

Campus Events

Friday, September 29
WSOC @ Co-Lin CC,
Wesson, MS @ 1:00
MSOC @ Co-Lin CC,
Wesson MS @ 3:00

Saturday, September 30
SB @ McLennan CC,
Waco, TX @ 10:00
SB @ Baylor, Waco
TX, @ 12:30

Sunday, October 1
SB @ Baylor, Waco
TX, @ 10:00
SB @ Our Lady of the
Lake, Waco, TX @
12:30

Tuesday, October 3
WSOC @ Pearl River
CC, Poplarville, MS
@ 5:00
MSOC @ Pearl River
CC, Poplarville, MS
@ 7:00

Thursday, October 5
FB vs. East Central
CC, Summit, MS @
6:30

Saturday, October 7
MSOC vs. Hinds CC,
Summit, MS @ 4:00
WSOC vs. Hinds CC,
Summit, MS @ 6:00

Monday, October 9 –
Tuesday, October 10
Fall Break (Admin
Offices Closed)

Thursday, October 12
FB @ Hinds CC,
Raymond, MS @ 6:30

Friday, October 13
WSOC @ East
Mississippi CC,
Scooba, MS @ 1:00
MSOC @ East
Mississippi CC,
Scooba, MS @ 1:00

Tuesday, October 17
WSOC @ Meridian
CC, Meridian, MS @
5:00
MSOC @ Meridian
CC, Meridian, MS @
7:00

Friday, October 20
WSOC vs. Itawamba
CC, Summit, MS @
5:00
MSOC vs. Itawamba
CC, Summit, MS, @
7:00

Saturday, October 21
FB vs. Jones, Summit,
MS @ 5:00

Tuesday, October 24
WSOC vs. Miss. Gulf
Coast CC, Summit,
MS @ 5:00
MSOC vs. Miss. Gulf
Coast CC, Summit,
MS @ 7:00

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above: Bethany Graves, Freshman Maid; Olivia Rhodes, Freshman Maid; Amari Simmons, Freshman Maid; Avery Ardis, Freshman Maid; Kaylee Pigott, Queen; Mary Elizabeth Kuntz, Student Body Maid; Tessa Smith, Sophomore Maid; Hannah McLaughlin, Sophomore Maid; and Olivia Magee, Sophomore Maid

photo by Chuck Barnes

Homecoming: We Got the Beat

By Lorelai Davis,
Editor, and Logan O'Bryant,
Co-editor

The SMCC homecoming theme this year is “We Got the Beat.” It will be an event full of excitement with many friends and family attending, as well as our Southwest students. The Homecoming game is scheduled for Saturday, October 21st at 5:00 p.m. against Jones Community College. The SMCC students eagerly await homecoming week, where they have the opportunity to dress up for the designated themes that are chosen each day. On Monday, October 16th, the first day of Homecoming week, the dress up theme is “Thrifty Shop” which just means that everyone can mix and match his or her outfit. On Tuesday, it is costume day, and the theme is “Thriller.” There will also be a Homecoming Cookout at the Student Union at 5:30 p.m. that Tuesday. The next day, Wednesday’s theme is “Let’s Get Physical” letting students know that they can wear their workout clothes. At 8:00 p.m., that Wednesday there will be a bonfire pep rally behind the College Hall. It will feature the Homecoming court, Football Team, Cheerleaders, Redline, Marching Band, DJ, hotdogs, and s’mores. Thursday’s theme is “Tiny Bubbles” or better known as Hawaiian Day. There will also be a homecoming parade through the town of Summit at 4:00 p.m. Friday is “Welcome to Our House” day. Then last but certainly not least, Saturday is Game Day and everyone needs to wear Cardinal Red for SMCC. At 3:00 p.m. an Induction Ceremony at the Holmes Student Union will take place where the Sports Hall of Fame honorees, Scott Varnado and James Williams, and the 2023 Alumnus of the Year, Joe Young will all be inducted. At 4:00 p.m., the Honoree Reception is at the Holmes Student Union Lobby, and at 5:00 p.m. is the Homecoming Game kickoff.

Homecoming Queen Kaylee Pigott is the daughter of Cheryl and Butch Pigott. She attended Salem Attendance Center. Kaylee is a member of First Baptist Church of Summit and she attends events at the Baptist Student Union. At Southwest, she is the captain of the Redline, a second-year Bear Tracker, member of Phi Theta Kappa, and President of the Sophomore Student Government Associate. During her freshman year she was named Freshman Class Favorite, Freshman Beauty, Freshmen Maid, and she was also the President of the Freshman Student Government Association. She is on the Dean’s List as of last semester. She completed over forty hours of community service in high school and currently participates in community activities

through the Bear Trackers. Kaylee plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi to further her education in kinesiology to become an occupational therapist. Kaylee is escorted by her father, Butch Pigott.

Student Body Maid Mary Elizabeth Kuntz is the daughter of Scott and Robin Kuntz. She attended North Pike High School. She attends Centenary United Methodist Church and is involved with Vacation Bible School. She was named Sophomore Class Favorite and is part of Phi Theta Kappa, where she serves as the Vice-President of Public Relations and Redline. During her freshman year, she was on the tennis team, she was voted Freshman Homecoming Maid, and she was given Academic All-Star Honors. For Phi Theta Kappa, she donated canned goods to St. Andrews. Mary Elizabeth was on the Dean’s List in both the Fall of 2022 and the Spring of 2023. She is majoring in Biomedical Engineering and plans to continue her education at Mississippi State University. She is escorted by her father, Scott Kuntz.

Sophomore Maid Olivia Magee, daughter of Dewayne and Veronica Magee, lives in Summit, MS, and is a graduate of North Pike Senior High School. She plans to major in Pre-nursing while attending Southwest and plans to further her education in nursing at Jackson State University or The University of Southern Mississippi. Some of her hobbies and activities include cheering at the Mississippi Gym of Dreams for four years, as well as coaching the Little League of Cheerleaders for two years, and helping with the Ratlers cheer-leading team. She attends Joy Tabernacle Pentecostal Church and participates in the Joy Tabernacle Youth Department, Sunday School Committee, and The Joy Tabernacle Kitchen Committee. Olivia is a part of the SMCC collegiate cheer team. She is also a part of stage band. Her father, Dewayne Magee, will escort her for homecoming

Sophomore Maid Hannah McLaughlin is the daughter of Brian and Jennifer McLaughlin. She is a graduate of Parklane Academy and attends Calvary Baptist Church in Bogie Chitto, MS. As a freshman, she was voted one of the Freshmen Maids and Freshman Class Favorite. She has been on Redline and in Stageband as a vocalist and dancer, both for two years. Hannah is currently in the Baptist Student Union Praise Band and Phi Theta Kappa, where she serves as President. With Phi Theta Kappa, she donated canned goods to the St. Andrews food drive and she helped out with the Bill Tucker Memorial Walk. She is also on the Dean’s List. At Southwest, she is a General



above: Queen Kaylee Pigott smiles for the photographer.

Studies major, but she plans to pursue a degree in Graphic Design with a minor in Photography at Mississippi State University. She is escorted by her father, Brian McLaughlin.

Sophomore Maid Tessa Smith is the daughter of Hiram and Peggy Smith. She attended North Pike High School. For church activities, she is involved in South Gate Missions Day, Random Acts of Kindness Scavenger Hunt, Boys and Girls Club, D-Now, Restoration Christmas, and she is the leader for Back to School Outreach. In the community, Tessa serves as a VBS Guide and Upward Assistant Cheer Coach. She has been involved in Trunk or Treat, Good News Club, CentriKid, and Lock-in Bible Drill, where she was a participant. At Southwest, she is part of the SMCC Band, the Stageband, the Choir, and the Bear Trackers. She is a General Studies major and after she graduates, she plans to seek her Real Estate license. She is escorted by her father, Hiram Smith.

Freshman Maid Avery Ardis is the daughter of Janet and Shane Ardis. She attended Salem Attendance Center. She is a Nursing major and she plans to further her education at William Carey University, where she will join the RN to BSN program. Avery has completed over eighty hours of community service through the Student Council by participating in canned food drives, fundraising for breast cancer awareness and the school, helping in elementary classrooms, decorating patients’ doors at a nursing home for Christmas,

and much more. At Southwest, she is a part of Redline, Stageband, Phi Theta Kappa, and Student Government Association, where she serves as a Freshman Class President. She is escorted by Shane Ardis.

Freshman Maid Bethany Graves is the daughter of Shanda Plainer-Graves and Terry Graves. She graduated from Pascagoula High School and attends Bible Study Baptist Church. She is a Nursing major, and after Southwest she plans to attend Florida A & M University to obtain a bachelor’s degree in Biology. Bethany is a member of the Women’s Basketball Team. She is escorted by Kelvin Monroe.

Freshman maid Olivia Rhodes is the daughter of Erika Chauvin and Branden Rhodes of Bourg, Louisiana. She graduated from South Terrebonne High School. At Southwest, she is majoring in Nursing and she plans to receive her associate’s degree. She is active member of the softball team for Southwest. After Southwest, she plans to attend a university to continue her education, obtain her bachelor’s degree, and gain knowledge to become an esthetician and own her own clinic.

Freshman Maid Amari Simmons, daughter of Angela Simmons and Jonathan Melson, attended North Pike High School. She is majoring in accounting and is planning to continue her education after Southwest at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her escort for homecoming is Karvanaugh Harris.

SMCC Gets High Marks

By Jack Criss
Enterprise-Journal

A website that ranks colleges across America recently gave high marks to Southwest Mississippi Community College. Niche.com placed SMCC very high in four categories in its “2024 Best College Rankings” results released at the end of August.

The Pittsburg, PA-based company listed SMCC No. 1 as the Best Community College and Best Online Community College in Mississippi.

SMCC also came in as the 24th overall best community college out of 900 in the nation and sixth best online college throughout the U.S.

Overall, SMCC netted a composite ranking grade of B+. The results on Niche.com are based on an analysis of key statistics from the U.S. Department of Education, as well as more than 140 million reviews.

“We are extremely pleased with these recognitions from Niche. It’s a proud moment for this institution,” SMCC President, Dr. Steve Bishop said. “I think the rankings are a testament to our outstanding faculty as well as the types of students we’ve been able to recruit and retain.

“It’s also humbling, considering how strong the entire Mississippi community college system is presently.”

Bishop gave credit to the college’s board of trustees.

“They’ve always been extremely supportive of our stated goal of excellence and continuing efforts to build upon that goal, so while it’s exciting for us to receive such national recognition, there’s plenty of well-deserved credit to go around,” he said.

SMCC Vice President of Academic Affairs, Matt Calhoun, said that Niche uses publicly available data, which includes the opinions of students, to arrive at its findings.

He gave credit to Director of Distance Learning, Alicia Shows, and the college staff, which he said, “works tirelessly to provide students with the best possible education.”

“This recognition from Niche is additional proof of their hard work and commitment,” Calhoun said.

“It’s also proof that our students are keenly aware of the value of the education they receive here. Our online programs are incredibly accessible, available year-round and very popular with students.”

Calhoun said SMCC had 1,410 students take at least one class online, and 383 of those were enrolled entirely in online classes last year.

Career-technical programs are also available online, Calhoun said.

SMCC has about 1,800 attending class on campus.

“When we receive the type of national attention that the Niche rankings bring, I think that number will only go higher,” Bishop said. “During our last academic year, we had students here representing 55 counties throughout Mississippi, as well as about eight different states and four different countries represented. Those numbers show an increase over previous years.”

All rankings as well as the methodology used to reach the rankings can be found at www.niche.com/colleges/rankings/methodology.

The Pine Burr

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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

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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.-



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 2023. 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 2023. 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 Lorelai Davis

Welcome to returning Bears and new, fresh faces alike. Isn't it lovely to be back on campus? I hope you all had the most amazing summers and I wish all of you luck this semester. Classes have begun, which means it is time to fall back into a routine. Even though the spontaneous times of summer have said goodbye for now, there is plenty of fun to be had. Between activities, social events, and even classes, there is a lot of joy that comes with a new school year.

We are all very excited to partake in some of SMCC's annual events, such as the Back to School Breakfast and Meet the Bears. The breakfast is so much fun, especially with all the dancing and liveliness. It most certainly is a highlight of the beginning of the semester. Meet the Bears is a great way to familiarize yourselves with SMCC's athletes. Perhaps you'll learn the name of someone who sits next to you in your favorite class.

You can get involved in so many ways on campus. With the numerous activities and organizations, there is something for everyone! Participate in Student Government, Bear Trackers, or even attend events at the Baptist Student Union. The possibilities are limitless! Just get involved! Freshmen are experiencing a new world this year. While it is not so different from high school, it can still be quite the adjustment. I have just a few tips to help you settle in for your first year, freshmen!

Your education comes first! Yes, have fun and enjoy your time in college, but don't forget the reason behind the enjoyment. Ask your teachers for help if you should need it. I'm sure they will be more than happy to give you whatever advice you may need. Southwest has some of the greatest instructors who are here to help you succeed in whatever

plans you have made. Make sure you attend your classes and keep your GPA up.

Connect with your peers, for they are in the same place as you. We are all experiencing so many firsts, so why not do it alongside people whom you could create lifelong connections with? Strike up conversations while walking to your next class. Sit by someone you've never met in the cafeteria. There are plenty of ways to get to know the people around you and I highly suggest you do so!

Don't lose yourself in the waves of people you encounter. Remember to always be true to yourself and don't become someone you are not. Never compromise your personality for the people around you. The only thing you can be is yourself, so embrace it! Showcase your personality and express yourself through hobbies. College can already be a stressful time, so don't add to that stress by changing who you are.

I wish you all a great semester. Freshmen and Sophomores alike, keep these things in mind as you go forth this semester. You will do great; I have no doubt. As always, Go Bears!



Lorelai Davis
Editor



Breakfast Night Fun

photo by Chris Baughman



Breakfast Dance

photo by Chris Baughman



Dreaming of an A

photo by Chris Baughman

The World of Disney: A Student’s Guide

By Lorelai Davis, Editor

When you think of Walt Disney World, you probably think of fairytales and young children. Would you even guess that sometimes teens, young adults, and even seniors have just as much fun? After all, it is the ‘Most Magical Place on Earth’ for a reason! I can attest to that much! My family and I are Passholders and we have gone often since I was a toddler. We have plenty of eventful stories we can tell.

There are so many wonderful things to do while at Disney. All the options make the feat of planning overwhelming for first-time guests. There truly is something for everyone. Whether your idea of fun is sitting down enjoying a show, riding exhilarating coasters, relaxing on a boat ride, eating delicious meals, or even sitting back and people-watching, I guarantee you will find something to your liking.

If you are a fan of sit-down shows, then I suggest spending your time in Magic Kingdom, viewing the plethora of shows. The best show, in my opinion, is Walt Disney’s Enchanted Tiki Room. When you step in the doors of the theater, you are suddenly transported to a tropical hideaway where you will be serenaded by countless colorful birds and more. The songs are fun and memorable and they will certainly be stuck in your mind for weeks following.

Perhaps you like rollercoasters. If so, I cannot recommend Epcot’s Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind. It is an innovative dark-ride with rotating cars. While you jump through points of space, you will be surrounded by thrilling music that will shape your experience. Another option for an exciting coaster is Tron: Lightcycle Run in Magic Kingdom. Located in Tomorrowland, it is a futuristic ride themed after the Tron franchise. The beginning of the ride is incredibly thrilling, as you launch with speeds up to sixty miles per hour.

Perhaps you do not like coasters but are still seeking a thrill. One would be The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror. As one of my favorite rides, I will always recommend it. The ride is set in an old, run-down, Hollywood hotel that was once a star in its own right. You are seated in an elevator-type vehicle that will take you on a wild ride of sudden drops and rises through the twilight zone.

If thrilling rides aren’t your thing, perhaps you can go on a boat ride like It’s a Small World in Magic Kingdom or Frozen Ever After in Epcot. Both involve a calming tune and a small chance of getting wet. Calm and lighthearted dark-rides are some of my personal favorites. Those include attractions such as Journey into Imagination with Figment and The Journey of the Little Mermaid. Both are fun rides for both adults and children alike.

Little ones and grown adults alike can enjoy the fun of meeting their favorite characters from all realms of Disney media. In Hollywood Studios, you can meet some of your favorite Pixar characters and even some Star Wars characters. In Magic Kingdom and Epcot, you are likely to find Mickey and his friends as well as many of the princesses you know and love. Even as a young adult, I still enjoy interacting with the characters, no matter the reality of them

It’s thought that most of the magic is within the parks, but it also extends to the Disney resorts. I have stayed at over ten of the resorts. Each has its own special theming, perks, and even a distinct smell! Some of the resorts have great transportation, such as the Skyliner resorts and Monorail resorts. Regardless of your thoughts about Disney, I would implore you to go if given the opportunity. Through the trips my family and I have taken over the years, we have made so many memories that will last a lifetime. No matter who you are, there is something special waiting for you within Walt Disney World. I’ll see you down there.



Women’s Soccer Team: Hannah Case, Aoife Saunders, Kaylee Chaffin, Kaitlyn Williams, Abby Davis, Kiera Schwartz, Rose Coats, Maylee McLeod, Amari Simmons, Peyton Alexander, Tristan Bird, Ann Marie Tadlock; second row: Dalton Cooper, Assistant Coach; Gabby Venable, Jennifer Neal, Juliette Charriez Rivera, Makenna Williams, Holly-Bo Dunning, Caroline Barcelona, Emily Sturdivant, Alexis Taylor, Mary Claire McCurley, Kayla Martin, Nicole Daigle Cooper, Head Coach; not pictured: Abigayle Green

photo by Chuck Barnes



Men’s Soccer Team: Kendric Johnson, manager; Erick Martin, Zach Rhynehardt, Henzer Flores, Ivan Martinez, Jeysson Cruz, Landon Gagliano, Connor Goodman, Samuel Velasquez, Robert Miller, manager; second row: Rory Humphrey, Tate Little, Joshua Thornhill, Jason Dykes, Caleb Trisdale, Elliot Fisher, Brayden Green, Sergio Padin, Ethan Gobble; third row: Ivan Batista, Coach; Joel Batista, Nico Fischer, Loan Marin, Holden Helms, Jaylon Braxton, Roberto Garcia, Justin Ruiz, Zach Mills, Head Coach

photo by Chuck Barnes



PTK Officers:Wilkevious Bates, Mary Elizabeth Kuntz, Hannah McLaughlin, Amy Mabile; back row: Jack Brewer, Noah Agnor, Gavin Wicker, Josiah May. The PTK Officers attended the PTK MS/LA Regional Fall Conference held at Delgado Community College in New Orleans. Officers learned about leadership styles and values, how to apply leadership skills in the real-world, and gain knowledge about transfer scholarship opportunities.



SMCC Alumni Association Scholarship Winners: Loran Gerald, SMCC Alumni Association Executive Director; Ty’ Kevious Robertson, Amite County; Kristana Howard, Wilkinson County; Kimberly Wooley, SMCC Alumni Association President; Tylaya Varnado, Pike County; Haley Lofton, Amite County; second row: Samuel Green, Pike County, and Hunter Thomas, Walthall County; not pictured: Lexi Freeman, Wilkinson County; and Krisceia Chandler, Amite County

photo by Joyce Mabry



SMCC Alumni Association Board Members: Ashley Johnson, Incoming Vice President; Kimberly Wooley, President; Michael Adams, Secretary; Loran Gerald, Executive Director; second row: Ruth Phillips, Stacy Fortenberry, Joyce Mabry, Vondora Harvey, Holly Newman, Brandi Bateman; third row: Tracey Trout, Abbey McEwen, Tony Harvey, Keyon “KD” Daniels, Kelsey Lambert; not pictured: Emily Allen, Celeste McIntyre, Pamela James

photo by Travis Connelley

The Importance of Recreational Reading

By Lorelai Davis, Editor

Reading is very important. A good number of times, it is necessary for your studies. Whether it be reading your textbook or assigned material, there is almost no escaping reading in college life. But what about reading for fun? Is that not as important? I believe it is of equal value, due to the many benefits of partaking in the activity.

As an avid reader, I will always advocate for the benefits of reading. At a young age, reading is good for the brain and its development. As adults, it can help you to broaden your vocabulary. It strengthens your brain and can assist in preventing cognitive decline. Reading a paper book can be good for your eyes, too, since so much time staring at screens can negatively impact your eyesight. Something as simple as reading before bed instead of scrolling on your phone can help you get a better night’s sleep. There are also benefits for your mental health. Reading can reduce stress and help to alleviate symptoms of depression.

With so many different genres and types of reading, it is hard to not discover something that interests you. Go enjoy a nonfiction book and learn more about the topics that interest you. Read one of the many books within the subgenres of fiction. Let your mind be transported to another world with a fantasy or science fiction novel, or delve deep into an action or adventure novel. With so many possibilities, how could you not enjoy reading?

Next time you find yourself with lots of free time, go read a book! Books are highly accessible. You can purchase one online and in person, or you check out at our local library whenever you have the time to stop by. Books can bring so much joy, so just give them a chance, regardless of your history. I can assure you that there is a book out there waiting for you. Happy reading.

College Life

By Chelsea Wells, Staff Writer

I don’t even know where to begin, but college has been a great experience so far. From meeting new people to being in extracurricular activities, college is the best. Yes, it can have its downfalls with all the school work, but in the end, I will be one step closer to my degree. In addition, I like how college is treating me because before, I was a bit nervous to be around a whole bunch of people that I didn’t know and did not know whether I was going to do well in school. However, I was proven wrong and I can say to myself that I am doing quite successfully in college.

To continue, college life here at Southwest is very exciting, because it is something new every day. Every day is not the same. To conclude, I hope the remainder of this semester and next treats me well and I continue to learn and grow in college. Also, I hope everyone in college succeeds and never gives up on his or her dreams.

Constitution Day

By Logan O’Bryant, Co-editor

On Monday, September 18th, Ms. Merrielyn Ginn gave lectures on the importance of Constitutional rights to many students. She lectured on the importance of the new generations knowing their Constitutional rights. Her very insightful lecture led many students to learn new rights that they did not know they had. She expressed the importance of knowing the rights we have and ways to utilize them. Ms. Ginn tested the classes with a small test to see if they knew anything about the Constitution and hoped that the students would learn and continue to learn about Constitutional Rights. Ms. Ginn was very passionate in her lectures, showing the importance of the subject. Overall, Ms. Ginn’s lecture was very insightful and allowed many students to learn something new within her lecture.

Unique Transportation

By Sydney Williams, Staff Writer

As we are starting a new semester, I can't help but notice an influx of transportation techniques to get to and from class. Scooters and skateboards are becoming a popular fad at SMCC. I have seen about a dozen people scooting and skating trying to get to class on time. Personally, I like to get my steps in, but there are many ways people get to class. If you are a commuter, you can take advantage of driving to and from class, but residents of the Southwest dorms do not have that privilege.

Biking, hitching a ride, skating, and riding a scooter are some of the more creative ways students have developed in their attempt to get to class on time. I think the reason most are taking up these unique transportation options is so they have shorter travel times. Usually, you have ten minutes in between classes if you have back-to-back classes. If you are going from Kenna Hall to College Hall, it can be a stretch on time. In the beginning, I would have classified these actions as odd, but now I see how easy it can be to get from class to class. Because of this, I am considering purchasing a skateboard or scooter for myself. If you would like to hop on the scooter and skateboard bandwagon, you can purchase either one of these modes of transportation at our local Walmart. Happy travels.

Fight with a Fish

By Cameron Leon, staff writer

Last year, I embarked on a memorable fishing trip with my father off the coast of Pascagoula. Our goal was to go snapper fishing, but before we could begin, we needed to secure some bait. Armed with a sabiki rig, we positioned ourselves near the oil tankers in the area and began jigging for bait. While engaged in this bait-gathering process, I suddenly spotted a massive fish lurking around our boat and alerted my dad, believing it to be a shark. He looked and confidently identified it as a Cobia. Skeptical but intrigued, I decided to test his claim. I grabbed one of the live baits we had managed to catch, rigged up my fishing pole, and cast the bait into the water. At first, I could not spot the fish anymore, and I contemplated reeling in the bait without much hope. However, my father advised patience, suggesting that we give the fish a moment to locate the bait. I let the line sit there, and after a brief wait, I noticed the line slowly growing taut. To ensure that the fish had taken the bait properly, I let it run with the line for about 20 seconds before setting the hook. That is when the battle began!

For more than 20 intense minutes, I found myself engaged in a fierce struggle with what turned out to be not only the largest Cobia I'd ever hooked but also one of the most substantial fish I'd encountered in my 18 years of fishing. The fish made several powerful runs, leaving my arms exhausted as I fought to prevent it from darting under the massive tanker and risking getting cut off. Throughout the ordeal, my father had the gaff ready, and there were a few nerve-wracking moments as the fish neared the boat. At one point, when the fish caught sight of the gaff, it made a desperate bid for freedom, and I had to reel it back in. Finally, as the fish circled near the boat, clearly exhausted (much like myself), my dad expertly secured it with the gaff. Together, we managed to bring aboard this colossal Cobia, which weighed in at nearly 60 pounds. The exhilaration of landing such a remarkable fish marked a pinnacle in my fishing experiences, and savoring its delicious meat over the following week added an extra layer of enjoyment to the adventure.



Southwest Mississippi Community College Expands Mental Health Resources through TimelyCare

Southwest Mississippi Community College has collaborated with TimelyCare, higher education's most trusted virtual mental health provider, to offer students free and equitable access to mental health support.

The partnership is an extension of the Counseling Center's resources, with a goal of improving student well-being, engagement, and retention.

The need for 24/7 access to high-quality care has never been more important. According to the American Council on Education, student mental health is the top concern of college and university presidents. It's also the number one reason students leave college. A recent report by Gallup and the Lumina Foundation found that 69% of students in bachelor's degree programs who considered dropping out cited emotional stress as their reason.

Through TimelyCare on their phone, laptop, or tablet, SMCC students, faculty, and staff can now select from a menu of several mental health options from licensed counselors and social workers in all 50 states-at no cost and without the barrier of traditional insurance. Online options include:

- Appointment-based mental health counseling (up to 6 sessions each academic year)
- Peer support community
- Digital self-care content, including self-guided mediation, yoga, and advice for stress management on a college campus.

Additionally, faculty and staff have access to support that empowers them to guide students to TimelyCare resources to help students achieve a sense of well-being, live healthier lifestyles, and improve their mental health.

The partnership with TimelyCare allows SMCC to deliver a hybrid model of care in collaboration with on-campus resources. Benefits to students, faculty, and staff include:

- Convenient 24/7 care- Mental health issues often present themselves outside regular business hours, and TimelyCare makes seeking support or treatment as easy and convenient as making a video or phone call. Nationally, more than 40% of mental health care visits through TimelyCare occur after regular business hours or on weekends.
- Diverse provider network- TimelyCare's diverse and culturally responsive provider network reflects and is proud to serve students who embody diversity in race, ethnicity, age, ability, religion, etc. The platform also offers professionals who speak multiple languages, and translation services to support more than 240 languages. Individuals scheduling services can choose to meet with a specific provider or select the first available appointment.
- Peace of mind-TimelyCare is a safe, secure, URAC-accredited and HIPAA-compliant platform that follows campus-specific protocols to facilitate care coordination and follow up to ensure continuity of care. Integrations with leading learning management systems ensure students have even more on-ramps to in-the-moment support whenever they need it.

"There is no greater priority than the mental health and safety of our students. TimelyCare's ease of use, convenience and immediacy make it easier than ever for our students to get on-demand support", said Megan Ivy Jones, SMCC Dual Enrollment Specialist and Counselor. "TimelyCare enhances campus resources by making mental health care more readily available to students when they need it, reducing the stigma of mental health issues, and granting peace of mind to students and their families."

Three-quarters (75%) of college students who accessed virtual mental health and well-being interventions through TimelyCare reported mental health improvements. More than half (53%) of all students who have sought mental health support through TimelyCare said they would have done nothing if the services were not available.

"When it comes to supporting student outcomes, the need for equitable, on-demand access to care has never been more important. TimelyCare enables college and universities to expand on-campus resources and transform the way students receive mental health care through agency, speed, and freedom of choice that they've come to expect in their everyday lives," said Luke Hejl, TimelyCare CEO and co-founder. "TimelyCare is proud to serve as an extension of the Southwest Mississippi Community College Counseling Center resources to create a comprehensive, whole-student care solution that empowers students to seek care in a way that feels comfortable and convenient for them."

If you have any questions or need assistance with accessing TimelyCare, please come to the Counseling Center in Kenna Hall or call 601-276-2005.



CNA:The SMCC Nurse Assistant /Health Care Assistant Course completed its forty-fourth semester as a regular 16-hour Career Technical Course. Six students finished the course this semester under the direction of SMCC instructor Mrs. Tangela Edwards, RN, BSN. This is a full semester program with four core courses including Homemaker/Home Health Aide, Basic Health Care Procedures, Body Structure and Function, and Special Care Procedures. These students received their certificates and are qualified to work as Nurse Assistants, Long-Term Care Aides, or Home Health Aides in the Mississippi health care industry. Participants in the program must be 18 years of age and have a high school diploma, GED, or enrolled in the MI Best program. The student must have an ACT score of 14 or above or a TABE score of 10 or above, and the applicants also must complete an application for admission to the Health Care Assistant Program. Pictured are Sabrina James (Tylertown), Jara Smith (McComb), Verna Renia Creel (Jayess), Deanna Deans (Tylertown), Hunter Mire (McComb), Semaj Harrell (Hammond) and Instructor Tangela Edwards, RN, BSN; photo by Amy Gazzo



PTK Officers: Dr. Jennifer McLaughlin, Advisor; Mary Elizabeth Kuntz, Vice-President of Public Relations; Hannah McLaughlin, President; Amy Mabile, Vice-President of Service; Meshalae Dillon, Vice-President of Records; second row: Noah Agnor, Vice-President of Finance; Wilkevious Bates, Vice-President of Chapter History; Gavin Wicker, Vice-President; Josiah May, Vice-President of Leadership; Jack Brewer, Vice-President of Fellowship

photo by Joyce Mabry

Southwest Opens New Student Services Center

By Jack Criss, Enterprise-Journal

Southwest Mississippi Community College held an open house Monday for its new Academic Support Center to officially commemorate the renovations made in the early spring and to share its success stories.

SMCC President Dr. Steve Bishop was on hand along with other college personnel to greet faculty, staff, board members, and retirees in attendance.

The center's staff served refreshments, gave demonstrations of the facility's technology, and spoke about what happens in the new facility, which is housed in the college's Ford Library.

"Our center had undergone a renovation, but fortunately, we were able to return in late April, early May, just ahead of the semester's end, and began working with students in time for finals," said Cindy Reid-Henderson, the college's Predominantly Black Institutions grant director, who now oversees the SABC and has been at SMCC since 2012.

"We wanted people to see the renovations, meet the staff, hear about our work and accomplishments and also see our new outside area for our students to use for studying," Reid-Henderson said.

"Our services here at the Center are designed to improve the educational results of SMCC students by addressing low retention and degree completions, as well as other issues and impediments the students may have or encounter. We provide academic coaching, tutoring, and peer tutoring services to reduce student failure."

The idea for the student success center was first developed in 2002, Reid-Henderson said.

"I had worked with the McComb School District as well as with teen moms, so I was dealing a good bit with dropout rates, retention, trying to increase graduation rates, and all of the various problems that so many schools have to deal with," she said. "I was approached to start a success center, with an emphasis on helping students with their math and English skills, where the greatest rate of academic failures were."

Reid-Henderson said the SABC can provide the student with a number of techniques to do better in all aspects of their academic work.

"We can provide proven tips to help them do better in their assignments," she said.

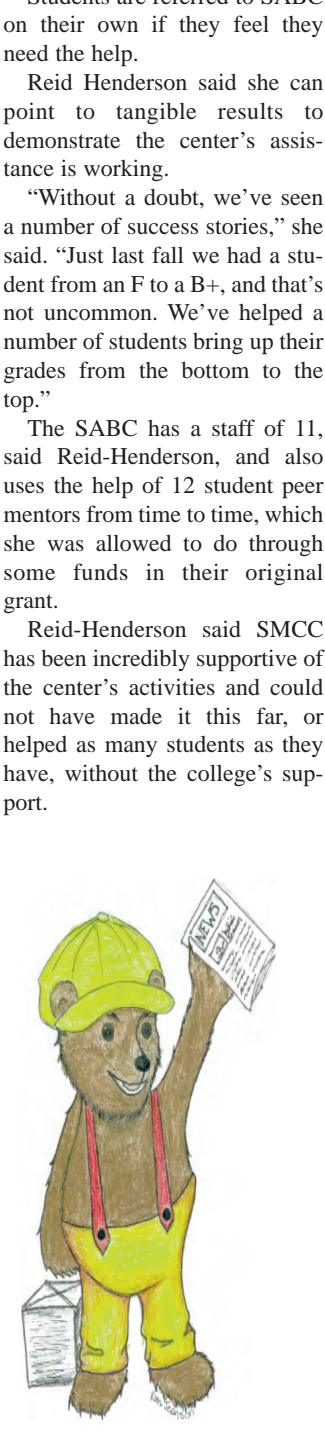
Students are referred to SABC on their own if they feel they need the help.

Reid Henderson said she can point to tangible results to demonstrate the center's assistance is working.

"Without a doubt, we've seen a number of success stories," she said. "Just last fall we had a student from an F to a B+, and that's not uncommon. We've helped a number of students bring up their grades from the bottom to the top."

The SABC has a staff of 11, said Reid-Henderson, and also uses the help of 12 student peer mentors from time to time, which she was allowed to do through some funds in their original grant.

Reid-Henderson said SMCC has been incredibly supportive of the center's activities and could not have made it this far, or helped as many students as they have, without the college's support.



Bears pull away in second half, top Delta in opener



By Travis Connelley, Sports Information Director

September 7, 2023

During the first quarter of Thursday's season opener at Mississippi Delta, it appeared that the Bears were locked in a tight battle with the Trojans. In the second, however, the Bears got back to playing their brand of football and it snowballed from there to the tune of a 51-6 win over the Trojans.

Southwest head coach Cliff Collins said that he is very pleased with his team's win but wants to work on limiting the miscues.

"This place I tell you is one of a kind up here in the Delta, the mosquitoes start biting and it doesn't matter what logo is on your shirt, you better be ready to play when you come up here," Southwest head coach Cliff Collins said. "Yeah, we got off to a slow start. We have a talented football team. We made too many mistakes."

The Bears (1-0) got big performances from several players. Quarterback Jordan Mills – playing in his first-ever collegiate game after missing all of the 2022 campaign – finished with two touchdown passes, both of which were to freshman Damarcco Blanton. In the rush game, Jalen Williams scored three touchdowns on the ground and added another on special teams.

He got the scoring started early for the Bears punching it in from a yard out on just the second play from scrimmage for Southwest following a botched snap on a punt deep in Trojan territory. Lydell Boatman added the PAT putting the Bears up 7-0 with 13:20 to go in the first quarter.

The Trojans (0-1) responded later in the quarter with their lone score of the evening, a 37-yard touchdown pass from Troy Griffin to Sirr Trotter. The PAT was blocked keeping the Bears on top.

The one-point lead for Southwest stayed true for the next 10:50 of play. With 6:12 to go in the first half, the Bears put up their second score of the night, this time through the air as the first Mills to Blanton touchdown came from 30 yards out. The PAT was good giving the visitors a 14-6 advantage.

After another successful stop by the Bear defense, the offense fed off of that momentum as Mills hooked up with Blanton again, this time from 19-yards out giving Southwest a 21-6 lead with 2:00 to go in the first half.

For Mills, who missed all of last season with an injury, he said he was very thankful to get his opportunity to shine this season and is taking advantage of it.

"It is amazing, it is an adrenaline rush and it is crazy," he said.

Mills finished 19-of-27 for 154 yards and two touchdowns. Blanton caught six balls 73 yards and two scores.

A couple of mistakes hurt the Bears from adding to their 15-point lead early in the third quarter as fumbles halted two-consecutive drives. However, the Southwest defense rose to the occasion, shutting the door on the Trojans who desperately tried to climb back into the contest.

With just under 5:00 to go in the third quarter, Mills exited the game with a leg injury and did not return. In stepped freshman Quez Goss who picked right up where Mills left off, connecting on multiple passes, moving the Bears down the field. The drive was capped by Williams' second touchdown of the evening, a four-yard run to the left and with the extra point, Southwest enjoyed a 28-6 lead.

Williams made his presence known early in the fourth quarter as well, hitting a huge hole opened up by his offensive line before racing past the defenders and into the end zone from 60 yards out giving Southwest a 35-6 lead with 12:36 to go.

Just as it appeared Delta was on its way to pulling closer, the Southwest defense stepped up as Amarien Jefferson picked-off a Griffin pass and returned it 75 yards for a touchdown making it a 42-6 game.

Not even a minute later at the 9:39 mark the Bear defense made its presence known again. Amarion Ware and Jefferey Anderson teamed-up for a safety, not only giving Southwest two points but a 44-6 lead.

Williams capped-off his big night with a 73-yard touchdown return on the ensuing kickoff.

"I saw the ball coming to me then I looked to see where my hole was," Williams said. "I saw my hole and I just hit it and I saw the end zone."

Williams rushed 11 times for 115 yards and three touchdowns.

Boatman stayed perfect on PATs for the evening with his latest increasing the visitors' lead to the eventual final.

September 14, 2023

Following a long road trip back up to the Mississippi Delta for a second-consecutive week, the Bears were aiming to go 2-0 on the year with a win against Coahoma.

But in the end, mistakes and inconsistent play proved to be too much to overcome as the Bears fell 37-32.

"We just made too many mistakes offensively and defensively we just couldn't stop them, we didn't tackle well and that was the outcome of it," Southwest head coach Cliff Collins said. "Our kids fought back and we had some injuries and we just had some bad luck on our side."

The Bears (1-1) took over first on offense and made an immediate impact as starting quarterback Quez Goss led an 11-play drive down the field before Keeghan Rodgers capped it off with a 7-yard touchdown rush. Lyndell Boatman added the PAT putting the visitors up 7-0 with 10:28 to go in the first quarter.

Following a successful defensive stand, Southwest added to its lead as Boatman connected on a 36-yard field goal making it a 10-0 game with 5:45 left in the first period.

Three minutes later, the Tigers got on the board with a touchdown pass and took advantage of a Bear turnover on the ensuing kickoff return to regain possession. They punched it in again, this time on the ground. The PAT was no good but Coahoma took its first lead at 13-10.

Southwest was unable to answer on offense and after regaining possession, the Tigers kept the momentum on the home side with another short touchdown run. The extra point was missed making it a 19-10 game.

Down but not out, the Bears pressed on and pulled closer at the 7:14 mark in the second quarter as Goss tossed a 37-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Daniels on a play where a key block, downfield, was thrown by Jeremiah Ratliff. Boatman's PAT pulled the Bears within two at 19-17. Coahoma responded with another short touchdown run with just under two minutes to go to jump back up by 10.

With limited time, Goss and the Bears put together arguably their best drive of the first half driving deep into Tiger territory before Goss found Daniels once again, this time from 13 yards out as time expired. Boatman's PAT pulled the Bears within three at 27-24 at the half.

The lone score of the third quarter for either team came via Coahoma as another short touch-

down run and a successful PAT put Southwest in a 10-point hole at 34-24.

The Bears could not find the rhythm that they possessed earlier in the contest. An interception by Amarien Jefferson gave the ball back to the Bears but the offense was unable to capitalize.

After the Tigers added a field goal with just under 6:00 to go in the contest, Goss got injured on a sack that ended a drive. Jefferson came in to play quarterback and the offense got back into a groove.

Jefferson found a seam and rushed for gains of 37 yards and 5 yards before a 34-yard pass to Tavaris Henshaw moved the ball down into the red zone. On the ensuing play, Jefferson found La'Jarion Martin on a 19-yard touchdown pass. He followed that up with a successful 2-point conversion on a pass to Leslie Jefferson, making it a one-score game at 37-32.

Southwest attempted to keep the momentum on its side by regaining possession on an onside kick but it was unsuccessful. The Tigers ran out the clock, preserving the win.

Goss finished 25-of-29 for 267 yards and two touchdowns. Jefferson was 2-of-3 for 34 yards and a score to go along with his interception on defense. He was also the leading tackler for the Bears with nine total.

On the ground, Rodgers had 64 yards and a touchdown on 12 carries.

Henshaw hauled in five passes for 69 yards while Daniels had three catches for 54 yards and two touchdowns.

September 21, 2023

For the first 30:00 of play in Thursday's conference opener against Mississippi Gulf Coast, the Bears played a very efficient brand of football and held a 23-21 lead over the No. 5 Bulldogs. Then came the second half and the Bears unfortunately couldn't find any of the same magic it had in the first as the Bulldogs grabbed the lead back and pulled away, handing Southwest a 55-33 loss.

"We played a pretty good first half," Southwest head coach Cliff Collins said. "In the second half, it didn't carry on. They scored 20 points in the third quarter to our three and that was (essentially) the game right there in a 22-point loss."

Bitten by the injury bug to some key offensive starters, the Bears (1-2, 0-1) gave the keys to Amarien Jefferson to run the offense, Thursday, and Collins was impressed with how his young quarterback looked.

"Amarien Jefferson, we saw it in practice, he wasn't worried," Collins said. "He played a heck of a game and didn't have any interceptions. He made some plays with his legs. He is a winner. I'm glad to have him and I'm glad that we did a good job recruiting him."

Jefferson finished 15-of-35 for 260 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions in his first collegiate start. He was also the leading rusher with 52 yards on 10 carries.

The Bulldogs put up the first points, taking the opening drive down the field before getting a short touchdown run and a successful PAT pulling the Bears down 7-0.

But Southwest answered right back with a four-play, 75-yard drive that culminated with a 72-yard touchdown pass from Jefferson to Damarcco Blanton for 72 yards and with the Lyndell Boatman PAT, the score was tied at 7.

It wasn't long before the Bear defense stepped up as on the ensuing drive Ethan Williams stepped in front of an Eli Anderson pass for the interception returning it to the Gulf Coast 25-yard line. Four plays later, Southwest grabs its first lead at 10-7 following a Boatman 38-yd field goal with 9:35 to go in the first quarter.

On the first play of the ensuing drive, Williams again picked off Anderson again and returned the ball to the Bulldog 16, once again setting the Bears up with great field position. And the offense took advantage of the gift given by the defense as the Bears drove down to the 1-yard line before Keeghan Rodgers plowed into the end zone. Boatman connected on the PAT, making it a 17-7 game just under eight minutes into the contest.

After getting the ball back on a turnover on downs, Southwest added to its lead with another Boatman field goal, this time from 28 yards out pushing the hosts' lead to 20-7.

Gulf Coast tried to inch closer early in the second quarter, but a missed a field goal kept the Bear lead at 13.

The visitors, however, did pull closer on their next drive with a short touchdown run making it a 20-14 game.

Southwest's offense got into rhythm as Jefferson led the Bears down the field, completing a pass to Ty Moore before a big 42-yard completion to La'Jarion Martin moved the ball down into the red zone. Rodgers followed up with a 14-yard run down inside the 5 but a fumble on the ensuing play

squashed the momentum as the Bulldogs pounced on the loose ball.

On the very next play, the Bears turned the tables as James Kate III forced a fumble which was recovered by fellow sophomore defensive lineman Jaden Hamlin setting the Bears up once again with a golden opportunity.

Despite the opportunity, the offense couldn't punch it in and had to settle for a Boatman 20-yard field goal giving Southwest a 23-14 advantage with 4:44 to go until the half.

Gulf Coast scored on a touchdown pass with just under 3:00 to go in the second quarter and the PAT reduced the hosts' lead to just two at 23-21.

Coming out in the third quarter, leading by the same margin, the Bears looked to get right back into rhythm. But a quick 3-and-out gave the ball back to the Bulldogs who took the lead back at 28-23 following a rushing touchdown.

Once again driving down into the red zone, Southwest was unable to punch it into the end zone and relied upon their freshman kicker in Boatman who delivered again, this time from 24 yards out pulling Southwest within two at 28-26.

For the next four Gulf Coast drives, the Southwest defense struggled to slow down the Bulldogs as they recorded touchdowns during each possession before Southwest answered with a 21-yard scoring pass from Jefferson to Tavaris Henshaw making the score the eventual final. Henshaw finished the night with four catches for 48 yards and a touchdown. Martin also had four receptions for 55 yards.

Even though the Bears came up on the losing end, Collins was pleased with what he saw from his team and the way that they competed against a highly-ranked squad.

"Despite the outcome and the score, it felt like a win for us and we just have to build off of it," he said.

Tyrese Martin led the Bear defense with seven tackles, one of which for a loss. In addition to Williams' two interceptions he also had five tackles.



Soccer teams on the move

August 24, 2023

It was home sweet home for the Lady Bears in Thursday night's home opener as they recorded eight goals including two from freshman Caroline Barcelona in an 8-0 shutout win over Tougaloo. The victory also marked the first in the head coaching career of Nicole Daigle Cooper.

"Honestly I'm just excited to get the W, this is what the girls needed," Cooper said. "We head into a very competitive conference. We have had a lot of good competition leading into this game. We have not played anybody in our division yet and we are just trying to get that preparation."

The scoring frenzy for the Lady Bears (1-1) started five minutes in when a Hannah Case corner kick was knocked in by Kayla Martin, giving Southwest an early 1-0 edge. A little over two minutes later, the hosts notched their second score of the evening when Barcelona scored the first of her pair.

"The things that we were were applying in practice were really coming out on the field," she said. "It is never a dull moment when you get two goals."

After multiple attempts to grow the lead late in the first half, the Lady Bears broke through as Juliette Charriez Rivera got past her defender before rocketing a ball past the Lady Bulldog goalkeeper making the score 3-0.

Barcelona notched her second score six minutes into the second half before goals from Maylee McLeod, Mary Claire McCurley, Jennifer Neal and Aoife Saunders rounded-out the scoring. Saunders assisted on the Neal goal while Charriez Rivera assisted on McCurley's.

Thursday's season opener was the start to the 2023 campaign

that Bear Soccer Head Coach Zach Mills and his team had hoped for as they got four goals from four different players in a 4-0 win over visiting Tougaloo.

"We were able to get everyone in and that is important, trying to figure out where everybody is going to fit throughout the season," Mills said.

It didn't take long for the Bears (1-0) to light up their side of the scoreboard first as Justin Ruiz took advantage of a key opportunity to give his team the early advantage.

"I saw the ball come to me and saw that the defender didn't come out," he said. "I saw the opportunity, took him on and saw the box open and took my chances."

Ruiz's score came in the 16th minute and it came at a key time as the Bears were looking for a way to set the tone in the early stages of the contest. Roberto Garcia was credited with the assist on the goal.

Riding that momentum from Ruiz's score, Southwest added to its lead a little less than nine minutes later when Caleb Trisdale got a great pass from Sammy Velazquez resulting in the Bears' second goal of the night.

Leading 2-0 late in the first half, the Bears kept pouring it on as Rory Humphrey got into the act with a goal following an assist from Ruiz.

The lone goal of the second half came in the 50th minute when Ethan Gobble kept pace with teammate Brayden Green on a fast break. Green's shot was deflected by the Bulldog goalkeeper and cleaned up nicely by Gobble who finished off the play with the score.

The Southwest defense held true for the remainder of the contest as Tougaloo was unable to get into rhythm on offense sealing the win

for the hosts.

September 15, 2023

Several non-conference matchups thus far this year have tested the Lady Bears. But arguably none more difficult than against the No. 4 Jones Lady Bobcats in Friday evening's MACCC Conference opener.

And despite playing a good brand of soccer, the Lady Bears could not keep up with Jones, falling 3-0.

After the match, Southwest head coach Nicole Cooper praised the way her team hung tough with a Top-5-ranked team.

"Honestly, I'm pretty happy with our performance," she said. "Giving up a goal with 2:00 left is unfortunate but our play on the field and what we've been practicing, translated really well."

The Lady Bears (2-4, 0-1) tried to set the tone early, but it was the Lady Bobcats who struck first with a goal in the ninth minute putting Southwest down 1-0.

The deficit unfortunately grew for Southwest early in the second half. With 36:10 to go in the contest, Jones added to its lead, making it a 2-0 game before getting their third and final score with just over 2:00 to go.

Earlier in the year, the Bears endured a very physical matchup in non-conference play against Pearl River. In Friday's conference opener at home against No. 6 Jones, the level of physicality was at a new high. Unfortunately for the Bears a goal by the Bobcats early in the second half proved to be the difference as Southwest fell 1-0.

"That was physical and a tough one," Southwest head coach Zach Mills said.

The Bears (3-1-2) knew that it was going to be a tough task against a highly-ranked team, but they showed a high-level of inten-

sity. Their hard work pushed the ball up the field but they were unable to finish as the Bobcats defense clamped down.

Jones returned the favor on the other end, however, the Bear defense flexed its muscle, led by the reigning three-time MACCC conference Goalkeeper of the Week, Loan Marin.

But early in the second half, with both teams still looking for their first scores, it was the visitors who jumped ahead finding a narrow window as a short-range shot deflected off of a Bobcat before hitting the back of the net putting the Bears down 1-0.

"Threading the needle, they just had that one opportunity to get through," Mills said. "It was a deflection goal and those always hurt."

The Bears tried to pull even and had some opportunities, but were unable to capitalize.

September 19, 2023

The Lady Bears welcomed in East Central Tuesday evening hoping to turn things around following Friday's tough loss to No. 4 Jones in the MACCC opener. And even though they were looking to set the tone early, they were unable to do so as the Lady Warriors grabbed the lead and never let up, handing Southwest a 5-2 loss.

"I think that our biggest thing is finding consistency," Southwest head coach Nicole Cooper said. "The defense has played well every single game but this has been one game where our defense has struggled."

The Lady Bears (2-5, 0-2) found themselves down 1-0 eight minutes in as the Lady Warriors rallied early. Less than two minutes later, the deficit grew to 2-0 for Southwest.

Down but not out, the Lady Bears fought back. About eight

minutes into the second half, Caroline Barcelona put Southwest on the board with a goal on an assist from Aoife Saunders. But East Central quickly responded less than a minute later with another goal pushing its lead back to two.

With just under 24 and a half minutes to go, a Saunders corner kick found its mark as Barcelona sent a header past the Lady Warrior keeper and into the net for Southwest's second goal making it a 3-2 deficit.

Down the stretch, however East Central got two additional goals to pull away and take the win.

After not playing in Friday's conference opening loss to No. 6 Jones, Bear Soccer's Rory Humphrey was hungry to make an impact at home Tuesday against East Central.

And that he did.

The sophomore from Flowood scored both of Southwest's goals as the Bears hung on late topping the Warriors 2-1 for their first conference win.

"Me sitting out for the Jones game really hurt me," Humphrey said. "In this game I wanted to prove that we wanted this game and move forward."

Both the Bears (4-1-2, 1-1) and the Warriors jockeyed for position early on with neither side scoring through the first 45:00 of play.

It wasn't long into the second half before that trend was broken. About 5:00 in Humphrey notched his first score getting the ball away from a defender deep in East Central territory before rocketing it past the goalkeeper putting Southwest up 1-0.

Not even a minute later, Humphrey shined again with another goal, this time on an assist from Brayden Green giving the Bears a 2-0 advantage.

The Warriors fought to get back into the contest and cut into Southwest's lead with about 16 minutes to go, cutting the lead in half at 2-1.

But the Bears held on in the end preserving the one goal win.

After the match, Southwest head coach Zach Mills said that Humphrey stepping up and leading the team was huge, providing a much-needed spark.

"It was huge because he couldn't play against Jones and in the first half, he was struggling, maybe getting his feet back," Mills said. "It was nice to see him come out full speed in the second half and get those two early goals."



Bear Soccer's Marin, Ruiz win Conference Players of the Week

By Travis Connelley, SID

Following stellar play in the first two matches of the 2023 season, Bear Men's Soccer's Loan Marin and Justin Ruiz earned MACCC Player of the Week honors.

In Thursday's 4-0 home win over Toulaloo and Saturday's 5-1 win over Oxford of Emory in Birmingham Marin, a native of Lyon, France, started both matches and gave up only one goal while recording eight saves.

Ruiz, a native of Palmdale, California, helped lead the charge offensively for the week with a combined three goals and one assist in both matches (both starts).

"I'm super pumped for the guys, obviously," Southwest head coach Zach Mills said. "They've been working hard for the season and we are happy to have some games against some good opponents trying to figure out ourselves. The fact that they were able to put up some good numbers as a forward with three goals in two games and as a keeper who the only goal given up was a penalty kick, I'm happy to see the work paying off."

Making Music

By Tahlaya Royal, staff writer

The choir organization is a place of eminently talented musicians passionate about developing their skills. Choir gives people the opportunity to explore and challenge themselves by bringing music to life. Directed by Joe Elliott, who joyfully encourages his students to grow and find their voices, the scholars learn to harmonize with one another and; moreover, to learn to read multiple pieces of music. With the help of the pianist Ms. Carolyn Fenn, every song had a musical flow as each musician sang from the heart. Most even find the organization to be of peace, relaxation, and freedom to be who they are.

Logan's College Experiences

By Logan O'Bryant, Co-editor

My name is Logan O'Bryant, and I am in my freshman year, and first semester of college here. I have had many new experiences here already. I have made many amazing new friends; I have found some new interests and picked up some old ones. One of my friends is teaching me how to play guitar. I am helping the newspaper staff, which I love learning more about and helping when I can. I also love the atmosphere here; most have very good manners.

There are people here who would help you with everything and anything they can. The teachers will try and help with whatever you need. My overall college experience so far has been amazing, and I cannot wait for next semester. I love the atmosphere here and hope that I can continue to do well there.



Pine Burr staff: Karley Johnson, Chelsea Wells, Tahlaya Royal, Sydney Williams, Bethanie Wall, Brooklyn Timmons; second row: Chris Baughman, Eli Strickland, Emma Grace Carruth, Leah Sterling, Co-Editor; Lorelai Davis, Editor; Sophie Tompkins; not pictured: Pearla Downs, Cameron Leon, Levi Lovett, Logan O'Bryant, Co-Editor; Camryn Watts, and Joyce Mabry, advisor

Chris Baughman is a freshman attending Southwest Mississippi Community College. He was born in McComb, Mississippi, but was raised in Osyka, Mississippi. Chris is currently a psychology major, but he is likely going to change his major to something more math-based, such as engineering. After Southwest, he plans to transfer to Southeastern Louisiana University. Chris has been doing photography for over five years as a hobby and hopes to continue his work as a photographer. He is not only committed to being a photographer but also to his academic studies. He does his best to push himself in both school and his personal life. Chris hopes to start a small photography business in the next few months as a side job while he is in school.

Lorelai Davis is a freshman at Southwest Mississippi Community College. She was born in McComb, where she still resides. Lorelai is majoring in biology and plans to eventually attend medical school. She spent four years on the yearbook staff of the Home Educators of Southwest Mississippi and was selected to be the editor during her senior year. She is dedicated to not only her studies but also her extracurricular activities. Lorelai is a hobbyist by nature and struggles to commit to just one. She loves to read, write, dance, and paint. When she is not studying, she can be found taking commissions as an artist, which she actively did throughout high school and plans to continue doing, even after she earns her degree. She can also be found assistant teaching at her dance studio, which she is very passionate about. She is honored to be the editor of the Pine Burr.

Pearla Downs is a sophomore at Southwest Mississippi Community College. She was born in McComb, where she currently resides. Pearla is majoring in nursing and plans to go into phlebotomy after she graduates. This is her first year on the staff of the Pine Burr. Pearla not only engages in her studies, but also in her favorite hobbies. She loves to

read, shop, and learn. When she is not studying, she can be found doing other hobbies like listening to music or doing hair, which she grew up doing. She will likely stick to these hobbies even after getting her degree.

Cameron Leon is a freshman at Southwest Mississippi Community College. He is from Hattiesburg, MS, and attended West Harrison High School. He is committed to academic excellence. He is a competitive person on both the tennis court and in the academic field. He is a member of the Southwest Men's Tennis team. Outside of school, he enjoys many things, such as deep-sea fishing, classic cinema, diverse cuisines, and fashion. Cameron envisions a future in the entertainment industry.

Delsin Lovett was born as a resident of Mississippi and he is currently enrolled at the Southwest Mississippi Community College where he obtained his GED at the workforce center, now pursuing an associate degree in art as a sophomore. He may plan on continuing his education at a university after graduation. One of Delsin Lovett's hobbies is creating digital art, utilizing his drawing skills to apply as a comic strip artist for the Pine Burr. Delsin Lovett may be mainly focused on his studies, concerned with maintaining a good grade for his classes, though it does not stop him from taking time for leisurely breaks. One of his favorite pastimes in college is to ride his bike around campus, often using this time to ponder on classes. While at home, his weekend is often used to chat with friends online and wind down by playing some video games.

Logan O'Bryant has many interests. She loves to read and take photos. She likes to write in her free time, but she is shy about her work. She loves telling stories to people and visiting the nursing home occasionally. She has an interest in the medical field and is majoring in nursing, hoping to become a traveling nurse one day. She loves to travel, make new traditions, help people, and take

photographs wherever she goes. She joined the newspaper staff to learn more about writing for an audience and because she enjoys the prospect of helping create something. Logan is excited about starting Southwest as a freshman this semester. She hopes to start her career plans and hopefully find things she is interested in and can enjoy for years to come. She is excited about being on the newspaper staff this semester and hopes to have an amazing first year here at Southwest.

Tahlaya Cheris Kimani Royal is a first-year student at Southwest Mississippi Community College. She is ready to experience college life with a major in Music and Journalism. She is from Kinston, North Carolina, and graduated from McComb High School. She came to Mississippi with a love for music and film; inspired to one day create a movie of her own. She participates in the SMCC marching band playing the clarinet. Tahlaya is determined to achieve every goal and aspiration she has in life.

Leah Sterling is a sophomore at SMCC. She began the nursing program this fall semester and enjoys the program. Leah graduated from Parklane Academy in 2022, where she served as Co-Editor of the yearbook. During her freshman year at Southwest, she served as Editor of the Pine Burr. She currently holds the position of Editor of the Whispering Pines. Leah stays very active on campus, participating in groups such as SGA, where she served as Freshmen Vice President, Phi Theta Kappa, Bear Trackers, and Tri-Beta. Outside of school, Leah enjoys working at Holmes Stationers Gifts and Bridal, painting, reading, and spending time with her friends and family.

Brooklyn Timmons is a sophomore at Southwest Mississippi Community College. She was born in Natchez, Mississippi. Brooklyn is majoring in social work and after SMCC, plans to continue her education at the University of Southern

Mississippi. Brooklyn was on the staff of the yearbook and newspaper during her freshman year. Besides taking classes, she loves to take photos, paint, draw, and in her extra free time, play soccer. Brooklyn enjoys taking photos and wants to continue taking them as a side job. You can find some of her photos on Instagram under the username brooktimphotos. She loves to watch soccer the most and attends all of the extracurricular activities at SMCC. Brooklyn's favorite class would have to be Mrs. Johnson's sociology because she finds it very interesting and says it is a fun way of learning.

Camryn Watts is a sophomore here at Southwest Mississippi Community College. She is from Livingston, Louisiana, but moved to Summit three years ago. She is an Allied Health major with plans to attend OTA school after she graduates in May.

Chelsea Wells is a sophomore at Southwest Mississippi Community College. She was born and still resides in McComb, MS. She is a first-year cheerleader. Her major is Nursing and she hopes to one day become an RN, just like her mother. Chelsea enjoys laughing, being on TikTok, and being around the people she loves. She also hopes to one day become an author, due to her love to write poems, short stories, and movies. If you see Chelsea, she is always smiling and joyful. She is an outgoing spirit and very excited about this opportunity she has been given.

Sydney Williams is a sophomore at Southwest Mississippi Community College. She is from Summit, Mississippi, and attended North Pike from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Her major is pre-nursing and she plans to attend a university to obtain her bachelor's degree. She is an ambassador for the SMCC Bear Trackers and is very involved with her church. She loves to spend time with her friends and family and enjoys reading a good book. She is very excited to be involved with the SMCC newspaper.

Bear Soccer's Marin earns National Goalkeeper of the Week

By Travis Connelley, SID

Through the first few matches of the season several Bears have stood out with their stellar play. But arguably nobody has been better than sophomore goalkeeper Loan Marin.

And for his efforts, the Lyon, France-native was not only named the MACCC Men's Soccer Goalkeeper of the Week but also the NJCAA Div. II Men's Soccer Goalkeeper of the Week.

"It is not just for me, it is for the whole team," Marin said. "It is good but we have to keep going. The conference isn't easy but this is just the beginning."

In the past week, Marin logged a perfect scoresheet giving up no goals and recording seven saves in a 2-0 non-conference home win against No. 20 Pearl River.

Southwest Men's Soccer Head Coach Zach Mills said that it is a great honor to not only receive the conference honor but also the national.

"It is just cool to see him recognized for the hard work," Mills said. "The passion he has put in is amazing."

Bear Golf finishes strong

By Travis Connelley, SID

The Bear Golf Team got off to a solid start in the 2023-24 campaign with a ninth place finish Tuesday at the MACCC Event #1.

East Central won the two-day event, with Northeast finishing second and Co-Lin third.

The top performer for the Bears was freshman Dailion Kryzanowski who shot a +13, good enough for a tie for 13th place. Next up was Zack Boyd who finished tied for 37th, with a two-day score of +27.

The Bears return to action on Oct. 2 and Oct. 3 when they head to Philadelphia, MS and compete at the MACCC Event #2 hosted by East Central.

Back to School Pep Rally

Chelsea Wells, Staff Writer

The back-to-school pep rally was a success. We had our marvelous redline performing plus our favorite cheerleaders. Each did their own dance and cheers. Then, we had our wonderful SMCC band playing their hearts on stage playing some good tunes. In addition, we had a raffle giveaway where some of our mighty SMCC students won some wonderful prizes. We had our women's and men's soccer teams on stage as well as the football players. Overall, the pep rally was outstanding and a great way to start off this school year from beginning to end, it was full of energy and kept the crowd hyped up. Also, it was a great way to kick off the football game.



SMCC Accelerated EMT Graduates: The SMCC Regional Workforce Training Center recently held an Accelerated EMT-Basic course for AAA Ambulance Service to help them meet their immediate need for more EMT's. This accelerated 6-week course normally takes 4.5 months to complete. Shown from left to right: Steven Carley, AAA Ambulance Operations Manager, Clayton Wicker, Karen Drummond, Justin Barnes, Lanny Picou, Faith Jones, Benjamin Hendricks, Instructor, Brandi Cothren, NRP with AAA and our SMCC EMS instructor, and Kevin Heurtin, AAA Ambulance Operations Director.



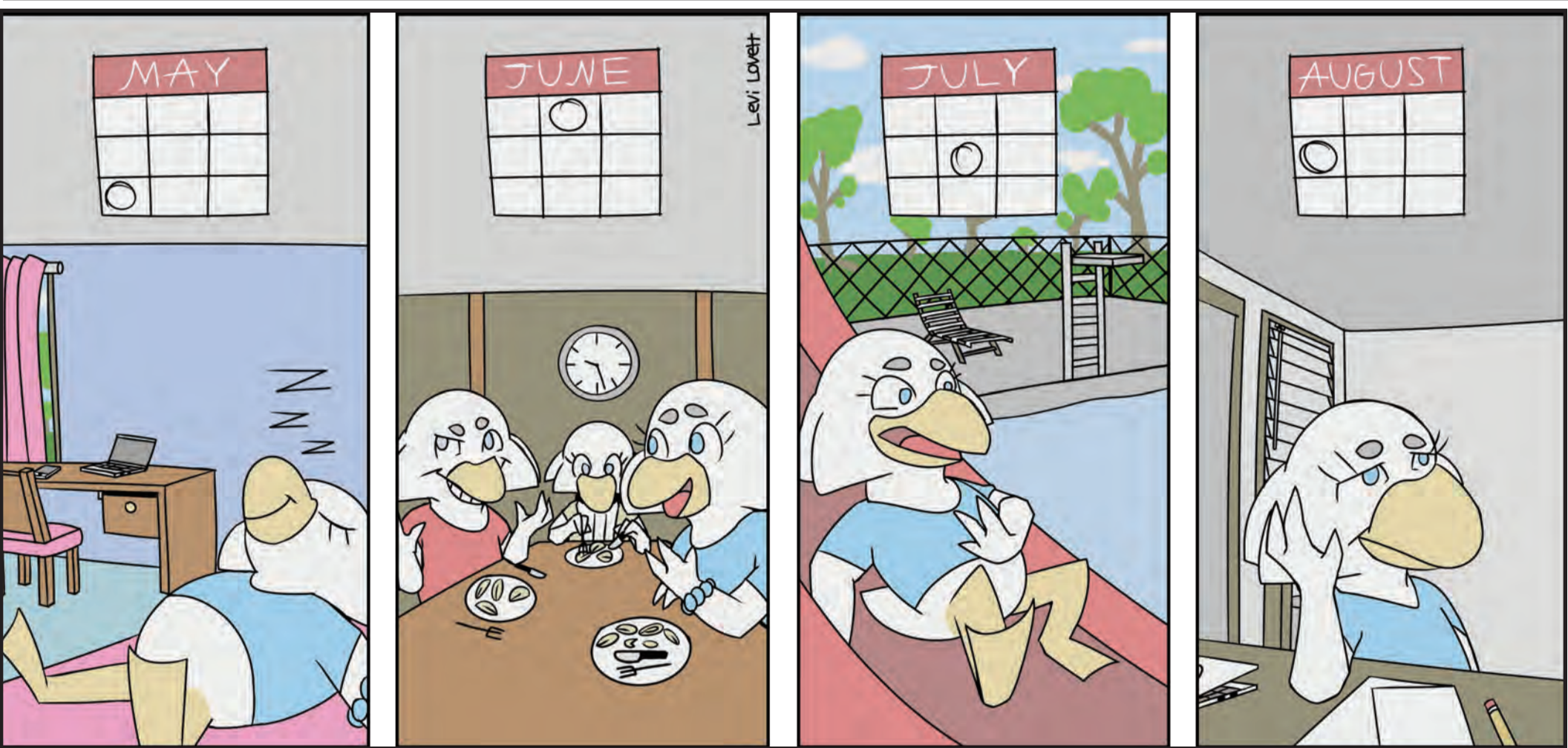
Constitution Day: Emily Alford, Tracy Johnson, Londyn Robertson, Savannah McCullough, Merrielyn Ginn, Social Science instructor; Gage Beard, Trace Nesley; second row: Pearla Downs, Amanti Hughes, Cooper Galyean, Lane Steinwinder

photo by Joyce Mabry



Academic Feather

by Levi Lovett



Cheer Team: Rylea Carney, Aubree Muse, Kylee Girau, Olivia Magee; second row: Jaden Pierre, Chelsea Wells, Ansley Bass, Rebecca Morgan, Annelise Elrod, Emma Thaxton, Ra'Quera Dangerfield; third row: Brandon McPhail, Jamichael Dillion, Tradarious Davis, Jamieson Hooks; Mascot: Chandler Tamor; Not pictured: Bethainee Guzzardo, Caleb Ragas



Red Line: Sarah Grace Karas, Captain; Kaylee Pigott, Captain; second row: Hannah McLaughlin, Presley Gordon, Ashlyn Parker, Mary Elizabeth Kuntz; third row: Tanijah Garner, Avery Ardis, Annabella Gaskin; fourth row: Hannah Shicksnider, Rylee Frank, Manager; Aly Lynch

ADS

SMCC HOMECOMING**OCTOBER 21, 2023**

2023 Alumnus of the Year-Joe Young
2023 Sports Hall of Fame-James Williams
2023 Sports Hall of Fame-Scott Varnado



3:00PM CEREMONY
HOLMES STUDENT UNION

**SMCC Alumni
Association Fall
Membership Drive**



One new Lifetime Member will be the **WINNER** of our drawing for a 22" Tabletop Griddle.

**SMCC
HOMECOMING
CLASS
REUNIONS**

We want to honor the graduating classes of 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003, and 2013!!!
Please join us in the Upper Dining Room of the Holmes Student Union at 2:00pm on Saturday, October 21, 2023, for a time to reconnect with others from your graduating class during our Homecoming festivities.

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