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JCJC's Stubbington, Smith receive NJCAA
DI Soccer All-American honors...page 2

Laurel falls to West Point in
5A title game...page 14

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44,602 total circulation
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Local surgeon initiated into American College of Surgeons

Submitted

LaToya Walker, MD, FCOG, FACS, was among 1,823 initiates from around the world who became Fellows of the American College of Surgeons (FACS) during the convocation ceremony at the College's 2016 annual Clinical Congress in Washington, DC, in October. This year's class of initiates was among one of the largest ever admitted into the College.

Dr. Walker received a medical doctorate in 2015 from Ross University School of Medicine and is currently practicing at Family Health Center, located at 117 South 11th Avenue in Laurel. In 2014, Dr. Walker attained board certification from the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Walker has surgical expertise in obstetrics and gynecology, with a strong professional interest in cervical dysplasia and minimal invasive surgery. Dr. Walker holds membership in other professional societies, including American College of

Obstetrics and Gynecology, American College of Surgeons and Association of Women Surgeons. Dr. Walker is a part of the South Central Regional Medical Center medical staff.

By meeting the College's stringent membership requirements, Fellows of the College have earned the distinguished right to use the designation of "FACS" (Fellow, American College of Surgeons) after their names. An applicant for Fellowship must be a graduate of an approved medical school; must have completed advanced training in one of the 14 surgical specialties recognized by the College; must possess certification by an American surgical specialty board or appropriate certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada; and must have been in practice for at least one year at the time of his or her application. Before admission into Fellowship, the surgeon must further demonstrate ethical fitness and professional proficiency, and his or her acceptance as a Fellow of the College must be approved

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The convocation ceremony was the highlight of the five-day Congress at which initiation into ACS Fellowship took

See WALKER, page 2

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Classified Index

Apartments for Rent	9
Attorneys	3
ATVs	11
Autos - Cars	10
Auto Services	10
Autos - SUVs	10
Autos - Trucks	10
Buildings	7
Carports	11
Christmas Trees	3
Commercial	10
Farm	3
Firewood	7
Fish	7
Flea Market	7
Furniture	7
Garage Sales	7
General	3
Handyman	6
Help Wanted	8
Houses for Rent	9
Houses for Sale	9
Insurance	7
Land	3
Lost and Found	7
Massage	6
Medical	6
Mobile Home for Rent	9
Mobile Home Lots	9
Mobile Homes	8
Musical	7
Pets	7
Portable Buildings	7
Produce	6
Services Offered	6
Timber and Lumber	7
Wanted to Buy	7

JCJC's Stubbington, Smith receive NJCAA DI Soccer All-American honors

By Shawn Wansley, JCJC Sports Information

Two Jones County Junior College soccer standouts have been recognized for having outstanding seasons on the pitch. Sophomore forward Kelly Stubbington (London, England) has been named an NJCAA Division I second-team All-American and sophomore forward Mary Kate Smith (South Jones) has been named an NJCAA Division I Honorable Mention All-American.

Stubbington had 24 goals, 17 assists and 65 points, which led the MACJC and Region 23 and ranked 11th in the nation. Stubbington was named a third-team All-American in 2015 and was one of seven players to be named two-time All-Americans.

Smith had 21 goals, 18 assists and 60 points, which was second in the MACJC and Region 23 and ranked 15th nationally. Smith played her freshman season at Southern Miss.

Stubbington and Smith helped head coach Dolores Deasley's Lady Bobcats to a 15-2 record, an MACJC/Region 23 championship and a berth in the NJCAA District H playoffs.

Both players competed last month in the MACJC All-Star Game and each scored two goals as the South won, 5-0. Smith was named the South team's Most Valuable Player.

The complete 2016 All-American team is listed at www.njcaa.org.



Kelly Stubbington



Mary Kate Smith
Photos/Shawn Wansley, JCJC Sports Information

WALKER, continued from page 1

place. The Congress also featured reports on research-in-progress, postgraduate courses, panel discussions, symposia, and scientific and industrial exhibits. Total estimated attendance at the Congress was 11,745, including 8,127 physicians. Allied health professionals and members of the scientific and consumer media also attended the meeting. The American College of Surgeons is a scientific and educational organization of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to raise the standards of surgical practice and to improve the quality of care for the surgical patient. The College is dedicated to the ethical and competent practice of surgery. Its achievements have established it as an important advocate for all surgical patients. The College has more than 80,000 members and is the largest organization of surgeons in the world.

For more information on LaToya Walker, MD, FACOG, FACS, please contact the Family Health Center at 601-425-3033 or visit lfhc.net.

The rut habits of White-tailed deer

By James L. Cummins

White-tailed deer are the most interesting and sought after animals in North America and Mississippi. Depending on where you are located in the Magnolia State, deer usually breed between December 10 and February 4. Does normally breed only once per year; however, they may come into "heat" three to four times a year beginning in December and ending in February. The periods of "heat" last about 24 to 36 hours and occur about 28 days apart. A doe may have from one to three fawns per year, depending on her physical condition; about half the does in Mississippi produce two fawns per year. Does in Mississippi do not breed until they are 1.5 years old. Many people believe that old does do not breed, but they do breed and produce young as long as they live.

Bucks do not come in "heat," but rather enter "rut." Rut consists of sparring, spreading of sign (rubs, scrapes, etc.), courtship and breeding. Sparring begins after bucks lose their velvet. Most bucks are fairly tolerant of each other during sparring. Sparring serves to establish which bucks in an area are dominant. Body and antler size are good indicators of a buck's social dominance. Bucks communicate with other deer during rut through various visual and scent signals. "Rubs" are trunks or stems of trees or bushes that bucks rub bark off of with their antlers and head. Glands in the head leave scent on the rub. "Scrapes" consist of broken limbs three to six feet above ground, with a small depression pawed in the soil underneath on which the buck urinates. Bucks return often to scrapes to freshen their scent. A buck often locates the scent of a doe in "heat" near a scrape and will follow her with his nose to the ground while making a grunting sound. Bucks will also urinate on their inner leg glands to signal other deer. Rubs, scrapes and urinating on the tarsal glands all serve to assert a buck's social dominance and to locate does.

During courtship, bucks become loners. Also, during courtship, tolerance among bucks disappears and fierce fights between bucks occur. Unless a doe is in "heat," she will run from a buck. Although all bucks court, only dominant bucks breed with does. Peak fawning times in Mississippi occur between June 22 and July 22. Fawns remain hidden near their birthplace for roughly two weeks, but by the time the fawn is 1-month-old it will begin to follow its mother. Fawns will nurse until they are three to five months.

Bucks take no part in raising the fawns. A fawn will lose its spotted coat at four months. Male fawns follow their mother for about one year; female fawns follow for about two years. Deer in Mississippi feed mostly during the late afternoon and night. Generally, they spend the day bedded down in cover resting. An adult deer requires about 8 to 10 pounds of food per day, and about two to three quarts of water per day (depending on the type of food eaten).

James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, restore and enhance fish, wildlife and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their website is www.wildlifemiss.org.

Ellisville Christmas Tree Lighting



The Ellisville First Baptist Church Children's Choir, under the direction of Jane Delk and Wanda Saul, sang Christmas carols prior to the lighting of the tree.

Photos/Linda Cranford



Above, Newly elected 89th District State Representative Donnie Scoggins counted down the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Community Bank Park in Ellisville.



Attending the tree lighting is the Gardner/Wooten family (Left of Santa) - Smith Gardner with Lauren Gardner and Rylee Gardner; (Right of Santa) - Cathy Wooten with Sydney Wooten, Amy Wooten with Bryce Wooten (baby) and Tyler Wooten.

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contact us at 214-236-6106 or usm.disability.study@gmail.com

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A Shepherd's Heart – Be it unto me

By Dr. Timothy L. Hubbard

“Be it unto me according to Your Word.” – Luke 1:38

In Luke's narrative of the Christmas story, we are given the account of the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary and informing her that she has been chosen by God to be the mother of His only begotten Son. As we read this narrative, found in Luke 1:26-38, we cannot help but ask the question, “How would I respond to a message like that?” Mary, a young teen-aged girl, was engaged to Joseph and they were certainly anxiously waiting for the engagement period to end and the marriage to be consummated. In the meantime, Gabriel, a messenger from the God, appeared to Mary with some shocking news.



This news was so shocking that it left Mary fearful, confused and in a state of amazement. It is interesting to note that Gabriel was fully aware of Mary's reaction to his news, and he was able to soothe her fears and encourage her by letting her know that she had been chosen by God so there was no need to be fearful. That reminds me of a pastor friend who I hear say quite often, “If God calls you to it, He will carry you through it.” Certainly this was the case as Gabriel continued his conversation with Mary. Gabriel gives her all the details of God's plan for her to conceive and bear a Son who will be named Jesus. Mary's first response was, “How can this be since I am a virgin?” This question was given a response by Gabriel that described how God would miraculously cause her conception of this child who would be called the Son of God.

To further answer her question, Gabriel told her of Elizabeth's pregnancy in her old age and reminded Mary that nothing is impossible with God. This response to her question must have been all she needed to hear to completely surrender to God's Will for her life. We see the evidence of this reality in the following statement, “Be it unto me according to your Word.” When I read that statement made by Mary, I cannot help but think ahead in time to when the Child she would bear would be kneeling in a garden with a few of his disciples on the night of His arrest, praying these words, “Not my will, but Yours be done!” The mother of Jesus was praying the same prayer of surrender to the will of the Father in her life. Simply Amazing!

This leads me to ask the following question, “Am I willing to make the prayer of Mary, and that of Jesus, my prayer of commitment to the Father?” Oh how I pray that my life would be lived in that same type of faith and trust in the truth of God's Word. That I could actually proclaim boldly to God, “Be it unto me according to Your Word!” As we have opportunity this Christmas season to reflect on the narrative of the Christmas story, I pray that we will come to the realization that we too can surrender our will over to God's will. Would you join me in proclaiming the words of Mary from this day forward?

For Local News & Sports every day, visit our web site: **Impact601.com**

December 7
Wayne County 4-H and other local agencies are again partnering to provide toys for Christmas to needy children in Wayne County and food boxes to their families. Toys and food may be dropped off at Wayne County Extension Office by December 9. They will be distributed December 14 at the MSU Extension Service, Wayne County.

Shady Grove MB Church invites you to come to Bible Study on Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. The theme is “Moving Members from Membership to Discipleship.” Rev. George Duckworth, pastor, 601-787-4858.

December 8
Pendorff Community Association: Members and prospective members will meet Thursday, December 8 at 6 p.m. at the house of Edward Allegretti, 5447 Highway 11 N. in Pendorff. Officers for 2017 will be elected and an update from our attorney in reference to possible annexation will be given. Please bring “finger food” to share. For more information call 601 422 0987.

Victorian Christmas Tea – Come and enjoy “High Tea” at the YWCO on Thursday from 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., served in three courses. A seasonal favorite event perfect for holiday stress relief or as a gift for a dear friend. Space is limited. Adult ladies only. Reservations are required. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Call the Y for reservations. 601-428-5694.

December 9
Highland Baptist Church in Laurel invites you to Christmas in the Highland's 2016 on December 9th, 10th and 11th. Join our family for a night of worship as we gather for Home for Christmas and celebrate our Savior's birth. Our free performances are in Highland's Activities Center on Friday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 10th at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. For free tickets and information please contact 601-428-8493. You can also reserve seating at highlandchurch.net. All seating is reserved seating so call or come by soon.

Wayne Co. 4-H and other local agencies are again partnering to provide toys for Christmas to needy children in Wayne County and food boxes to their families. Toys and food may be dropped off at Wayne County Extension Office by Friday, December 9. They will be distributed on Wednesday, December 14 at the MS State University Extension Service, Wayne County. Call 601-735-2243 to find out how you can help or volunteer.

December 10
Springhill MBC, 1403 Dubose Street, Ellisville, cordially invite you to attend the ordination services of Rev. Frank Marsh at 6:00 p.m. You are also invited to our church's annual Christmas program Wednesday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m.

December 13
The DMA (Don't Mention Age) group will be having their Christmas party at 11:00 a.m. at the YWCO. Please bring a gift to exchange and treats to eat. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. For more information call the Y at 601-428-5694 or Gladys at 601-422-5961.

December 16
The Wayne County Mississippi Homemakers Volunteers Lunch & Learn Club is meeting Friday at noon. After the business meeting, attendees will participate in an ornament work shop. Lunch & Learn MHV Club invites any interested adult to bring your brown bag lunch and join in their meeting.

Membership dues are \$6 per year. Call Lanette Crocker at 601-735-2243 or email l.crocker@msstate.edu for more information.

December 17
Donate blood December 1-17 and you will receive a “Pay it Forward” long-sleeve T-shirt, while supplies last. Laurel residents can donate at one of the following mobile blood drives: Wednesday, December 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at South Central Wellness Center, 23 Mason Street; Thursday, December 8 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at South Central Regional Medical Center, conference rooms; Tuesday, December 14 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Cameron Center, 711 N 10th Avenue in Laurel.

December 18
The Community Center MB Church of Louin, invites you to our church anniversary which will be held December 18 at 2:00 p.m. The speaker for the occasion will be Rev. Harley Ray Milsap, pastor of Jerusalem MBC, Louin.

December 22
Voices of Mobile, from the University of Mobile, will present their final concert on their Christmas tour at Highland Baptist Church in Laurel on Thursday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for a night of worship and celebration. Admission is free but a love offering will be taken. Doors open at 6:00.

February 18
The Jasper County Adult Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Bay Springs & Vicinity will host our 15th Annual Beauty & Beau Pageant Saturday, February 18, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. The pageant will be held at the Jones County Junior College Building on Highway 15 North of Bay Springs. If you would like to participate in this pageant please contact the following committee members: President Linda Ellis Brown @ (601) 789-5058, Chair Phyllis Norris @ (601) 789-5471, Co-Chair Addie Burks Gammage @ (601) 789-5564 or Dyann Mizell @ (601) 729-8231. More information will be made available later.

Miscellaneous
On the last Tuesday of each month, Covington County Hospital hosts a cancer support group at 5:30 p.m. in the hospital's classroom. For more information, or call 601-765-6711.

Al-Anon meetings are held each Monday night at 7:00 at the 24-hour Society Club House at 626 N. Magnolia Street (corner of 7th Street, Laurel). Al-Anon is for families and friends for those who have addiction problems. Al-Anon hotline is 601-426-4688.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every week on Thursday, 9:15 a.m., in the Magnolia Baptist Church fellowship hall, 1040 Wansley Road in Laurel. For more information, call or text 601-323-0830 or 601-319-6931.

New Creation Apostolic Church, 204 Ford Street, Taylorsville, invites everyone to join us for Sunday school at 10:00 a.m. and morning worship at 11:30 a.m. We also have a prayer service on Tuesdays and Bible study on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. The pastor is Rev. Elder Bolton.

Brenda Cassman's Ladies Night Out Ministry will be held on the second Thursday of every month from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. with food and fellowship beginning at 6:30 p.m. The location is 7 Orange Drive, Tuckers Crossing Community Center, Laurel. Information: 601-344-8110 or 601-580-1302.

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Jones County +/- 57 Acres: Must see! Located in South Jones County on Rainey Road. 10 Miles from Hattiesburg and Laurel right off the Sanford Road Exit on I-59. This property would be perfect for a home-site or mini-farm with plenty of recreational opportunities. Price: \$153,500. For more details, Contact Marc 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties, LLC.. Or visit our website walleyproperties.com for maps and more information of this listing.

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Continued on ... Page 6

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Moving sale, Dec. 7-11, 8-4, antique bedroom furniture, refrigerator, freezer, china cabinet, clothes, lots more. 534 CR 102, Bay Springs, 336-817-8940. All must go.

Rummage house, 3160 Ellisville Blvd., Laurel. Clothes all sizes, shoes, odds & ends, appliances, furniture. 601-433-9856. Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat. 7-2.

Big Sale: Unique rummage 51 Orange Drive, off Hwy 15S, first two Saturday's in December.

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Tyler Moore may be headed to Marlins

By Dale McKee



We finally have a Final Four in college football. Number one Alabama will meet No. 4 Washington in the Peach Bowl, while No. 2 Ohio State will play No. 3 Clemson in the Fiesta Bowl. Both games will be played on December 31. Penn State (11-2), who won the Big 10 championship and beat Ohio State in the regular season, may have a case for being left out. But, in the end, the playoff committee picked four worthy teams. Former USM football coach Jeff Bower is a member of the 13-person committee.

The Magnolia State had two teams selected for post-season play. Mississippi State (5-7) will play in a school record seventh straight bowl. The Bulldogs will play Miami (Ohio) in the St. Petersburg Bowl, on Monday, December 26. The Bulldogs slipped into a bowl despite a losing record because of their outstanding NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR), which was 971. USM (6-6) will play Louisiana-Lafayette in the New Orleans Bowl on December 17. USM will go bowling for the second straight year and 12th time in the last 15 years.

North Dominates at MHSAA

The MHSAA wrapped up the 2016 football season in Starkville last Saturday night on the campus of Mississippi State. The northern teams dominated the results, winning five of the six classes. Kemper County won their first state championship as they claimed the 3-A title for the south, edging Charleston 12-8. West Point won their eighth state title, 29-8, over Laurel. Lafayette won over Poplarville, 27-12, in the 4-A title game while Calhoun City won the 2-A title over Bay Springs, 22-8. In the 1-A match-up, Simmons took the trophy with a 30-26 win over Lumberton. In the 6-A contest, Clinton won their first state title with a 49-35 win over Pearl as Mississippi's arguably best player, Cam Akers, scored seven times.

The 30th MS/AL All-Star football game will be played in Montgomery this Saturday at high noon. The game will be televised on WDAM and throughout the state on the Raycom network. Last year, the Mississippi All-Stars hosted the game for the first time and came out a 28-21 winner at USM. Wayne County head coach Todd Mangum will lead the Mississippi All-Stars.

Tiger & Peyton News

Tiger Woods finally finished a golf tournament. Woods played in the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas last week. Woods placed 15th as he finished his first golf tournament in 16 months.

Peyton Manning has apparently been offered a membership to the Augusta National Golf Club, home of the Masters. Manning carries a 4.4 USGA handicap index. Peyton might have his eyes on the Senior Tour of the PGA.

Saints & Cowboys News

The Saints (5-7) are in danger of not making the playoffs. The Saints' offense could muster only one TD in a 28-13 Sunday loss to the Detroit Lions. Drew Brees was held without a passing TD for the first time in 60 home games against the stingy Lions defense. The Saints will travel to Tampa Bay (7-5) this week.

The Dallas Cowboys (11-1) are the first NFL team to clinch a playoff spot. The Cowboys, led by the rookie tandem of Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott, have won 11 straight games entering this Sunday night's contest against Eli Manning and the New York Giants (8-4).

Moore to Miami

Tyler Moore, who played for the Atlanta Braves Triple AAA team last summer after being traded by the Washington Nationals last March, is expected to sign with the Miami Marlins before the week is out. Moore, who is a Jones County native, played at Meridian CC and Mississippi State.

Contact Dale at ddmckee18@yahoo.com

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WJHS AP Government class attends Youth Leadership Summit



West Jones High School juniors and seniors were privileged to attend the Palazzo Youth Leadership Summit on October 27 at Gulf Coast Community College. Students heard speeches on how to improve their leadership skills and also attended a college fair afterwards. Speakers included Sgt. Major Ronald Green, a veteran Marine of the Iraq War, 2016 Miss Mississippi Laura Lee Lewis, and Representative Steven Palazzo, who, along with his staff, sponsors and organizes the conference annually. Pictured back l-r: Jesus Trujillo, A. P. government teacher Randy Cooley, Mackenzie Chamblee, Nicholas Sumrall, Isaiah Harper, Emily Graves, Claudia Chambliss, Madilyn Poolson. Front l-r: Sara Brownlee, Will Bridges, Representative Steven Palazzo and India Jones. Photo/submitted

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Cattle producers come together, push back against market crash

By David Barron

When you visit the grocery store and shop for meat to feed your family, you are likely unaware of the market dynamics that affect the prices you pay at the register. But America's beef producers are painfully aware of those market dynamics and have been feeling the effects of them within their fields and pastures across this nation.

Just recently, the Organization for Competitive Markets, a farmer oriented political action group, met in Bay Springs at the Jones County Junior College Jasper County Center to discuss the falling beef prices and its impact upon the farming industry in the U.S. When you pay nearly \$4 a pound for ground beef, you are likely thinking that the guys and gals who work to produce that beef are making a fortune. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. According to Fred Stokes, director of OCM, calf prices are one half of what they were, even a year ago.

"Its as if someone rode into your herd and stole half your cows," Stokes said.

So, if the local farmers and beef producers are not realizing the profits to be made from the continued rise of beef prices at the grocer, who is getting all the money? According to Stokes, the bulk of the money is being collected and summarily spent by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Stokes says upon auditing the association, it became apparent that according to a limited survey by the Clifton Gunderson accounting firm in a 2010 audit, it appears \$200,000 of improper expenditures were made with the probability that millions of dollars were misappropriated by the board with no accountability as to where it went. Stokes says the misappropriations are important to cattle producers across the country because all of the money received by NCBA comes from a beef tax known as, 'the check off,' program. Under the "check off" program, the NCBA mandates that beef producers who sale their cows into the U.S. marketplace must pay \$1 a head to the NCBA each time any particular animal is sold. Stokes says the result of an investigation requested by OCM into the handling of the funds was finally revealed in 2012; that report exonerated NCBA of all misdeeds involved with the handling of the "check off" money. Stokes said that report was obviously flawed, and OCM launched a lawsuit in 2013 against NCBA to finally get to the bottom of what happened to the "check off" funds cattlemen have been paying for years. The lawsuit was enjoined by the Humane Society, which is providing the attorneys and legal funds for the suit.

"You may think the Humane Society is a strange organization to be involved with farmers who produce animal products, but the Society knows and understands that U.S. farmers give the best care to their animals than anyone in the world," Stokes said. "The Humane Society has been and continues to be an invaluable asset to the effort we are now involved in."

But aside from the issue of NCBA and its alleged mishandling of funds from the check off program, other matters of interest were addressed at the meeting. Stokes said one other matter U.S. cattle producers face, as relates to profit margins on the farm, is the repeal of a law that mandated beef and pork producers to put "country of origin labels" on all beef, pork and chicken products sold in the U.S. The law, called COOL, was originally passed in 2013 as a consumer information effort that would allow the

public knowledge of where beef, pork, and chicken that makes it to the dining room table, is actually grown and produced. The law met stiff competition from foreign producers and packers, represented by the World Trade Organization, saying it unjustly gave the U.S. producers an advantage as consumers, given the choice, would choose U.S. produced commodities as opposed to those produced outside the U.S. In response to the law, and led by the WTO, both Canada and Mexico threatened retaliatory tariff measures that would amount to \$3.6 billion dollars, greatly engorging the whopping trade deficit the U.S. already had incurred. The fear of such a tariff inspired Congressional legislators to declare the COOL law a failure and thus the repeal it in June of 2015. Since the repeal of COOL, U.S. cattle, pork and beef profits on livestock produced here in the U.S. has plummeted. Mike Callicrate, an OCM director and cattle producer from Colorado Springs, CO, told the gathering the mission of OCM had to be the reclamation of a competitive market in all the farming sectors within the U.S.

"Never has so much money been spent (by consumers) on food with so little of it coming back to the farmers," Callicrate

told the audience. "Every month, one thousand farmers and ranchers go out of business.

In 2014, according to Callicrate, the move to repeal COOL was an overt move to increase imports of cheaper commodities. That 2015 repeal of COOL has led to the consumer not knowing where their food is coming from and has created an unfair market place for U.S. producers that is putting farmers and ranchers out of business. While all of us would like to see better prices at the grocery store, the consumer has not seen a reduction in meat prices since the repeal of COOL. In fact, if anything, meat prices have increased and are continuing to increase at the grocer.

According to Callicrate and Stokes, the cheaper foreign commodities coupled with the increased cost of meat products at the grocery store, has inflated the pockets of large corporations that have taken over the beef, pork, and chicken markets in the U.S.

"I truly think that if the people of this country knew that there is no way for them to know where the meat and produce items that they put on their tables comes from, there would be a uproar." Stokes said. "That is what the repeal of 'COOL' has done."

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BABLIS

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Six basketball Bobcats sign Division I scholarships

By Shawn Wansley
JCJC Sports Information Director

Six Jones County Junior College basketball players are headed to the next level. Four Lady Bobcats and two JCJC men's players inked Division I scholarships during the early signing period. The women's players moving up are Hanah Lott (Petal) and Kyle Felton (Lithonia, Georgia) to Southern Miss, Tatyana Lofton (Madison-Ridgeland Academy) to Tulane and Juliet Esadah (Warri, Nigeria) to North Carolina-Asheville. On the men's side, Rickey Holden (Laurel) will be at Cal State-Bakersfield and Maurice Dunlap (Amanda Elzy) is going to Jacksonville State.

Lott is a 5-foot-8 sophomore guard who averaged 11.1 points, 3.4 assists, 3.1 rebounds and 1.7 steals per game last year. She made 67 percent of her free throws and was an All-MACJC Honorable Mention selection as a freshman.

"I chose Southern Miss because I'm very family oriented and it will be an opportunity to have my family in the stands at every home game and that means a lot to me," she said. "My career at Jones has been great. I'm looking forward to playing with my teammates the rest of the season and going as far as we can."

JCJC women's head coach Missy Bilderback said Lott would be a good addition at Southern Miss. "I am excited for Hanah to have an opportunity to play close to home and at Southern Miss," she said. "Hanah is a tough, hard-nosed player that has great leadership abilities. With her work ethic and ability to shoot the basketball, I expect her to impact their program right away."

Felton is a 6-foot-3 sophomore center who transferred to JCJC from Southeastern Louisiana. She prepped at Columbia

High School in Lithonia, Georgia. "Southern Miss is like a home away from home and I'm very excited to extend my career there," she said. "But I am looking forward to the rest of this season at Jones."

Bilderback is pleased two of her Lady Bobcats will be able to continue as teammates with the Lady Eagles. "Kyle is such a strong and physical presence in the post," she said. "I think this is a great fit for both Kyle and Southern Miss. I am happy Kyle has found a home with a great program and great people at Southern Miss. We are thrilled that she and Hanah will have an opportunity to play together."

Lofton is a 5-foot-8 sophomore guard who averaged 16.0 points per game as a freshman. She also averaged 4.2 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 1.0 steal per game. She shot 74 percent from the free throw line and was an All-Region 23 player last year. "I wanted to attend a university that shares the same beliefs and values as I do and that's faith, family and a love basketball," she said. "It's been a great career at JCJC and there is more to come. We have a great opportunity to finish strong this year."

Bilderback said Tulane provides Lofton with an excellent way to continue her playing career. "Tulane is a perfect fit for Tat," she said. "The combination of their system, culture, and also their academic prestige fit her perfectly. Tat has been such a great scorer here at Jones and I expect her to step in and be able to do the same at Tulane. She is very deserving to have this opportunity and Tulane is lucky to get a great player."

Esadah is a 6-foot-1 freshman forward who prepped at Hamilton Heights Christian Academy in Chattanooga, Tennessee, last year. "UNCA is close to home and there is lots of love there," she said. "I feel



Six Jones County Junior College basketball players are headed to NCAA Division I schools. Pictured during a Signing Party in the McClellan Hall Media Room on Tuesday are, from left, Hanah Lott (Southern Miss), Juliet Esadah (North Carolina-Asheville), Tatyana Lofton (Tulane), Kyle Felton (Southern Miss), Maurice Dunlap (Jacksonville State) and Rickey Holden (Cal State-Bakersfield). Photo/submitted

very appreciative of what JCJC has meant to me so far."

Bilderback said Esadah will make a positive impact at UNCA. "Juliet has been a blessing to our program in such a short time," she said. "We are expecting great things this season, but I think her best basketball is ahead of her. UNCA is a great place for Juliet. The location, coaches, and program is perfect for her."

Overall, Bilderback said these four players epitomize Lady Bobcat basketball. "We are excited and thankful to announce the signing of four of our student-athletes," she said. "They have all worked very hard for this opportunity. We are glad that Jones could be a part in helping them achieve their individual goals of playing at the next level. We are looking forward to this season and thankful for the impact that all of these young ladies have daily on our program."

Holden is currently playing for a former Ole Miss basketball standout Rahim Lockhart. At Cal State-Bakersfield, he will have the opportunity to play for former Ole Miss standout player and head coach Rod Barnes. "Cal State is a perfect fit for me," Holden said. "Coach Lockhart has taught me a lot and he and Coach Barnes have similar values. It's been wonderful at JCJC playing for a guy like Coach Lockhart and I expect more the rest of the season."

Holden is a 5-foot-11 sophomore guard who averaged 12.6 points, 4.0 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 2.0 steals per game as a freshman.

"I think a lot of Rickey Holden as a person," Lockhart said. "Rickey is a Division I basketball player, first and foremost. You have to put kids in position where they can go and continue their career and I felt like during the recruitment process, he talked to so many different people, you just don't know what their intentions are."

"But what Coach Barnes wanted and with Rickey liking Coach Barnes, it was a really good situation. I encouraged Rick-

ey to go out there and check it out and he liked it. He and Coach Barnes had a good bond and at the end of the day, he felt comfortable there. I know he will be able to play and I know, without a doubt, that Coach Barnes will make sure he gets his bachelor's degree."

Dunlap is a 6-foot-3 sophomore guard from Greenwood. He averaged 11.1 points per game last year after transferring to JCJC from Mississippi State. "Jacksonville State felt like a home away from home and it fits my style of play as far as getting up and down the court," he said. "It's been great at Jones and I want to have a gold ball with my team at the end of the year."

Lockhart said it is a good opportunity for Dunlap to play in the Ohio Valley Conference under coach Ray Harper. "Jacksonville State has a point guard right now that's similar to Maurice and he will be graduating," Lockhart said. "So, it's another situation where the time is right. I've known Coach Harper for quite a while and have heard a lot of good things about him. The Ohio Valley is a really nice conference and (former Bobcat) Bryce Jones is there right now (Murray State)."

"I try to get my guys to understand it's tough to go from high school to DI, but when you go from juco to DI, you've got to be ready to produce. They want you to produce quickly. Both coaches and both programs needed our guys and they were their number one guys to sign."

Several other members of both Bobcat basketball teams are expected to sign during the spring signing period in April. "Some of our other guys had the opportunity to sign early, but they weren't just ready," Lockhart said. "Rickey and Maurice are two of our more mature players and had an idea of what they wanted to do. The other guys are going to take their time and see what is the best fit for them."

The first game after the holiday for JCJC is Dec. 1 at Coahoma.

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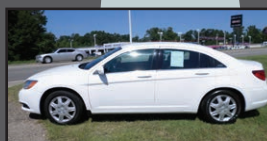
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