



HAWK TALK

HOLLY SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 2024

Chapman new coach of Hawks

By TRAVIS WILLIAMSON
Staff Writer

Luke Chapman is the new head basketball coach for Holly Springs High School. He is excited for this opportunity given to him by principal Cravin Turnage.

Chapman has been an assistant coach at a school that won a state championship and an assistant in a successful junior college program. He has always wanted to be head coach.

This 2023-2024 season, he said he expects his players to come in and work hard every day in practice.

He said ever since he started in the summer “the players are growing and developing mental toughness.”

Chapman looks for his Hawks to play at a fast pace offensively. He wants the team to score quickly and then turn around and apply pressure on defense.



Coach Chapman celebrates a win against Byhalia.



Architectural rendering of the new auditorium

Renovations for auditorium

By CHRISTEN GRAY
Staff Writer

The staff and students are excited to see the new and improved auditorium.

The Holly Springs High School auditorium itself is getting a major facelift. The remodeling was scheduled to start July 22. After a delay, it instead began between late August and mid-September.

“We’re excited about seeing a newly-renovated auditorium, including the balcony which has not been used in a very long time,” said Dr. Irene Turnage, superintendent of education.

The old auditorium had many issues. There were broken seats, torn curtains, and bad lighting. The auditorium has been the same since the school was built.

The work includes the removal of asbestos, installing new tile on the first floor and the balcony area, new audience seating, new lighting fixtures, new wall paint and new acoustical wall and ceiling panels. The auditorium is going to have recessed lighting down the aisles.

Students have had to adjust to not having an auditorium during the first few months of the school year.

Instead of having assemblies in the auditorium, they are being held in the gym. On the first day of school students had to meet in the gym as opposed to the auditorium.

The expectations for the new Holly Springs High School auditorium are very high. It should be finished soon. The facility is being improved for not only the students and staff, but for the community.

“It’s going to be top of the line,” said high school principal Cravin Turnage.



“Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.”

-Martin Luther King

Highlighting New Teachers at Holly Springs High School

By JANETT LUNARES
Staff writer

Dylan Mullen - Comprehensive Health Teacher

What school did you come from?

Holly Springs is my first teaching job. Not only that, I did not decide to become a teacher until a few days before school started. So, I took a chance on faith to become a teacher for the first time at Holly Springs High School.

Where do you come from?

I am from Bruce originally and live in Ingomar now.

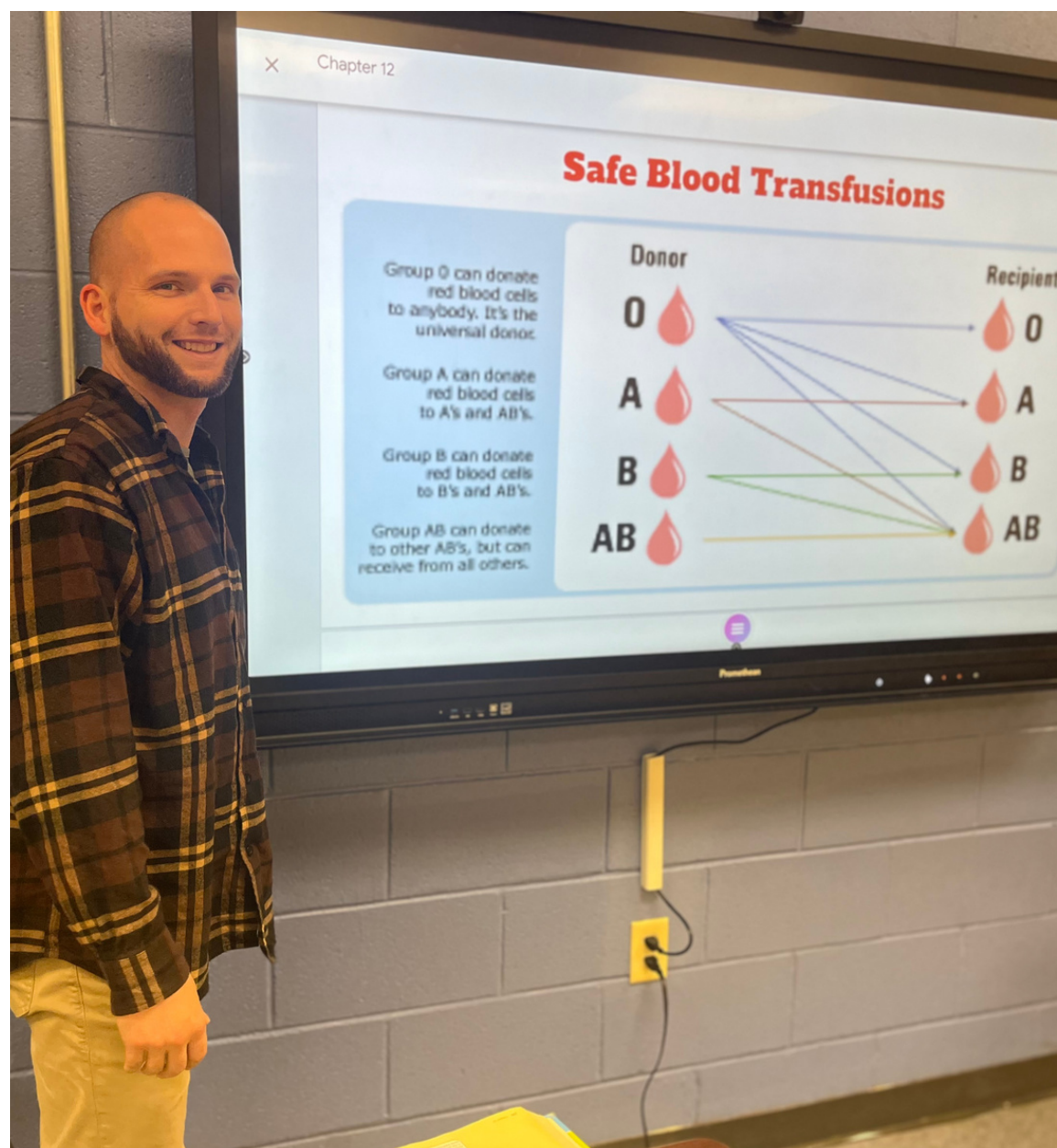
How long have you been teaching?
three months

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I wanted a new challenge and career change after working at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo for five years. Things had gotten stale for me there, and I wanted a job that I could get a sense of fulfillment from.

How do you cope with stress?

Spending time with my wife and children help me cope with stress. I also like to work out and run to help me cope with daily stress. I am a sports nerd as well, so watching sporting events always helps me get away from daily stresses of life.



Dylan Mullen



Chelsea Harrell

Chelsea Harrell - English I Teacher

How do you cope with stress?

Lots of hobbies: cooking, crocheting, painting, gardening, DIY projects

What school did you come from?

Nettleton Intermediate School

Where do you come from?

Ripley

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

Growing up, I had so many fantastic teachers who cared deeply about all of their students. I saw them pour their spare time and energy into making school an enjoyable experience for so many, and I knew I wanted to be a part of something like that.

How long have you been teaching?

This is my sixth year.

Jeffrey Littlejohn - World History and U.S. History Teacher

How do you cope with stress?

I enjoy fishing when I get the chance. The 30-minute drive from New Albany is also a stress relief. Military Strategy games are also a fun diversion.

What school did you come from?

Coldwater High School

Where do you come from?

I grew up in New Albany. I lived in Jackson for 10 years, prior to coming back to New Albany.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I love history! I was tired of banking and finance.

How long have you been teaching?

Seven years. I was a banker for 20 years.



Jeffrey Littlejohn

Happy New Year



Eddie Strong (at left), a former standout football player at Ole Miss, spoke to Holly Springs High School seniors. He talked about his life struggles and the "bad stuff" he had to overcome. "But I never gave up, and my life changed," said Strong, who holds a criminal justice degree from Ole Miss. He is busy organizing the newest addition to the American Indoor Football League, the Mississippi Raiders, based in his hometown of Batesville. "When you leave high school, it's about to get real," Strong told the seniors. "Stay focused. There are a lot of distractions out there. Take advantage of your opportunities."

Holly High Sports

Volleyball team makes state playoffs



By KETURAH PAYTON
Staff Writer

The Holly Springs High School volleyball team had a very successful 2023 season.

There were 19 girls on the team this year - Rakiya Smith, Angel Jenkins, Erica McNeal, Janya Bohanna, Brashayla Balfourd, Alyssa Jones, Alicia Moore, Demetria Parks, Chamilya Watson, Nikiya Burgess, Chamiya Crane, Mickala Elliot, Laikyn Smith, Makenzie Mitchell, Keturah Payton, Kenya Gooch, Tiara Levenson, Itzel Arce, and Jurnee Marion.

Head coach Maxine Tucker and assistant coach Brandi Woodson played a major role in helping the team succeed. The team earned eight wins this season, and they made it to the first round of the state playoffs.

Some of the team's best players and players with the best stats were Alicia Moore (JV), Keturah Payton (JV), Nikiya Burgess (V) and Tiara Levenson (V).

Woodson said improvement came by "going twice as hard in practice." She evaluated players' performances, encouraged them, and saw who had the most drive and who actually battled for their spots.

She compared stats and put players under pressure to see their individual progress. Striving for improvement in the players, she showed them tough love and encouragement.

When Woodson saw any players struggling, she motivated them by supporting them whenever they did well.



The Holly Springs High School volleyball team seniors (top photo) and the entire team (bottom photo) are pictured celebrating following some victories during the 2023 season.

Coach Tucker leads

Lady Hawks

By ARRIYEL WILLIAMS
Staff Writer



Maxine Tucker, head coach of the Holly Springs Lady Hawks basketball team, has been coaching for more than 25 years. She has coached basketball, track and field, and volleyball. One of Tucker's favorite things about coaching is supporting her players in whatever they do.

"I try to always support them when they're doing the right thing on the court, off the court and in the classroom," she said.

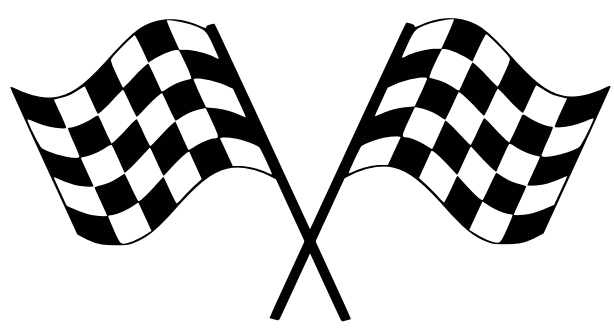
The 2023-2024 season has just tipped off, and Coach Tucker said the Lady Hawks are working hard and trying each game to perform at a higher level.

She said balancing academics and athletics is a must.

"They both go hand in hand - academics first, athletics second," Tucker said. "If they are not making the grade, they don't play."



Head coach Maxine Tucker gives instructions to her team during a timeout.



Cross country is back !



By JASON JEFFRIES
Staff Writer

Coach Colton Williams has brought back cross country to Holly Springs High School. He said he feels the 2023 cross country season was very successful. He is very proud of returning the sport to the school.

Williams decided to renew cross country after one of his former students, Jatavis Walker, suggested it. He wanted to coach a sport and decided cross country was best for him because he already had some experience in it. He felt he had teaching down pat and wanted to try something new outside the classroom.

Williams thought the team competed very well this past season. There were many individuals with good race times.

He grew up in Kentucky. He attended Sewanee University in Tennessee. He joined the Mississippi Teaching Corps and ended up in Holly Springs. He has been teaching here for three years.

Williams said he runs in his free time, so preparing for the season wasn't too difficult. He accumulated advice from people he knew, which helped with the team's practice plans.

His favorite meet was the Saltillo Invitational. It was the first meet and was set up very well. The team went to Chick-fil-A afterwards. It was a really fun meet overall.

From his perspective, the best thing was seeing his students in a different environment. He said it helped in the classroom and also helped him connect to the students more.

His wife and vice coach, Meredith Williams, is a third year law student at Ole Miss. She was very enthusiastic about helping, he said. She was very important to the team's success. She made snacks and such and was just great to have around to help.



From left are Meredith Williams, Jatavis Walker, John Barksdale, Bre'Aunna Galloway, Jason Jeffries, Asia Jackson, Tyler Davis, Bruce Streeter and Colton Williams.

Kalea Jones keeps the Hawk spirit going as cheer captain

By CHRISTEN GRAY
Staff Writer



Kalea Jones

Kalea Jones starts the new season as captain of the Holly Springs cheerleaders. She is a junior at Holly High. She started cheering in the summer of fifth grade. Last cheer season, she was the co-captain of the team. As a kid, she was always loud and energetic.

"I liked to be active and dance so I decided to try cheering," Jones said. "The pressure from being captain is always taking accountability for your team and having to always be a leader."

Sometimes cheer gets very overwhelming. Jones has many responsibilities. This season she has been working hard to make sure the cheerleaders are ready for events. She has to make sure all her teammates are feeling well and know every cheer. She thinks the team mostly needs to work on motions, energy, and attitudes. Her biggest responsibility is being a good example for the team.

She is most excited about the rival games and the dances. Her favorite cheers are "Hands Down" and a "Bad Hawk." Before games she is mostly excited but nervous, too. She is motivated by God, herself, her coach, and her teammates.

"My expectations this year are to have a great relationship with my cheer sisters, build a great bond, work on our motions, blend our voices, and continue to be the best," Jones said.

This cheer season she expects the best for her team. Her favorite part about cheer is motivating the team and getting the crowd excited. Other reasons she enjoys cheer are her coach, Carmeeka Shelton, and her teammates. She does not plan to cheer after high school.

"I plan on leaving what I love with this team. I feel like nowhere else can match it here," Jones said.



Holly High football

Clifford Brown, head coach of the Holly Springs High School football team, gives instructions to his team during a timeout of a game this past season.

MOVIE & ALBUM REVIEWS



Movie Review: "The Chronicles of Narnia"

By TAKAYLA OLIVER
Staff Writer

"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" is a very pleasing movie.

There are four siblings. Their names are Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy. In this movie, the four children are sent to another country because World War II is happening. When settling at their temporary home, Lucy finds an empty room that has a wardrobe.

The wardrobe is filled with coats. Lucy discreetly walks through the wardrobe, finding a mysterious snowy world. Lucy then leaves the wardrobe and goes to tell her siblings.

Fast forward, Peter, Lucy, Edmund, and Susan all enter the snowy world. They meet Mr. Thomas, a faun. He then tells them where they are and why they have been chosen. (The siblings are the only people that can enter Narnia)

Hearing that Narnia is under a spell, the siblings get concerned and decide to leave. As Mr. Thomas begs for their help, they decide to stay and help stop the evil queen.

As the siblings come up with a plan and prepare for war, Aslan appears. Aslan is shown as a lion that represents Jesus. With Aslan's help, they are able to defeat the evil queen and return Narnia to its beautiful nature.

This movie kept me on my toes. I enjoyed how it was chronologically ordered.

The siblings are shipped off for safety; they enter a magical world; they go to war to help save Narnia; and then return to their real world. In that time, 15 years had passed by and nothing had changed in their world.

I am pleased with the writer on how he included Christ in the movie. It made me feel as if he made the movie based on heaven. In my opinion, the evil queen acts as Lucifer; Aslan acts as Jesus; the siblings represent Jesus' angels; and Narnia is heaven.

I would recommend this movie to anyone. It's kid friendly. It has action, mythology, and adventure. A few themes include good vs. evil, betrayal, and bravery. Overall "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" is a wonderful movie.



Review of Rod Wave's new album, "Nostalgia"

By AERYIEL GLOVER
Staff Writer

Rod Wave, also known as Rodarius Green, is 25 years old. He was born in St. Petersburg, Florida. He has a girlfriend named Kelsey, and he is a father to twin daughters.

This album was released September 15, 2023.

"Nostalgia" consists of 18 songs featuring artists like 21 Savage, Sadie Jean, and Wet. The album has a total run time of 55 minutes and 33 seconds. Many people love this album, but many people also dislike it. Personally, I love the album. I love the different choruses, the different beats, the melody, and lyrics. I can relate to some of the lyrics. Most people may find his music boring, lame, or repetitive, but I love everything he produces.

"Nostalgia" is one of Wave's many successful albums. This is Wave's third No.1 album on Billboard 200. He accomplished this only 15 days after the release.

I believe this is his best album. There is not one album of his that I have sat and listened to thoroughly like this one. I have replayed his whole track list at least five times since it was released. It's hard to choose my top songs, but if I had to pick it would be, "Call Your Friends" and "Come See Me."

"For All the Dogs"

By NATHAN LESTER
Staff Writer



Drake's new album, "For All the Dogs," has been a national sensation lately. Some students at Holly Springs High School enjoy listening to the new album. His album includes 23 songs. Student Jason Jeffries certainly likes the new album.

"It is a very lyrical and deep album. It is one of his best albums in a while," he said.

"For All the Dogs" is also one of the only times that Drake allowed his child, Adonis, to be featured in the album. The song, "My Man Freestyle," became very popular. According to Jeffries, Adonis' freestyle is "unique."

This album also had an influence on another student. Braya Crane thinks the album is great, and she gave it a solid rating.

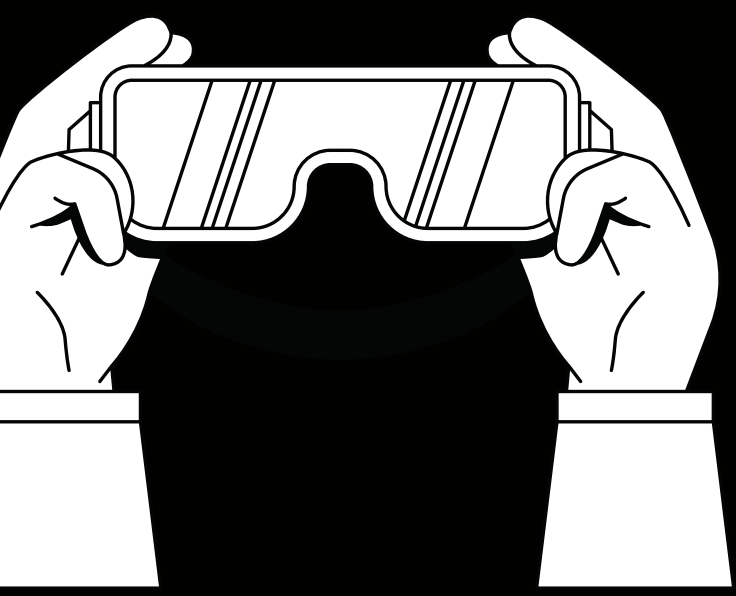
"I rate the album an 8 out of 10," Crane said.

There is also one popular song that both Jeffries and Crane came to like. One of their favorites is "Rich Baby Daddy."

They were also asked if there is any other album they think is better than "For All the Dogs."

Jeffries said, "Yes, Larger Than Life by Brent Faiyaz, which also came out recently."

Braya also said, "Yes, there are definitely better albums."



Latest Opinions

"LARGER THAN LIFE" ALBUM REVIEW

By LEAH ODUM
Staff Writer



Brent Faiyaz's album "Larger Than Life" was released October 27.

Christopher Brent Wood, aka Brent Faiyaz, is an American R&B singer. He became well known due to his feature on "Crew" by GoldLink. He has written many albums, such as "Larger Than Life," "Sonder Son," "Wasteland," "Lost," etc.

Wood is an amazing artist when it comes to lyrics, beats, and even samples. Not to be a fan girl or anything but be serious, it's Brent; he is literally a lyric genius!

To me, the album was not his best work but it was still pretty good. My favorite song on the album has to be "Belong to You," featuring Babyface Ray.

"Belong to You" has to be one of my favorites because of the beat and lyrics. Many lyrics of the song are very relatable to me. Lyrics like "Maybe I keep it way too raw" and "Ain't no simp, baby, bounce if you wanna leave" are understandable to me. The combination of Wood's and Babyface Ray's (an American rapper) voices really made the song sound better.

Overall, the album was mid, but it's Wood, so there's always something great about his music.



CELL PHONE USAGE NOT GOOD IN SCHOOLS

By TAKAYLA OLIVER
Staff Writer

The majority of schools do not allow students to use their cell phones during the school day.

Students should not be permitted to use cell phones in school.

Though the usage of cell phones has its pros, it also has its cons.

The pros are that cell phones add to students' safety, and they can sometimes be used after the instruction for the day.

The cons are that students can easily get distracted, and the phones can cause drama, emotional distress, and allow students to cheat.

"Using cell phones in class is not an appropriate concept and also it decreases the learning capacity for students," is an accurate statement which I read recently.

Students will be more distracted by cell phones and pay less attention to the teacher and the lesson. Students have a higher chance of getting in trouble if they use cell phones in school.

Students will have the ability to bully other students using their cell phones. They can take pictures and text their friends, down-talking the victim. If bullying numbers/reports go up, it can cause problems for the school and students.

Therefore using digital devices in school causes complications.



Barbara Humphrey

A teaching moment for librarian

By LEAH ODUM
Staff Writer

Have you ever had a learning opportunity that stuck with you?

Barbara Vaxter-Humphrey is the librarian at Holly Springs High School. She was born June 14, 1967, in Batesville. She attended South Panola High School and graduated in 1985. She obtained her degree in business administration at the University of Mississippi in 1989. She started her career in education in 1997 as a teacher's assistant at a charter school, and then a year later she began teaching a class of her own. Humphrey went back to school to get her master's degree in management at Troy State University and graduated in 2004.

As a teacher, she came across one student who would change her life forever. The student would always come into the classroom and sleep. Humphrey inferred that maybe the student just needed to sleep in her class. She never thought to ask the reason why the student slept. One day the student came across her television as part of a breaking news story. Humphrey's student had been murdered due to a trafficking case. After that day, she knew she would always ask students what they were going through if she noticed any signs something could be wrong.

Humphrey has been a librarian since 2011. She always wants to interact with students as much as she can, and her wish is to be able to change lives for the better.

High school history teacher strives to make positive difference

By KETURAH PAYTON
Staff Writer

Tiffany Elzie is in her sixth year teaching at Holly Springs High School. She has been teaching 21 years. Her favorite thing about teaching is making a positive difference.

Elzie, 41, is from Blue Mountain and later moved to Ripley. Her parents are the late Johnny and Minnie Hatch. She is married and has three children, Kelany, 17, Ivy, 14, and Asher, 7. Elzie attended Ripley High School. She then attended two colleges, Northeast Community College and Crichton College. She graduated with a bachelor of arts in general education and a certificate from Teach Mississippi Institute.

She said the reason she started to teach is because, "I know that God called me to teach and reach."

In her free time, Elzie enjoys relaxing and spending time with her children. Something she lives by is a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, "If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."



Tiffany Elzie during homecoming week

Holly High's Terry enjoys practicing and teaching music

By NATHAN LESTER
Staff Writer

Choir has been a part of Holly Springs High School for a very long time. Music teacher Charles Terry now leads the choir.

He has been doing many musical choir performances at events like graduations, pageants, and even performed for elderly citizens at the Holly Springs Library. Terry said he has come a long way with his musical talents.

"I think I have made it to the intermediate level of musicianship, which is where I am comfortable with my instrument of choice, which is the piano," Terry said. "If I had been diligent in my practices when I was younger, there is no doubt I would have surpassed the intermediate level."

"Although I have been practicing music more than 20 years off and on and now teaching it eight years, I wouldn't label myself as advanced/professional because I still struggle with certain technical aspects of music."

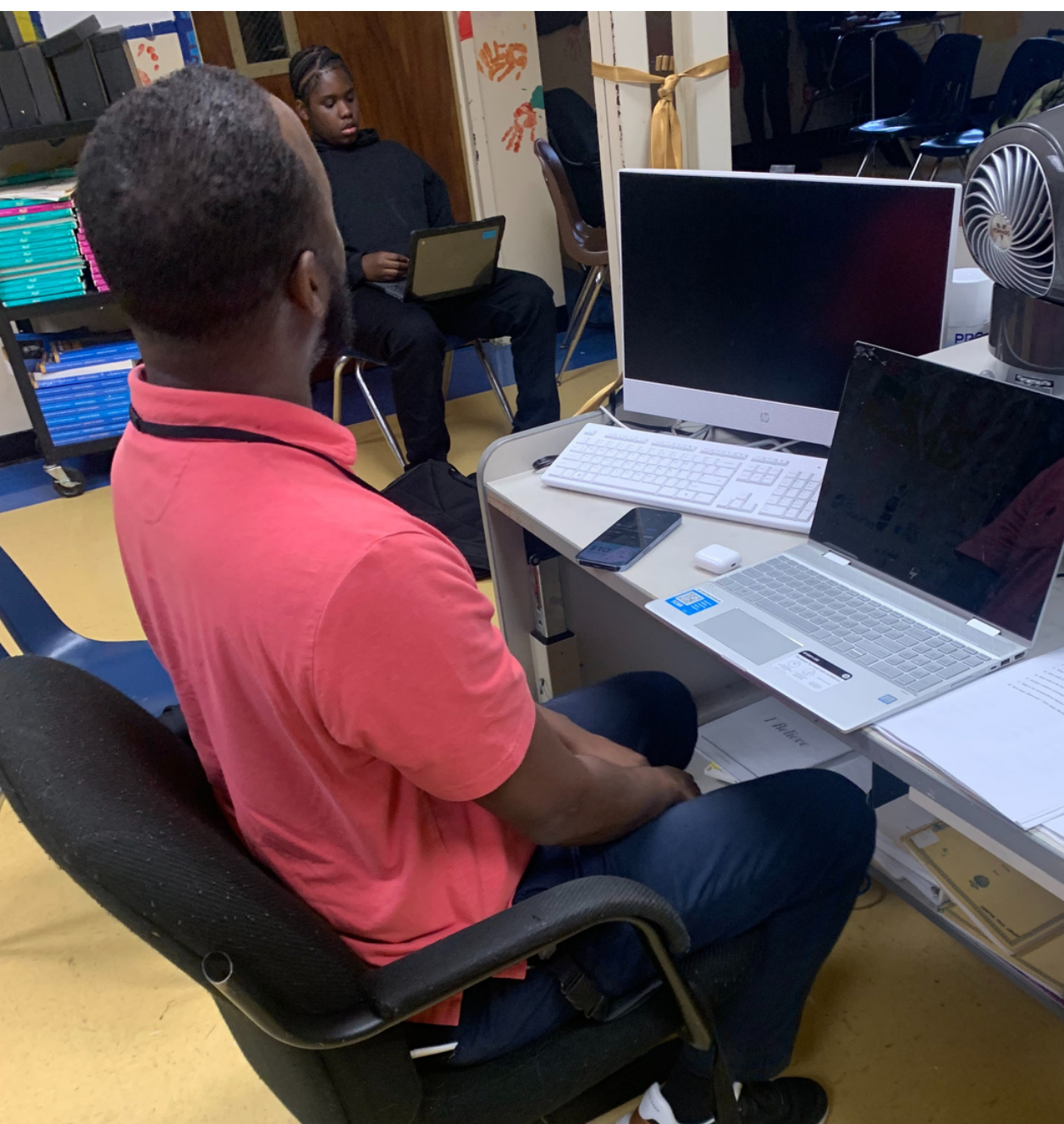
Terry also has a love for gospel music.

"I am a fan of all types of music, but my favorite genres would be classical music, gospel, the spiritual, and R&B," he said.

With every choir director, there has to be some type of genre he or she plays the most. Terry also has a specific genre of music he plays. He said he has been playing classical and spirituals for the longest amount of time.

Terry said he struggles with one song.

"The most difficult song that I have directed to date would probably be Handel's 'Messiah' (Hallelujah Chorus) during a Christmas cantata," he said.



Charles Terry works with his students.

Merry Ol' Christmas

By AERYIEL GLOVER
Staff Writer

Christmas. Dear Ol' Christmas, I love Christmas, but doesn't everyone? Christmas has always been my favorite holiday. Every year I look forward to seeing the decorations, the vanilla-scented candles, cookies, and pajamas. The feeling I get around Christmas time just heals my spirit.

Another thing I like about Christmas time is the weather. I love winter. Winter is my favorite season. I absolutely love making snow angels and seeing the snow stick to the trees. I also like cuddling under my blankets and drinking hot chocolate, while sitting in front of the fireplace.

We can't forget the Christmas movies. I binge watch Christmas movies all the time, especially when I'm missing Christmas time. I watch most Christmas movies on Hallmark or Netflix. Some of my favorite movies that I can watch a million times over again are "Home Alone," "Elf," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and "The Polar Express."

The gift of giving. I love receiving gifts, and I also love giving gifts. I like to see people's reactions to what I gave them. It just makes me happy to see them happy. One of the reasons I love to receive gifts is because it makes me smile to know that someone has thought of me enough to get me a gift. Although I'm not able to get everybody a gift every year, I try my best whenever I can.

My family's Christmas tradition. Every year my family comes to my house to celebrate Christmas. We cook food, play music and games, and open presents. Sometimes we wear matching pajamas. Last year we wore Grinch pajamas. Even some of my family members from Texas come down to visit to celebrate with us. I love spending time with my family and making memories with them.



Aeryiel Glover enjoying family Christmas a few years back



Brandi Davis and Betty Robinzine

Davis named Student of the Month

By TRAVIS WILLIAMSON
Staff Writer

Brandi Davis is the Student of the Month for October 2023.

She is an honor roll student at Holly Springs High School. She has excelled in all classes.

She was picked as Student of the Month by the staff at the school and then honored by the Holly Springs Rotary Club.

She said she pushes herself to do great in life, and she will help any student who needs her.

"It doesn't matter who it is, I will help," Davis said.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

ALUMNI QUESTIONS

By ARRIYEL WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

- 1) What's your name?
- 2) What's your occupation?
- 3) What year did you graduate Holly High?
- 4) Favorite high school memory?



- 1) Derek J. Fountain
- 2) Forward for LSU men's basketball team
- 3) 2020
- 4) When we beat Byhalia my junior year at Holly and the fans flooded the court.

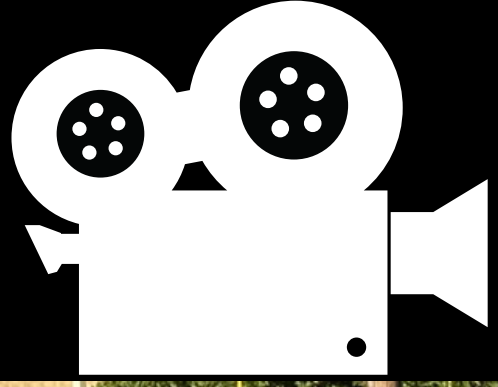
1. My name is Porsha LeSure.
2. I am a graduating senior at the University of Mississippi.
3. I graduated Holly High in 2018.
4. My favorite high school memory was senior skip day. We went to the stadium and had a water balloon fight.



- 1) Latoya Jefferson
- 2) Logistics Planner II
- 3) 2001
- 4) Graduation



#SHOULD'VE BEEN A BAD HAWK



New showing Holly High





HAWK TALK

HOLLY SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

STAFF TEAM



Keturah Payton



Travis Williamson



Ta'kayla Oliver



Aeryiel Glover



Jason Jeffries



Leah Odum



Nathan Lester



Christen Gray

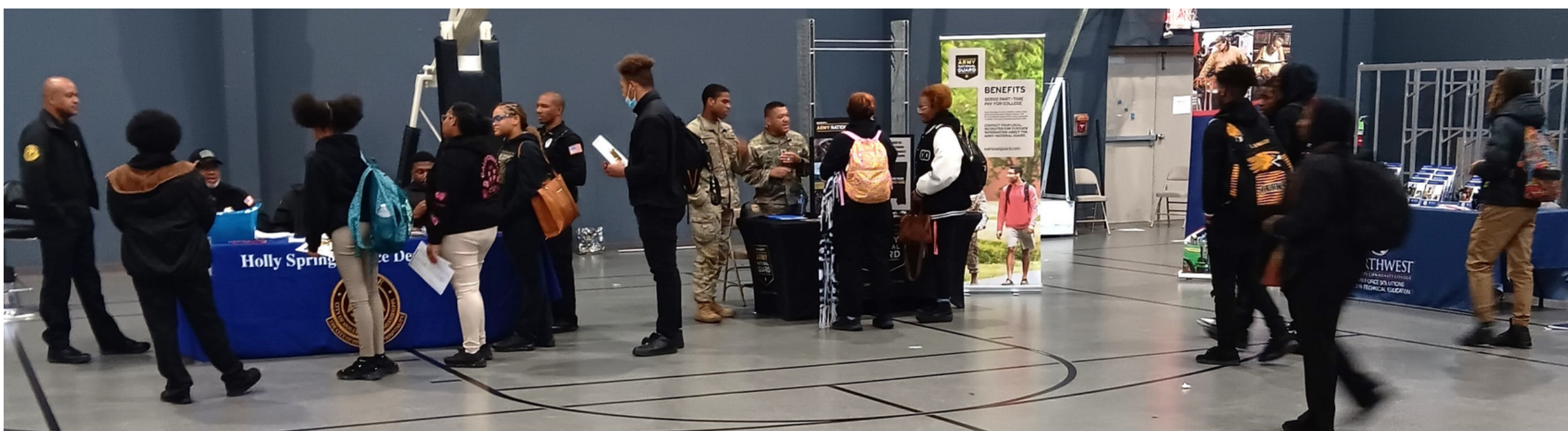


Janett Lunares



Arriyel Williams

O/O 2024 almost out!



College and Career Fair

Holly Springs School District Career and Technical Center held a successful College and Career Fair on October 31, 2023, at the Eddie L. Smith Multi-Purpose Building in Holly Springs.

Next edition of The Hawk coming in April!