photo by Joyce Mabry*



Oil and Gas Production Program: Cole Tillman and Jim McKinley, instructor, discuss the Thermal Control System. *photo by Joyce Mabry*



Electical Lineman Program: Jeffrey McKenzie, Austin Wallace, Chase Copeland inspect their equipment. *photo by Joyce Mabry*



Constitution Day: Social Science instructor Merrielyn Ginn discusses the Constitution with students, Caleb Brown, Ryan Turner, and Sarah Meyn on Constitution Day. *photo by Joyce Mabry*

New baseball staff

By Travis Connelley,
SIF Director

In an effort to continue the success of the Bears Baseball program, head coach Jack Edmonson made a pair of hires to his coaching staff. Joining the Bears are assistant coaches Trevor Fitts and Austen Izzio, both of whom have an extensive background in the game. Edmonson said that when it came to Fitts, he was elated to get the chance to bring him aboard. "We're glad to have him, glad to bring him on staff," Edmonson said. "He has a lot of experience in a lot of places. He has pitched and played in some big atmospheres and we are excited to have him and share that and his experiences with our guys. Our guys in JUCO dream of going to those places and it is nice to have someone to share the office and locker room with. It is nice to have him here."

Fitts, a former pitcher, will lead the pitching staff which will have several new faces in the bullpen next spring. For Fitts, his coaching philosophy is one that isn't out of the norm. "I try to keep it simple," he said. "We're just going to compete. We are going to try and keep our best stuff in the zone as much as possible and get after them. There are a lot of different things that you can say about philosophy but at the end of the day, it is how many times can you get them out without letting them score."

Fitts, a former four-year player at Mississippi State, has previously coached at his alma matter in addition to stops at South Alabama, Jacksonville State and Austin Peay.

"I've been lucky to have been around high-quality baseball, and I just try to take stuff from different people and apply it wherever I am at," Fitts said.

For Izzio, also a former college player, he too is thankful to be a part of the staff and get to still be involved with the game, but from the coaching perspective.

"It does take a toll on you and we are here from 9 to 6 working with the guys but I enjoy it as well," Izzio said. "I'm super excited, obviously they (SMCC coaches) all have experience with coaching and playing and I think that will help me a lot. I just got done playing and I think that being in the office with these guys will help me a lot in the long run." Even coaching gig, his playing background is very extensive. The Mobile, Alabama-native transferred to Pearl River Central during his junior year in high school. After graduation, he played at Pearl River Community College for two years before a year each at Southern Miss then Charleston-Southern. Izzio, a former outfielder during his playing days will be in charge of the Bear outfielders who will have a handful of new faces on the team. Under Edmonson, Fitts and Izzio will work with Tyler Graham who returns for his second season with the Bears. Graham was recently elevated to lead assistant.

Freedoms

By Keagan Holliday
co-editor

Southwest gives an opportunity for students to grow and achieve on a daily basis. One way they do this is by letting students be themselves by allowing them to wear what they want and giving them more independence so they can do what they want. Giving students more space to be themselves lets them grow daily. In addition, that gives them room to achieve more goals. Unlike high school where you have a dress code, it's a big change in college. In college, you are given freedom that you don't have in high school. In high school you are required to wear a uniform, most of the time it requires collar shirts, certain color pants or shorts, and/or certain types of shoes. These requirements are supposed to "promote learning, safety, and image" according to The First Amendment Encyclopedia. But at the end of the day, a dress code affects students by taking them out of class when they get in trouble or when they are seen not complying with the right dress code. In most colleges, including SMCC, the dress code is casual which means you can wear what you would like as long as it's appropriate.

Bears shut out Mississippi Delta in season opener



By Travis Connelley, Sports Information Director

September 1, 2022

Last year’s season opening win over Itawamba was huge for Cliff Collins as it was his first in his career as a head coach.

Fast forward just over a year later and Thursday’s 50-0 home win over Mississippi Delta to open the 2022 campaign, may have been more satisfying to him. “No doubt, a shutout is always great,” he said.

For Collins, it was his first shutout in his head coaching career and he had plenty to smile about after the game. His defense was a thorn in the side of the Trojans all night giving up 35 yards while the offense followed suit with a big 410-yard performance.

“I’m excited, I’m grateful for the growth of our football team and where we came from and where we are going,” Collins said.

Among the big performances on offense for the Bears (1-0), sophomore quarterback Chris Roberson shined with 282 passing yards and two scores to go along with 43 yards on the ground. He was complimented in the rushing game by Damuriyon Montgomery who had 59 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries.

He not only scored the first touchdown of the game and of the season, but also the first on the newly-turfed Monroe McElveen Field at John I. Hurst Stadium, taking a handoff in from five yards out, capping-off a 14-play, 73-yard drive that took the first 6:19 off of the play clock.

“I give it all to my offensive line,” Montgomery said. “Without them, none of this would be possible. Coach (Courtland) Hays and Coach Collins said that before the game, stay calm and let everything come to you and when I saw the hole it hit it and scored the touchdown.”

Following the extra point by Tres Ladner, Southwest jumped ahead 7-0.

The Bear defense followed by feeding off of that momentum and in a big way. With the Trojans (0-1) backed up deep in their territory, the defense tallied its first takeaway of the season as Fred Lewis forced a fumble before it was recovered by Eric Powell at the Delta 8-yard line giving Southwest a golden opportunity.

And it didn’t take long for the offense to capitalize as Tyler Reed scored on the second play of the drive with a five-yard run. With the Ladner extra point, the hosts took a 14-0 lead.

Ladner provided the ensuing points for the Bears on the next Southwest possession. He connected on a 42-yard field goal increasing the Southwest lead to 17-0.

On just the second play of the second quarter, the lead grew to 24-0 following a 75-yard touchdown pass from Roberson to Ja’Coby Matthews.

“The safety came down and he bit on the bender route and it was nothing but green grass,” Roberson said.

On the following drive, the Bear defense stepped up once again. Kharel Coney snagged an interception but lost the ball during the ensuing return. However, it was quickly recovered by Jameer Lewis at the Delta 16-yard line.

Again with great field position, Southwest quickly struck. On the first play of the drive, Roberson rolled to the right and waited for Jacoby Bellazar to sneak past a defender and become wide open before delivering the ball to the Mississippi State commit for the 16-yard score putting the Bears up 30-0.

A 3-and-out from the Bear defense, which included a pair of tackles by Lewis, gave the ball back to the offense. And following a seven-play drive, Southwest added to its lead as Montgomery found the end zone again, this time from eight yards out making it a 37-0 ballgame with 9:38 to go in the first half.

The defense continued to put the brakes on the Trojan offense. About halfway through the second quarter, James Gardner recorded the first of his two sacks on the evening. Southwest finished with five on the night.

“I’m proud to play with this group,” Gardner said. “Coach Collins came out here and coached us up very well. We had to make a statement from last year that we got bigger and better.”

Leading 37-0 in the third quarter, Southwest increased its lead at the 5:03 mark when Tyrese Keyes blocked a punt which was recovered by Tyler Daniels and returned five yards for a touchdown. With the score, Southwest took a 43-0 lead.

The final score for the Bears came in the fourth when Wil’Tayvious Herbert scooped up a Delta fumble deep in its own territory before running it in from three yards out.

In addition to the five sacks, the Bear defense also finished with three takeaways.

September 8, 2022

Heading into Thursday’s matchup against Coahoma, the Bears were feeling positive. Just seven days removed from a 50-0 win over Delta to open the 2022 campaign on a high note, the visiting Tigers presented a new set of challenges for the Bears. That, coupled with mistakes and inconsistent play, resulted in a 28-15

loss for Southwest.

After the contest, Southwest Head Football Coach Cliff Collins took blame for the loss.

“We have to do a better job of preparing and I have to do a better job of getting the team ready to go,” he said. “This is on me. I take full responsibility for the loss.”

The Bears (1-1) got the ball first, however, couldn’t put up any points, despite finding some success moving down the field. The defense responded with a takeaway as Rontavius Thomas snagged a tip from fellow safety Javier Simmons deep in Bear territory.

The takeaway provided a brief boost to the Bear offense but the positive vibes quickly ran out as Southwest was forced to punt.

Following a scoreless opening quarter, it didn’t take long for the Bear defense to step up again as Simmons grabbed an interception of his own — on the second play of the quarter — swinging the momentum back over to the home sidelines. Simmons snagged the ball at the goal line and returned it 49 yards setting up the Bears with great field position.

This time, the takeaway provided just the spark that the Bears needed. Quarterback Chris Roberson led his team down the field an 8-play, 51-yard drive that wrapped with a Damuriyon Montgomery 1-yard touchdown run. As the Bears lined up to kick the extra point, they caught the Tigers sleeping as Ryan Turner got the ball on a toss before running into the end zone for the two-point conversion.

The defense captured another takeaway on the following drive when Ishmael Sopsher forced a fumble which was recovered by James Kate III. Unfortunately on the ensuing play, the visitors regained possession following an interception. The turnover bug continued to bite the Bears as they lost the following possession once again via a fumble.

Coahoma took advantage eventually scoring a touchdown on an 11-yard carry by Jakobi Jackson and with the extra point, shrinking the Southwest lead down to one at 8-7.

Looking to bounce back with only a few minutes to go in the first half, the Bears once again were aided by penalties against the Tigers. With the ball at the Coahoma 29, an interception quickly shut the door on the Bears’ chance to add to their lead before the intermission.

Once again, Coahoma jumped on the opportunity, turning the Southwest mistake into more points. More success through the air, this time on a 43-yard touchdown pass from Mekhi Norris to Marquis Willis resulted in a 14-8 halftime deficit for the hosts.

With the ball to open the second half, the Tigers carried over some of that momentum built from the first and increased their

lead with a 25-yard touchdown pass from Jaden Johnson to Terrick Latham, making it a 21-8 game.

The hole grew deeper for the Bears with just under 5:00 to go in the third quarter as a Johnston to Willis touchdown pass made it a 20-point game.

But the Bears answered right back. Just two plays into the ensuing drive, Roberson found Jacoby Bellazar across the middle and the Mississippi State commit did the rest, blazing down the field for a 61-yard score and with the Tres Ladner PAT, Southwest pulled within 13 at 28-15.

Unfortunately for the hosts, that would be their final score of the evening.

After the game, Collins said that he believes the loss humbles his guys as they prepare to open conference play with their first road contest at Mississippi Gulf Coast.

“It does ground you and humble you when you lose,” Collins said. “There’s two ways we can respond to this. We can respond in a positive manner, go out and get ready to roll. Or we can dull on it, live in the past and repeat this. I am going to try and make sure that we move on from it.”

Among the standouts for the Bears was Simmons who had two interceptions to along with three tackles. Sopsher had one a tackle for loss and a fumble forced.

Offensively Ja’Coby Matthews and Bellazar both had big nights. Matthews hauled-in six passes for 80 yards while Bellazar caught five balls for 112 yards and a score.

September 15, 2022

After a solid first half of play in which the Bears kept pace with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Bulldogs, the visitors couldn’t match wits with the hosts in the second, falling 45-7 in Thursday’s conference opener.

“It was the same thing as last week, we cannot turn the ball over,” SMCC head coach Cliff Collins said. “We have to tackle battle in the second half and we have to learn how to win. I am proud of the guys and I am going to keep pushing and keep working them. I told them that that the only way that we can fix this is go back out on Friday, correct our mistakes and get back on the field Sunday and get ready to roll. I have a good football team, but we have to show them how to win.”

After both the Bears (1-2, 0-1) and the Bulldogs (2-1, 1-0) traded opening drives — both of which ended in punts — it was the hosts who lit up their side of the scoreboard first. Taking advantage of great field position, Gulf Coast quarterback Pat McQuaide found Rico Dorsey from 10 yards out and with the extra point, Southwest trailed 7-0.

The Bears tried to counter with a field goal attempt, however the kick was narrowly missed, sailing wide left.

Early in the second quarter, McQuaide hooked up with Dorsey once again, this time from four yards out, making it a 14-0 game.

On the ensuing possession, the Bears suffered their first give-away of the night on a fumble, however, got the ball right back on the ensuing possession when McComb teammates Jameer Lewis teamed up with Kharel Coney on a fumble. Lewis stripped McQuaide before Coney recovered giving Southwest the ball once again.

Despite being down by two scores, Southwest rallied as quarterback Chris Roberson led his team down the field before connecting with Ja’Coby Matthews from 15 yards out. Tres Ladner connected on the extra point cutting the Gulf Coast lead in half at 14-7.

The Bears regained possession not long afterward but could not capitalize. The Bulldogs’ Jonathan Harris then fielded a punt at the Gulf Coast 35 before weaving through the coverage team and racing toward the end zone putting Southwest down 21-7 late in the first half.

Things did not go well for the Bears in the second half. The first two Southwest drives ended via punt as the offense struggled to consistently move the ball down the field.

With 4:43 to go in the third quarter, the Bulldogs added to their lead with a field goal, making it a 24-7 deficit for the Bears.

Early in the fourth quarter, a 39-yard touchdown run by Cam Thomas put Southwest in an even further hole at 31-7. It grew during the ensuing drive when a pick-six and extra point put the Bears down 38-7 with 10:57 to go.

During their next possession, the Bears began getting into rhythm once again, moving the ball on the ground with Cadynce Johnson getting the bulk of the touches. However the drive eventually stalled resulting in no points.

Gulf Coast then slowly began moving the ball down the field and found the end zone for the final time on the evening on a five-yard run making the score the eventual final.

Ja’Coby Matthews led the Bears with five catches for 60 yards and a score.

September 22, 2022

The Bears entered Thursday’s matchup looking to not only end a recent losing streak against rival Co-Lin but to climb back to .500 in both the overall and conference standings. But the visiting Wolves proved to be too much handling the Bears a 44-13 loss.

“I told the guys that we have to put in what we want to get out of it,” Southwest head coach Cliff Collins said. “We didn’t execute like we wanted to and it started at practice. We have to prepare better.”

Southwest quarterback Chris Roberson did not start Thursday’s game as he was serving the first of a two-game suspension for an ejection that occurred a week prior at Gulf Coast.

Getting his first start of the regular season, freshman quarterback Cameron Davis looked to get off to a positive start, however the first drive stalled and Southwest (1-3, 0-2) was forced to punt.

Trailing 3-0 late in the first quarter, Southwest tried to rebound and found success as Davis and the Bears got into rhythm. Key runs from Damuriyon Montgomery and a 16-yard pass play to Jacoby Bellazar moved the ball down into the red zone. But a bad snap that was mishandled resulted in a fumble and a turnover, shutting down the golden opportunity.

Another successful drive by Co-Lin resulted in more points as a 17-yard touchdown pass from DeVon Tott to O’Ryan James made the score 10-0.

As time wound down in the half, the Wolves added to their lead with a pair of Corey Chase field goals putting the bears in a 16-0 hole.

For much of the third quarter, the Southwest offense lacked consistency. Co-Lin took advantage towards the later stages of the third, with an eight-play, 80-yard drive that wrapped with a 37-yard touchdown run by Antonio Luckett.

Down 23-0, the Bears never gave up and kept fighting. They scored their first points on the ensuing drive as Davis dropped a beautiful pass in the arms of a sprinting Ja’Coby Matthews who took it the house for a 64-yard touchdown. The PAT was missed but the Bears pulled within striking distance.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, the Wolves answered right back. Tott found Bobby Shanklin Jr. on a 60-yard touchdown pass making the score 30-6.

After a Southwest punt on the ensuing drive, Co-Lin increased its lead as Jaylen Smith scored on a 65-yard punt return for a touchdown putting the Bears down 37-6.

With 7:50 to go, Southwest added another score as Montgomery rumbled into the end zone from 20 yards out, cutting the visitors’ lead down to 37-13. As the Bears tried to move closer, a 59-yard pick-six by Co-Lin’s Elijah Short wrapped up a frustrating night for Southwest.

Davis completed 22-of-35 passes for 170 yards, one touchdown and one interception while Montgomery had 87 yards and a score on 17 carries. Defensively, the Bears were led by Javier Simmons who had seven tackles including a tackle for loss. Kendall Isaac also had a good night with six tackles including two for loss.

Bears beat the Eagles

September 6, 2022

Just three days after picking up a big home win over Hinds to open the regular season, the Bears carried that momentum over into Friday passing their first road test with a 3-2 hard-fought win over Meridian.

“It was annoying because we were up 2-0 and we let them come back on us at 2-2,” Southwest head coach Zach Mills said. “Thankfully Rory (Humphrey) comes in and scores with a left-footed goal.”

It didn’t take long for the Bears (2-0) to jump ahead. Just six minutes in, Jamie Chamberlain rocketed the ball to the back of the net after getting an assist from Franco Fasoli.

A little more than 20 minutes later, Southwest took a 2-0 lead following an own goal.

The Bears’ lead was cut in a half at the 12:25 as the Eagles lit up their side of the scoreboard with a goal.

The score shifted the momentum back the home side and it car-

ried over into the second half as the hosts pulled even in the 61st minute.

Down the stretch, it was the Bears who delivered the final blow when Humphrey got a beautiful assist from Noah Harris before scoring and giving Southwest the upper hand once again. Humphrey’s goal came with just 7:48 to go.

The Bears held off one final push by the Eagles before securing the win.

September 20, 2022

If aggressive play in the first 89 minutes of the match was an indication of how things would play out for the Lady Bears during Tuesday’s home conference opener against Meridian, then it all came to fruition in the final minute. A Kaitlyn Williams goal with only :46 to go gave Southwest the only scoring it would need on the evening in a 1-0 win over the visiting Lady Eagles.

“To be honest, I messed up because it was a bad shot. But it

doesn’t matter because it went in,” said Williams whose score marked her first of the 2022 season. “I don’t think that I have ever been that excited to score a goal in my entire life.”

The Lady Bears came out with an aggressive push as Alexandra Shimasaki attempted a shot on goal from about 30 yards out just four minutes into the match.

About a minute later, the aggression resulted in a corner kick and despite Shimasaki putting the ball right in front of the Meridian net, however it was knocked away. For the remainder of the first half, the Lady Bears (3-4, 1-1) continued to push forward trying to strike first with Shimasaki taking the majority of the shots.

The closest that Southwest came to scoring in the first half came with about a minute to go when Shimasaki sent a cross in front of the net toward Ellie Wood but it was just out of her reach.

In the second half it was more of the same — an aggressive offense with a smothering defense.

Just five minutes into the half, an Aoife Saunders shot hit off of the left post marking the best scoring chance for the Lady Bears thus far.

Following the Williams goal late, Southwest quickly got back into defense preventing the Lady Eagles from retaliating, sealing the first conference win for the Lady Bears.

“It was the fact that we couldn’t let ourselves lose or tie that game after keeping possession, after playing so hard, after working together after being there for our team,” Southwest head coach Zach Mills said. “We knew that if we didn’t give up, and we could just play our game, something would happen.”

Following Friday’s tough loss at Itawamba to open conference play, Southwest soccer head coach Zach Mills was not happy with the way that his men played.

But by Tuesday night, those feelings were quickly turned around following a 3-1 win over Meridian in the conference home

opener.

“Hats off to Meridian because they pressed us to death,” Mills said. “I’m glad it was such a good experience for both teams. We made a little mistake that they capitalized on but we kept our head, kept our cool, kept working forward and we told them to stick to our game plan.

Early on, the Bears (4-2, 1-1) fell behind 1-0 as the Eagles got their lone goal of the match a little less than 10 minutes in.

Not fazed by the score one bit, the Bears kept fighting. Their hard work paid off in the 39th minute when Rory Humphrey harassed the Eagle goalkeeper into a mistake. After gaining possession about 30 yards out, Anotnio Martinez took advantage of the out-of-place keeper and sent the ball into the net tying the match at 1.

In the second half, both teams battled, looking for the tiebreaker. It came for the Bears in the 73rd minute when Joshua Thomas set up Franco Fasoli right in front of

the Meridian goal before the Rosario, Argentina-native scored, making it a 2-1 contest.

“It was a throw in and JT headed it and it deflected towards me and a defender,” Fasoli said. “I don’t know who touched it first but a goal is a goal and every goal equals one.”

The score pushed the momentum back onto the home side, firing up the Bears and the many fans in attendance at John I. Hurst Stadium.

Thirteen minutes later, the Bears gave the fans more to cheer about. A Jamie Chamberlain free kick from about 50 yards out was on target as the ball was placed right in front of a waiting Thomas who headed it in for the third Southwest goal of the evening.

“At the beginning, we went down 1-0 and coach told me to come on,” Thomas said. “He trusted me to get on and I knew that I had to do something. I got an assist and I got a goal. It was a good night, we won and it was a conference win.”

Go Bears!

I don't want to leave

By Leah Sterling
and Connor Brady

Southwest Mississippi Community College is, at first, simply a school in which students attend to take courses to pursue their degrees, but it quickly becomes much more than just a learning center: it transforms itself into a real home for its students.

We notice a pattern in responses when questioning sophomores who are soon-to-be SMCC graduates. They all say, "I just don't want to leave. I love Southwest."

We can only imagine the joy of hearing these students' remarks brought to Southwest's finest faculty and staff, who work so hard to ensure that their students are comfortable and happy while at the college. It is beyond evident that the SMCC faculty truly want the best for their students.

Because we want to share what Southwest has to offer to potential students and also to recognize the individuals that put immense amounts of work and dedication into making Southwest a special place, we decide to interview freshmen about their initial thoughts and opinions of the college.

Kylen Reeves, a local NPHS graduate, says, "I really like the BSU. The Lead Team does a great job at worship, the BSU building has a study room and hangout spots, so most of us go there for hours as soon as we get out of class. The BSU is a place where you can make real friends that help strengthen your relationship with God."

Jack Brewer has several positive things to say about Southwest. He says, "One of the things that stood out at Southwest to me is the fantastic scenery, including the pond, lights over the bridge at night, and the wildlife that roam around campus. Another thing that I really like is how nice the new men's dorms are. They are so clean, renovated modernly, and very homey. Also, there are multiple options when it comes to breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the cafeteria and the grill. So far SMCC is a 10/10 school."

We asked three additional students why they chose to attend SMCC. The responses could not be more encouraging.

Olivia Magee comments, "I chose to further my education at Southwest because I was able to remain closer to home. I was also able to receive a higher, quality education with compassionate advisors & instructors."

Austin Etheridge, an SMCC Cheerleader, gives a very heartening answer. "I chose Southwest because I received scholarships that covered my tuition to attend. I like that it's very affordable. The instructors here are extremely qualified and always very understanding of their students' needs. It's also nice to be close to home and be able to visit family and friends anytime."

Last, we interview Sydney Williams. She praises, "I chose southwest because of the amazing nursing program and how helpful everyone is on campus!"

All in all, Southwest Mississippi Community College is a very special place, in a surplus of ways. We thank all who make SMCC as unique, welcoming, and significant as it is.



PTK Officers: Brianna Bennett, Recording Officer; Emma Dickerson, Vice-President; BrookLynn Bateman, Public Relations; Cailey Browning, Treasurer; Kameron Case, Vice-President of Fellowship; second row: Dr. Jennifer McLaughlin, advisor; Kayla Coston, Historian; Gavin Calhoun, Vice-President of Scholarship; Katherine Bishop, President; Beth Bennett, Vice-President of Service; Ezra Pattie, Vice-President of Leadership

photo by Joyce Mabry



Pine Burr staff: Lainey Dunaway, BrookLynn Bateman, Brooklyn Timmons; second row: Connor Brady, Milloree Brown, Larina Anderson, Joshua Faust, Sarah Grace Meyn, Emma Grace Carruth, Leah Sterling

photo by Joyce Mabry

Larina Anderson is a sophomore this school year at Southwest Mississippi Community College. She was born and raised in Seattle, Washington but also spent most of her years in different parts of Tennessee. Her interests are journalism, tennis, fashion, art, and art architecture. Larina graduated from Fayette Ware Comprehensive high school in Somerville, Tennessee. During her attendance at Fayette Ware, she engaged in activities such as Cross Country. She also attended Covington High School's tennis team while going to Fayette-Ware because of her school's inability to have a tennis team. One thing she enjoys is writing which is why her major is journalism, however, she is also taking interest in obtaining a career in real estate. She recently earned her certificate for completing her hours in real estate school to qualify for taking the PSI and plans to earn her license to be a real estate agent.

BrookLynn Bateman is the twenty-year-old daughter of Brandi Walsh Bateman and Brant Bateman. She attends Southwest Mississippi Community College as sophomore. After Southwest, her plans are to transfer to Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in Kinesiology, upon graduation from State she plans to attend The University of Mississippi Medical Center to obtain a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. BrookLynn is an Honors graduate from Amite School Center where she was Miss ASC, Homecoming Queen, Most Beautiful, Class Favorite, Hall of Fame, and a Class Officer. BrookLynn served as Secretary of the National BETA Club, and Secretary of Student Council. She was the captain of the cheer squad and worked on The Rebel Newspaper and Yearbook staff. Here at Southwest, BrookLynn is a member of the Pine Burr newspaper staff, is the editor of the Whispering Pines yearbook, is the PTK Public Relations officer, is in Tri-Beta, and is a part of the Stageband dance team. During her free time, she enjoys traveling, shopping, baking cookies with her friends, and spending time with friends and family.

Connor Brady is an eighteen-year-old freshman at Southwest

Mississippi Community College. He is a graduate of North Pike High School's Class of 2022. He participated in Reading Club, Geek Squad, HOSA, and Interact Club while attending. He also graduated with Mississippi Scholars and Tech Masters. He's currently a member of both the Whispering Pines and Pine Burr at SMCC. His hobbies include hiking, painting, drawing, reading, photography, and spending time with family and friends. He is very passionate about helping others, especially in a healthcare setting. His major is Pre-Nursing, however, he plans to become an Obstetrician. After Southwest, he hopes to further pursue his education at LSU.

Milloree Brown's interests at the moment include looking at and drawing art, writing, practicing photography, and learning about ballet! She graduated from Centreville Academy, located in Centreville, MS. Milloree is hoping to major in Criminal Justice and also plans on having English as a backup major. Currently, she is involved with the yearbook, Bear Trackers, and newspaper for SMCC.

Emma Carruth is the daughter of Russ and Melanie Carruth. She resides in McComb, MS and is attending SMCC as an art major in her freshman year. She also has a few scholarships including tennis, journalism, ACT, and choir. Emma is a 2022 graduate of Parklane Academy. She was active in high school, joining in activities such as the tennis team and Pioneer Sound. She is starting her first year of being on the Pine Burr and Yearbook staff. After Southwest, she plans on attending the University of Mississippi, continuing in art. In her free time, she enjoys being with friends, drawing, playing tennis, and doing makeup.

Lainey Dunaway is the nineteen-year-old daughter of Cris and Deana Dunaway of Liberty, Mississippi. She is a sophomore at Southwest Mississippi Community College. After Southwest, she plans to attend The University of Mississippi to obtain a master's degree in social work. Lainey graduated Valedictorian of Amite School Center in 2021, where she served as senior class president and Beta Club president. She was a mem-

ber of the Student Council, basketball team, softball team, and 2021 Hall of Fame. Lainey enjoys shopping, watching movies, and spending time outdoors. In her freshman year at SMCC, Lainey served as editor of the Pine Burr newspaper and co-editor of the Whispering Pines yearbook, was elected Class Favorite, and was a member of Bear Trackers and PTK. She is currently co-editor of the Pine Burr newspaper and co-editor of the Whispering Pines yearbook, and she is still an active member of PTK at SMCC. Lainey is excited about her time here at Southwest and cannot wait for the memories that are to come.

Joshua Faust is a resident of Magnolia, who was born in Fort Worth, Texas. He is the son of Pamela and Kelvin Faust and has a brother named Jonathon Faust. Joshua graduated from South Pike Senior High School in 2020 as a Valedictorian, and he is currently in Southwest as a sophomore. On campus, Joshua is involved in the Bear Trackers and Phi Theta Kappa. Joshua is majoring in general studies but chases for fine arts in drawing and graphic design. He has an interest in video gaming, art, and Japan's culture. In the near future, Joshua plans on going to an art school to obtain a degree in interactive media and gaming.

Keagan Holliday is a freshman at SMCC. She loves the opportunity that is given to every student to grow and achieve more every day. One of the activities that she takes part in at SMCC is Journalism. She is excited to capture and write about the many things that are going to happen in the future here at Southwest Mississippi Community College. Keagan graduated from West Feliciana High School in Louisiana this past May. There, she was involved in the Yearbook Staff for two years and the Students Against Destructive Decisions club for three years, while also volunteering at the lower schools. Currently, Keagan is pursuing a degree in Nursing and will further her education here at SMCC.

Thewakrit (Tay) Srithong is the son of Ronnie Goodwin and Premmika Goodwin from Pike County. Thewakrit is from Thailand and had come to America just short of a year ago.

He is a graduate of Kuwait English School, Kuwait. He is a sophomore at Southwest Mississippi Community College and is currently majoring in Microbiology. At Southwest, he is a part of the Whispering Pines and Pines Burr staff. He plans to continue his studies at the University of Southern Mississippi. Afterwards, he plans to take his MCAT and become a med student.

Leah Sterling is a freshman here at SMCC. She absolutely loves the diversity, excitement, and myriad of opportunities that flourish around campus. One of the activities that she takes part in at SMCC is Journalism. She gratefully holds the positions of Editor of the PineBurr and Co-Editor of the Whispering Pines. She says that it is an honor having the opportunity to put together bits and pieces of our unforgettable year to share with all of the people that make Southwest as exciting as it is! Recently, Leah graduated from Parklane Academy, where she served as a Co-Editor of the yearbook, 2022 Miss Parklane, 2022 Homecoming Queen, and 2022 Prom Queen. Leah loves student council; she has been active in Student Government for years, even serving as the 2022 Overall Treasurer. Leah graduated with Highest Honors, Mississippi Scholars, Mu Alpha Theta and Honor Society Member, and 16th in her class. On campus, Leah is a Beartracker and active in the BSU. Currently, Leah is pursuing a degree in Nursing.

Brooklyn Timmons is a 2022 graduate from Adams County Christian school in Natchez, Mississippi. This is her freshman year at Southwest. At ACCS she was on the soccer team from 9TH through 12th grade, the dance team her senior year, and the tennis team from 10th through 12th. Brooklyn was also in the National Art Honor Society, National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, Key Club, sports team photographer, and member of the yearbook committee. Brooklyn is planning on transferring to Mississippi State University to major in Nursing. In Brooklyn's free time, she enjoys playing and watching soccer, drawing, photography, shopping, and hanging out with her friends and family.

Cooksey signs with LAC

By Anne Felder,
co-editor

Having a great deal of success on baseball diamonds in Pike County is something that Braxton Cooksey has done for several years, from his days at Parklane Academy in McComb to the past two seasons with the Bears.

Now he will get to continue his career, not only outside of Pike County, but outside of Mississippi after recently signing with Louisiana Christian University.

"I'm just finally going somewhere, where I don't know anybody and I get to make a name for myself in a new town," Cooksey said.

He added that he chose to sign with the Wildcats over offers from Blue Mountain and Belhaven and that there was a certain level of comfort at LCU.

"I like it, I like Coach (Mike) Byrnes, I like his program and what he is about," Cooksey said. "I felt like home there."

Cooksey is no stranger to the LCU campus and playing on the Wildcats' field. In addition to getting to tour the campus and facilities there, he and the Bears played the LCU Junior Varsity team earlier this year, splitting with the Wildcats.

Cooksey said that he is thankful for his run in Summit with the Bears.

"Southwest treated me good since the moment that I got here," he said. "Everybody was welcoming and made it feel like home. (Former Head) Coach (Ken) Jackson, (Assistant) Coach (Derrick) Mount and Coach "Ed" (Bear Head Coach Jack Edmonson) helped me get to where I am now.

He also wanted to shine some light on his teammates who helped motivate him and help him along the way especially a group of guys he played with dating back to his days at Parklane Academy.

"I think that we had five from Parklane?" Cooksey said. "But me and (Braydon) Coffey have played together since we were 5 and 6. He's been calling pitches for me and he basically calls the pitch for me and I throw it, he knows what I want. It is like having a second mind."

With his signing, Cooksey joined Coffey on the list of Class of 2022 Bears who signed with four-year schools. Earlier in the spring, Coffey signed on to play with William Carey.

Throughout his career, Cooksey has shown his versatility playing both pitcher and middle infielder. When he gets to Pineville, La. and suits up with the Wildcats, he is expected to do the same.

Cooksey mostly pitched during the 2022 season, leading the team with 52.1 innings pitched. He led the team in wins (4), strikeouts (65) and was second in ERA (4.61).

Coach Edmonson said that he is thrilled to see Cooksey get the chance to shine with a four-year program.

"He has grown tremendously," Edmonson said of Cooksey. "He's not just a name for Southwest but he is a name for this whole area and Pike County and there are a lot of people who are going to be proud of him. I told him in a meeting the other day that these next two years are going to be huge for him."



Academic Feather

by Levi Lovett



RANDOM THINGS by Joshua Faust



SMCC Alumni Fall Membership Drive

All New Lifetime Memberships between September 1-October 22 will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a YETI cooler on October 24, 2022. You may join at a home football game at the Alumni tent or online at www.smcc.edu/Alumni.

Homecoming 2022
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

ALL SMCC RETIREES AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AT 2PM IN THE HOLMES STUDENT UNION HALL OF FAME ROOM.

SMCC HOMECOMING CLASS REUNIONS

We want to honor the graduating classes of 1972, 1982, 1992, 2002, 2012, and 2022!!!

Please join us in the cafeteria of the Holmes Student Union at 2:00pm on Saturday, October 22, 2022, for a time to reconnect with others from your graduating class during our Homecoming festivities.

For more information, please call 601-276-2442.

Southwest Mississippi Community College

Women's Basketball Tip Off Dinner

Thursday, October 27, 2022 6:00 pm

SMCC Workforce Training Center
1148 Horace Holmes Dr.
Summit, MS 39666

Reservations to attend the dinner must be made in advance.

\$75 Couple | \$40 Single

For more information, contact Coach Britta Stephens at bstephens@smcc.edu or 601-276-3853.

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: Mrs. Rhonda Gibson, Director of Disability Support Services, 601-276-3888, Mr. Shaka Brewer, Vice President for Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator, 601-276-3712, SMCC, 1156 College Drive, Summit, MS 39666.

ADS



In the Zone.....



Who's Who: Jada Martin, Sophomore Class Favorite, Homecoming Queen, Sophomore Vice-President; Kaylee Pigott, Freshman President, Freshman Class Favorite, Freshman Maid; Mary Elizabeth Kuntz, Freshman Maid; Brianna Bennett, Sophomore Class Favorite; Joli Spears, Sophomore Class Favorite, Sophomore Maid; Beth Bennett, Sophomore Class Favorite; Katherine Bishop, Miss SMCC, Student Body Maid, Sophomore Secretary; Sawyer McDowell, Sophomore Maid; second row: Lawson Campbell, Freshman Class Favorite; Caleb Brown, Campus Favorite, Sophomore President; Hannah McLaughlin, Freshman Maid, Freshman Class Favorite; Claire Busbin, Sophomore Maid, Campus Favorite; Mckenna Pearson, Sophomore Class Favorite, Sophomore Treasurer; Presley Gordon, Freshman Class Favorite; Amy Mabile, Freshman Treasurer; Sydney Parker, Sophomore Class Favorite; Leah Sterling, Freshman Vice-President; Michael Kees, Mr. SMCC, Beaus; Ezra Pattie, Beaus; Jack Brewer, Freshman Secretary; Josiah May, Beaus; Tyler Phillips, Beau; Carson Ellis, Most Handsome; Christian Jordan, Freshman Class Favorite; Rusty Hope, Beau

SMCC HOMECOMING
OCTOBER 22, 2022

2022 Alumnus of the Year-Keith Guy
2022 Sports Hall of Fame-Barry McNabb
2022 Sports Hall of Fame-Nakeya Cortez

