

Two George County students awarded SMPDD scholarships

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Two George County students were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships during the Board of Supervisors meeting on Monday. The students were Blake Magee and Todd Morse.

Leonard Bentz Executive Director of SMPDD, in addition to presenting the scholarships, gave the Board a brief summary of SMPDD services provided to the county over the past year. Broken down into three main areas, the county received \$429,668.01 for services to senior citizens such as adult protective services, 28,061 home delivered meals, emergency assistance and home-maker care.

The County was provided with economic workforce development valued at \$3,026,240.97 and \$700,000.00 in business loans. Including another \$12,000.00 in other programs and services, SMPDD provided \$4,186,790.00 in services to the county, Bentz reported.

The cost to the county was \$18,743.20.

The value of SMPDD services provided was significantly higher in 2021 than the \$1,197,635.00 reported for the prior year.

Since its beginning in 1967, SMPDD has continually evolved to meet the needs, discover opportunities and anticipate the trends challenging the economic vitality, environmental integrity and overall quality of life enjoyed in South Mississippi, according to its website. This includes offering assistance to future leaders.

Planning and Development Districts were established across the state nearly 50 years ago to act as liaison between local governments and state government and state agencies.

