

DIXIE®DRAWL

PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

101 U.S. HIGHWAY 11 NORTH

POPLARVILLE, MS 39470

DECEMBER, 2005

PRCC Wildcats 'Three-Peat'

Oliver, 'Cats bag third straight MACJC crown, 18th overall

POPLARVILLE - In a very real way, the state championship football game on Saturday, Nov. 19, at May Stadium in Perkinston between Pearl River and Mississippi Gulf Coast, was the Wildcats' bowl game, a last chance for the Wildcats to tell the NJCAA voters how good they are.

It was also revenge, for their only loss of the season, right here in this stadium, where they had to watch their archrival celebrate a 55-47 win on the night of Oct. 20.

Pearl River coach Tim Hatten said heading into this game that he felt his players would be as ready to play as they had been for any game in their lives.

And it was a slobber-knocker of an affair, with 17 flags thrown and numerous confrontations between

players, including a shouting match at game's end.

Final score: Pearl River 25, Gulf Coast 19.

"There's a reason these guys are our rivals," Hatten, a former PRCC player, said of the two schools located some 25 miles apart.

Pearl River grabbed the lead early in the second quarter and never lost its grip.

"I knew we'd get it," said PRCC sophomore quarterback Jimmy Oliver.

Oliver was a big reason they did. Looking for all the world like a smaller version of Steve

McNair, the 6-foot, 180-pound former East Marion star went 26-for-39 for 354 yards and two touchdowns and also ran for two scores. "He's just a great player," said

Gulf Coast coach Steve Campbell.

Gulf Coast often rushed only three and dropped eight into coverage against PRCC's five-wide offense. Oliver was hardly fazed.

"Sending three after me," he said, "they can't contain me."

"With Jimmy, you sort of pick your poison," Hatten said.

Two other factors loomed large in the Wildcats' win: They did not turn the ball over and they limited state rushing champion Dantrell Savage to 33 yards on 12 carries.

"We knew that if we played mistake-free, we had a pretty good chance to win," Hatten said.

The Wildcats finished No. 3 in the final 2005 NJCAA poll, the third straight year PRCC has finished in the top 5. In 2004, PRCC finished No. 1. In 2003, PRCC finished

ished tied for No. 4.

Oliver was named to the first team of the NJCAA All-America football team. He was the only Wildcat to make the first team. Defensive lineman Frank Harry was honorable mention.

Oliver, Harry, wide receiver Larry Freeman, defensive back Shalamar Walker and offensive lineman Ryan Sefton were named to the All-Region 23 first team.

Early signing period for junior college football players is Monday, Dec. 19. Hatten said the Wildcats could have as many as 20 players to sign this month. As many as 10 could sign with Division I universities.

See additional photo coverage of State Championship game on Pages 8-9.

CURRENTS

Brief, But Important
News Items of Interest

Lamar County honors Hill for service after Katrina

Dr. Kyle Hill, Director of the Spirit of the River marching band, recently was honored by the Lamar County Republican Party for going above the call of duty in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Hill, who lives in Oak Grove and serves on the Lamar County School Board, serves as fire chief of the Northeast Lamar Volunteer Fire Department. He received the Volunteer Firefighter of the Year award.

Lamar County school superintendent Glenn Swan sang Hill's praises. "I was on the radio after Hurricane Katrina and probably more than any other voice, I heard Dr. Hill helping people."

Hill, in his 14th year at PRCC, was one of five residents awarded. Rep. Joey Fillingane, R-Sumrall, said this year's ceremony provided an opportunity for the county to award citizens for not only being extraordinary in what they do, but also doing it in extraordinary circumstances.

"Almost all of these categories can be tied to things they had to do in addition to their job because of Katrina," he said.



MLT program re-accredited; GED classes; band marches

The Medical Laboratory Technology department at the Forrest County Center was recently accredited by National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). "We received the maximum accredited term of seven years on Sept. 30, 2005, and our accreditation will continue until Oct. 31, 2012," said Evelyn Wallace, Program Director. The MLT Department did not receive any deficiencies.

Lynn Pitts joins the MLT department as education coordinator in January. She replaces Terra Cox. Pitts has her masters from USM and served 12 years at Hattiesburg Clinic as a generalist and assistant laboratory manager.

PRCC offers free Adult Education GED classes in Picayune, Poplarville, Hattiesburg and Columbia. Both day and night classes are offered. Registration is scheduled for 9 a.m. Jan. 2 for Hancock County at the PRCC trailer located in front of the Hancock Center on Highway 90. For information concerning all sites, call 601-554-5551.

The Spirit of the River marching band recently had a busy weekend. The band marched in the Poplarville Christmas parade on a Friday night and turned around and marched in Christmas parades at Purvis and Sumrall the next day.

Pearl River Community College's Woodall Advanced Technology Center is offering Emergency Medical Technician classes later this year.

All three classes will begin Monday, Feb. 6. The classes will meet on Monday and Thursday nights from 6-10 p.m. Enrollment in each class is limited. Applications are now available for the class. Application deadline: Monday, Jan. 30, 2006.

Hattiesburg classes will be held in the Woodall Advanced Technology Center, located in the Hattiesburg-Forrest County Industrial Park. For more information, contact Lee Bell, PRCC Workforce Training Project Manager, at (601) 554-4647.

Registration dates are set for Spring 2006 semester

POPLARVILLE - Orientation and registration for new students attending PRCC during the 2006 spring semester will be held Jan. 5-6 on the Poplarville campus.

All students who have not attended PRCC must attend the orientation at 8:30 a.m. either day. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Students who will attend the Forrest County Center in Hattiesburg will register from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 3-4, in the multi-purpose building.

Hancock County registration is 2-6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 2. Day and night classes begin Monday, Jan. 9. The spring semester ends May 12.

For information or a complete schedule of classes check out the PRCC website at www.prc.edu or phone 601-403-1214.

Dorms close Monday, Dec. 19 for Christmas Holidays

All Pearl River Community College dormitories will close at 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19, for the 2005 Christmas holidays. If you plan to return in January for the 2006 spring semester, clean up your room, empty trash, close windows, turn off lights and all other electrical appliances, and lock doors.

If you do not plan to live in a dorm for the spring semester, you must move out, clean up your room, turn in your key, and bring a check-out slip to Dr. Adam Breerwood, dean of student services.

For information, contact Breerwood's office at 403-1132.

PRCC students dies in auto wreck on Miss. 13

Holly A. Fairley, a 19-year-old student at Pearl River Community College, died Nov. 19 in a two-vehicle traffic accident on Mississippi 13 in the Carnes community.

According to Forrest County Coroner Butch Benedict, Fairley died after her car collided with a tractor-trailer rig late Saturday afternoon west of Carnes Road.

Services were held Tuesday, Nov. 22 at White Funeral Home in Poplarville. Fairley was a graduate of Poplarville High School where she played softball and was on the dance team, and a member of First Baptist Church of Poplarville. Survivors include her parents, Otis Fairley and Babs Fairley of Poplarville.



A happy band of Pearl River Community College football players celebrate another MACJC State Championship. Photo by Mitch Deaver.

Damage estimates around \$50 million

POPLARVILLE - The affects of Hurricane Katrina continue to be present at Pearl River Community College even though the storm passed through Pearl River County back on Monday, Aug. 29.

Damage estimates have now risen to more than \$50 million.

"The cleanup immediately after the storm went smoothly and quickly, and most of our buildings are back functioning," said PRCC President William Lewis.

"However, the settlement and agreement with the insurance company on the extent of damages has gone much slower, mainly because of the number of buildings that suffered damage. As of last week, the insurance adjusters have

been on campus on a daily basis.

"Hopefully, in the next few weeks, we will have a final agreement on the damage assessments."

As many as three to six buildings on campus may have to be replaced.

M.R. White Coliseum, home of the basketball Wildcats, was severely damaged. "We are 99 percent sure the coliseum will have to be rebuilt," said Lewis. "The engineers report says only the metal structure is usable and it exceeds the 50 percent threshold."

Moody Hall auditorium was demolished, Lamar and Marion residence halls had major damage and the vehicle maintenance shop was

destroyed. Historic Huff Hall, a resident hall built in 1919, also suffered damage to some rooms.

As many as 22 buildings still have roof damage. Blue tarps are already beginning to show signs of wear as they wave with the wind.

"Temporary roofs are still on some buildings," said Dr. Lewis. "We are receiving quotes on buildings with major roof damage. We hope to start some of those repairs soon."

Repair costs could present another set of problems. Bids for a new roof on Seal Hall, which houses classrooms and offices for faculty, recently came in too high. "We are looking at another concept now, something that we can af-

ford," said Lewis.

Meanwhile, work is expected to begin soon on those damaged rooms in Marion and Huff halls, so they will be useable for the spring semester.

"Our resident students have been very patient with us," said Lewis. "We have had safety evaluations done, so our plan is to have those dorm rooms ready for next semester."

Some 800 of the school's 4,300 students before the storm have since dropped out, resulting in lost tuition and state funding, which is based on enrollment counts, although more than 200 students have signed up for on-line mini-semester courses that run from through Dec. 16.

See DAMAGES, page 11

PRCC receives \$750,000 from Bush, Clinton fund

NEW ORLEANS - Former presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, who have raised about \$110 million for Hurricane Katrina victims, recently announced \$90 million worth of grants, including \$30 million for higher education institutions along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Pearl River Community College is included among those institutions and will receive a \$750,000 grant.

"This gift as a timely surprise for us," said PRCC President William Lewis. "In the aftermath of the storm, the college has many

pressing needs. This very generous gift will help us greatly in our recovery efforts."

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College received \$750,000 and Jones County Junior College received \$400,000.

Another \$40 million will be divided among the three states hardest hit by Katrina - Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama - and \$20 million will go to faith-based organizations.

"Donations we got ranged from the smallest - \$16 from a child's lemonade stand - to multimillion-dollar ones from foundations and

corporations. Even foreign governments have given us money to help you begin again," Clinton said to an audience of about 400 on the grounds of the University of New Orleans library.

Bush used the 64th anniversary of Pearl Harbor to exhort the hurricane-hit Gulf Coast to summon the strength to rebuild.

"It was 64 years ago today that America was shocked by the attack on Pearl Harbor, an attack that left the country in a state of shock and our Navy badly wounded," Bush said. "But America proved then what we have proved time and

again since then: We're strong, we are resourceful, we are determined, and working together, we're going to prove it again. You're going to prove it again on the Gulf Coast."

The \$30 million for higher education will go toward repairs, reconstruction and replacement of equipment due to damage on campuses; assistance for students who left school because the school closed or because they had to relocate after the storm; salaries and benefits paid to retain and support faculty and staff who could not work because of school closures.

Inside

Female officer joins PRCC police force. Page 3

"Price is Right" for this PRCC student. Page 6

Paula Merritt joins Foundation staff. Page 11