

## **BHS senior claims NEMCC drum major title**

**Demi Roberts**

### **Staff Writer**

Baldwyn High School senior Cassie Hester will serve as one of three Northeast Mississippi Community College Tiger Band drum majors for the 2016-2017 season. Hester is the first Baldwyn graduate that will serve in the position of NEMCC drum major.

“Cassie is a great addition to the band program here at NEMCC. She had a very successful marching season this past fall which I know made the Baldwyn band proud. And this past Saturday, she came in and had a great audition for the Tiger Band. I am very excited about our upcoming marching season and hope to have a great year,” NEMCC band director Bryan Mitchell said.

Hester has been a member of the Bearcat Band for eight years. She was a trumpet player for six of those years, and then led the band as drum major for the last two years. Hester served under the direction of former band director Billy Morton and current band director Marshall Dear during her time as a Bearcat band member.

“Mr. Morton pushed me to work harder, and Mr. Dear pushed me out of my comfort zone and taught me to never give up. I know they are part of my success, and I will carry these ideas with me throughout my band career and life,” Hester noted.

In 2014 she led the Bearcat band to place second at the state level competition. Within her two years as Bearcat band drum major, she received multiple superior ratings at area competitions such as Phil Campbell, AL; Tupelo, Olive Branch, Northeast MS, Corinth, and more.

Hester will leave Baldwyn after directing some 40 plus students to joining the NEMCC Tiger Band and assist two other drum majors in directing a 250 plus members.

“I have loved being a part of the BHS band. It has really taught me that even though things may seem impossible, all it takes is a little hard work and dedication and focus to make it possible,” Hester said.

“I also learned that you can achieve anything if you set your mind to it. I have made lifelong friends who have encouraged me every step of the way. The BHS band has played a very important role in my years as a drum major, with that being said I am beyond excited to experience the upcoming year as NEMCC drum major.”