

# THE STUDENT PRESS

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## AROUND CAMPUS

by Madalyn G. Goff  
Staff Reporter

### Key Club

This year, Key Club welcomes a new sponsor, English teacher Molly Hare. Hare has many hopes and goals for this year, such as giving support to the community, encouraging student engagement and teaching students the importance of community service. The club's typical future activities consist of food drives, Angel Tree and any other activities the club can participate in to help the community. The meeting schedule is usually every other Wednesday before school in Hare's room, Room 61.

### Drama

On Oct. 30, Drama teacher Joy Smith and the drama club will be putting on a fall production "Nevermore: Shadows of Poe". This production will include desserts relating to the theme of the play and tickets will be \$5 each. However, on Nov. 1, the club will do another performance that will be free with no desserts. Each play is asking for donations and both of the performances will begin at 7 p.m. Rehearsals are every Wednesday and Thursday after school.

### Mayor's Youth Council

English teacher Chloe McMillan has many goals for the Mayor's Youth Council. McMillan wants to express that this is not a club one can just haphazardly join; it involves a lot of commitment. The club does a lot of community service, planning a project to work on throughout the year to eventually present summit workshops in the spring. They also attended city council meetings and reported back with any information they learn. Meeting schedules are in the mornings at least once a month.

### Interact Club

Interact Club sponsor Marlana Broadhead has many goals for this year, including more involvement from club members and finding more ways to help out the community. Broadhead is actively trying to get her members to start attending Rotary Club meetings, the community organization over Interact. They help with events such as the George County Fair, Gingham Tree, Interact Field Day, Valentine's luncheon and multiple fall festivals. Their meeting schedule is the first and last Thursday of every month, typically in the mornings. Broadhead's co-sponsor Ashlyn Stringfellow can also help with any questions one may have.

## Lucedale, George County experience growing pains

by Emma Moffat  
Newspaper Editor

George County is facing a significant amount of growth, and with it comes significant change.

Like any county, George County is no stranger to growth. However, recent years have brought a influx of people, housing and general development. According to the World Population Review, George County is Mississippi's fastest growing county with an 8.6 percent annual growth rate. In 2020, the population stood at 24,364. As of 2025, the population stands around 26,459.

According to Mayor Al Jones, a large portion of people moving in are retired. He finds that George County is now better defined as a "bedroom community" rather than an industrial one.

"Ten years ago you'd get a new business or a new house just occasionally, where now every week you've got something added to the landscape," Jones said.

With growth comes a variety of benefits and challenges. Jones anticipates a mixed reaction from citizens.

"It's just not like it used to be. Things are changing. Where there was a pasture, there's now a subdivision. Where there was a forest is now a cleared lot ready for development," Jones said. "People don't always adapt to change well."

In all areas, there is a balance the city hopes to achieve. Development significantly improves the economy, but the increasing homeless community is a testament to the reality that people are often left behind. The local natural environment also faces destruction as land gets cleared for new homes and businesses. Jones finds that this is an inevitable factor of life but hopes to find ways to compensate.

Despite the large portion of retired people, Sheriff Mitchell Mixon is noticing heightened crime rates and an overall strain on law enforcement.

"This growth brought with it an increase in criminal activity, including thefts, drug-related offenses and violent crimes. In addition, the overall number of standard service calls- ranging from domestic disputes to traf-



photo/ GCHS Journalism

**HOMECOMING 2025- Our Queen-** The student body selects senior Jordyn Bradley as the 2025 Homecoming Queen. Bradley was crowned in a pregame ceremony and was escorted by her father, Coach Terry Bradley.

fic-related incidents- has risen considerably," Mixon said.

To keep pace, the George County Board of Supervisors has approved to add two new investigators, one focusing on general issues and the other specializing in narcotics. Jones urges citizens to stay vigilant and be willing to reach out to someone for help when trouble arises.

Mixon and Jones agree that the town's atmosphere, culture and

deep sense of community is what brings people in and will continue throughout the challenges.

"George County has always been a laid-back place that people love to live in and enjoy life, and I think that's always been the draw for people to move here," Mixon said.

"In today's society, people find connection in a device. Here, we make an effort to draw people together," Jones said.

## Students enjoy new dress code policy changes

by Anna Spanier  
Staff Reporter

Change is in the air at George County High School with the new dress code introduced.

The new dress code has students very excited, although there are some challenges.

Principal Jason Holland thinks highly of the new dress code.

"I think it gives the students more options, and allows them to express their styles," Holland said.

George County has had the original dress code for over 20 years.

"We have been asking to change it for years, so I'm excited for some change," Holland said.

The dress code has students feeling excited and hopeful for the

school year. According to sophomore Annabell White, students get to express themselves.

"We get to show our sense of style," White said.

"The dress code gives the students more than just the ability to show their style" Holland Said. According to junior Kaylie Moffett, it gives the students more freedom. "I like that we can wear whatever we want while being comfortable," Moffett said.

Although the dress code has given students more freedom, some parents have a different view on it. According to teacher and parent Joy Smith, it is more relaxed.

"I'm glad it's adjusted to some-

thing reasonable, as a parent the strict dress code was easier" Smith said.

According to freshman Korey Harvison, the dress code is easier than it has been.

"I like how we can choose what we want to wear," he said.

Although the dress code has students very excited, it comes with some challenges. According to assistant principal Kristin Davis there are some difficulties.

"The biggest issues we have are the length of skirts and crop tops," Davis said. Davis and Holland plan to resolve these issues by monitoring them daily.

"Overall, the students are doing an excellent job," Davis said.

The dress code lets students feel good about themselves while being comfortable and appropriate. According to seniors John Mallette and Carson Pierce, the dress code will have a positive impact on the school year.

"It makes us feel more confident," Thomas said. "We get to express ourselves and show our personality," Pierce said.

According to teacher Haley Havard, she loves the effect it has on students.

"They can express themselves," she said. Havard thinks it makes the students want to show up to school.

"I love seeing all of the colors and personalities" Havard said.

## GC schools add Coastal Family clinics to its campuses

by Ariel McDaniel  
Staff Reporter

From routine check-ups to mental health support, the new clinic at George County High School offers a variety of services designed to help the student body and teachers.

Coastal Family Health offers the same services students and staff would have done at a primary doctor's office. The clinic allows well and sick visits and sports physicals. They also manage chronic conditions.

In order for students to gain ac-

cess to the clinic, they must first go to the school nurse, Jodi Sumrall. When the student is sick, she will call their guardian and inform them that the office is an option and completely free for students. Sumrall thinks very highly of this addition and believes it is really good for the students.

"I have always considered it, in addition to and it provides more resources for the students," Sumrall said.

The clinic has many benefits such as mental health counseling, optometry and urgent care.

Nurse Practitioner Courtney Burns and her team including Kara Love have time at each school throughout the week. On Monday they are at the high school from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Coastal Family Health are at Central and Bennedale on Tuesday, L.C. Hatcher and Rocky Creek on Wednesday, L. T Taylor and Agricola on Thursday and the middle school on Friday morning. The staff returns to the high school Friday afternoon 12 p.m. to 4p.m.

If there is a student sick and the clinic is not at their school a

guardian can come get them and take them wherever the health-care workers are located for that day. The clinic offers all services free to students, and the only fee teachers have to pay is their copay.

When seeing patients, Burns will call the parent of the student before and after the visit, and create a patient plan. They also have the option to call in a prescription.

They have had a total of 40-50 students and staff come in so far. They hope for a good outcome and hope this affects everyone in a positive way.