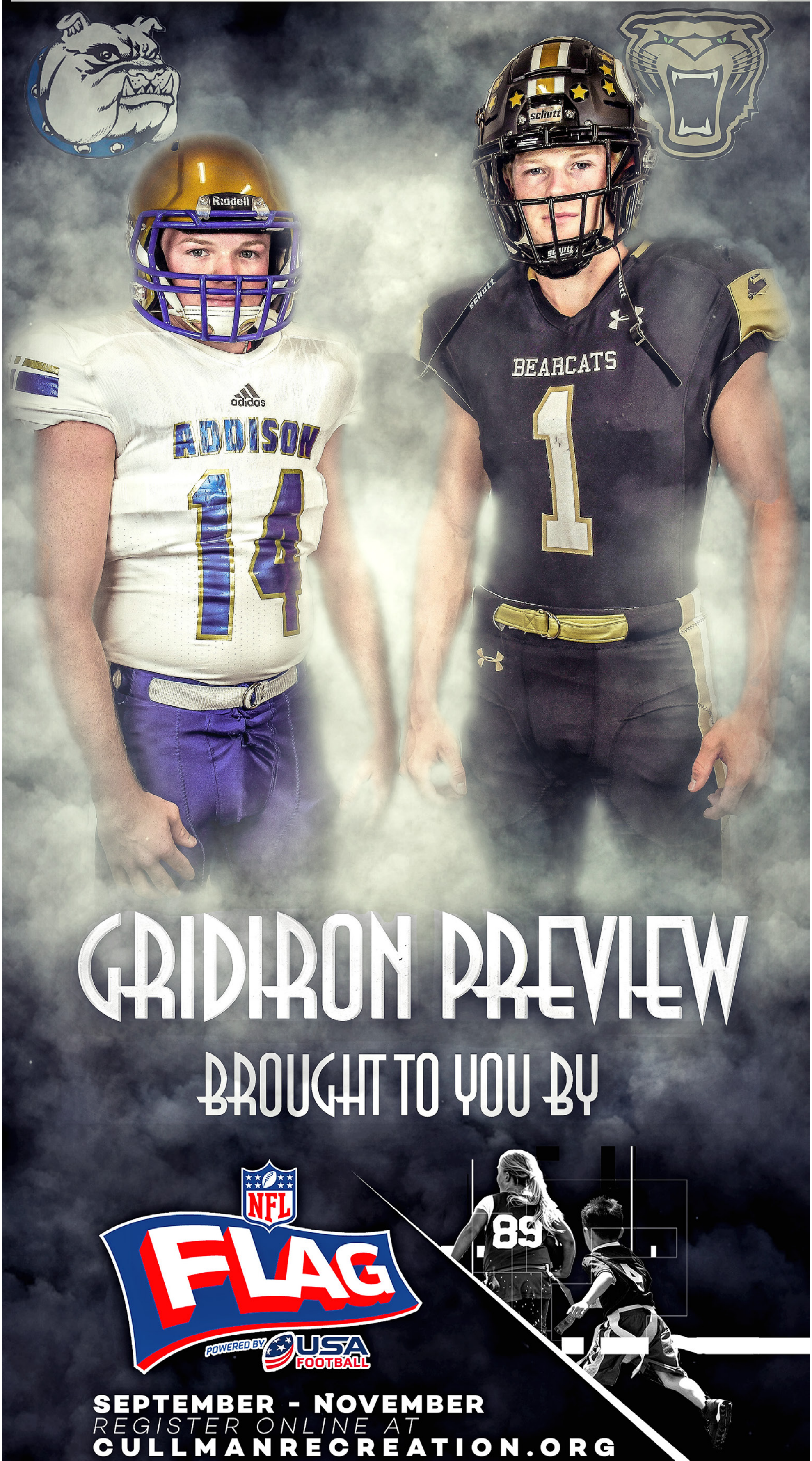
The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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Hanceville man charged in rape of minor child

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE – Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) investigators on Tuesday arrested Francisco Javier Martinez, 26, of Hanceville following an investigation that allegedly determined he abused a minor child. Martinez is facing charges of first-degree rape and sexual extortion.

The CCSO said the investigation into Martinez lasted several weeks, culminating with the execution of a search warrant at his residence on Tuesday.

Due to the graphic nature of the crime, and the crime involving a minor child, the CCSO will not release further details.

"I have said this many times, but anytime children are victims of a crime it will break your heart and also make you angry at the same time.

"I am thankful we at the sheriff's office have two investigators who are dedicated to working 'crimes against persons' and I truly believe that is why the community is seeing so many of these types of arrests and cases being solved," said Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"We would also like the thank the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) for their help when we have cases involving children."

Late Thursday afternoon, a spokesperson for the CCSO said that investigators have determined that Martinez is undocumented, sharing, "We have been working with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), and ICE has just sent us the detainer paperwork.

"What this means is once Mr. Martinez' charges are satisfied or he attempts to make bond, then ICE has discretion to come and take him into federal custody."



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Francisco Martinez

Martinez remains jailed in the Cullman County Detention Center on a $35,000 property bond.

Bus tour spotlights United Way agencies' role in our community

Christy Perry
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – The United Way of Cullman County (UWCC) invited members of the community to "Get on the Bus" Wednesday and Thursday to show the impact the United Way's partner agencies have on the community. Guests, along with UWCC Executive Director Sammie Danford, were given a guided tour of the different agencies. The Tribune rode along Thursday to visit the Good Samaritan Health Clinic, HOPE Horses, Inc., Cullman Caring for Kids and the Cullman County Center for Developmentally Disabled (CCCDD).

The Cullman Area Rural Transportation Service (CARTS) bus loaded up at 8 a.m. and departed for the first stop, Good Samaritan Health Clinic. Jolanda Hutson, the clinic's executive director, explained the different departments and services that the clinic is able to provide through donations. Good Samaritan works to help adults between the ages of 19-65 who are without health insurance coverage.

Hutson shared, "Most of our clients are working but have no insurance. A person does not have to be employed to be eligible. Some are too sick to work. Patients must qualify and are encouraged not to wait until they are sick to do so."

Good Samaritan has the same capabilities as most primary care clinics, It offers routine and chronic care, provides medications and referrals and is capable of assisting with dental, hearing and vision needs. The clinic does not duplicate any health care services that are offered for free elsewhere. Hutson also expressed her gratitude to Cullman Regional for its support.

The clinic receives medications, equipment and other supplies through donations and from other long-term facilities.

The Good Samaritan Health Clinic has some immediate needs of electronic blood pressure cuffs and can use CPAP machines, digital thermometers and over the counter cough medication. For more information on the work, services, eligibility, or questions, visit www.goodsamaritancullman.com

The tour then proceeded to HOPE Horses. HOPE works with individuals with special physical, social, cognitive and emotional needs, using therapeutic horsemanship programs specifically designed to meet their needs. HOPE director, Kelsey Rice, introduced everyone to the program's five unique horses. Each horse is a certified therapy horse, and each has its unique personality.

Roxie, the only mare, is the queen of the barn. Prince is a 24-year-old quarter horse who was patiently waiting for his first lesson of the morning. Gus is the laidback funny guy who prefers the trails. Owen is the 1,800-pound spotted draft horse that passersby have confused as a cow. Teddy, who has been with HOPE the longest, is a draft/pony cross who is a tad bit shy at first. These beautiful horses are carefully managed to make sure they are exercised equally and regularly without overdoing it.

Each student must fill out an application and present a physician statement. Students attend once a week for six weeks and are provided a CHA-certified instructor and two side walkers throughout the lessons. The instructors create lesson plans with games and fun objectives designed to help teach handling and riding skills. The HOPE campus consists of fun obstacles, five color-coded trails, a covered aren, and two outside arenas. The barn is a beautiful structure worth approximately $300,000 but built by donated labor from the Cullman community.

Sarea, a student of HOPE, was beginning her lesson by tacking the horse (Prince) as all students are expected to do.

The area was set up with a variety of obstacles and a giant colorful ball that would be incorporated into the lesson plan. Sarea was a vision of confidence as she led her horse throughout the arena.

The next stop on the tour was Cullman Caring for Kids (CCK). Assistant Director, Nancy Bryant, explained the services the agency provides. CCK's mission is to end child abuse and make sure no child in our community is hungry.

The food bank serves an average of 550 families a month. The food bank also works hard to provide baby food, diapers and other supplies to qualifying families. Food donations are always welcome, and the agency receives support from Publix and Wal-Mart. Monetary donations are encouraged as CCK can often purchase meats and other items for a lower price than the average consumer.

Volunteers can also be trained to become a C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocate). After completing a 30-hour training course, you can become a court appointed advocate and speak for the best interests of a child in court. If you would like to apply to become a child's advocate, applications are at the C.A.S.A. office inside CCK at 402 Arnold St. NE, Ste W1.

Cullman Caring for Kids' food pantry is low on baby foods and boxes of cereal. A larger need is a used box truck. The agency's current box truck is in poor condition and the air conditioner has not worked for a very long time. The truck is used to pick up pallets of food from around north Alabama.

The last stop on the bus tour was the Cullman County Center for the Developmentally Disabled-Margaret Jean Jones Center (CCCDD). Debra Hatley, the day program director, talked to the group and was overwhelmed with emotion when speaking of her love for the center's clients.

"We try to find work and volunteer opportunities for our clients," she said. "It's important for them to get out into the community as (much as) possible. Independence is so important."

The day program volunteers with Meals on Wheels, HOPE Horses, CCK, the Cullman County Animal Shelter, St. John's Church, the Cullman library, Wallace State and other locations.

Hatley added, "We like to help and support the other United Way partner agencies and they also help us."

One of the projects the group has is Blessing Blooms. The clients take larger leftover flower arrangements from special events, break them down into smaller arrangements, and deliver the arrangements to local nursing homes. One way to help Blessing Blooms is to donate pint canning jars. These jars are perfect for the flower arrangements.

The CCCDD also operates seven group homes in Cullman County. One of the homes was nearly destroyed by this year's hail storm. The center also sustained significant damage. The residents of the damaged home had to be relocated as their home is being repaired and refurnished. The group homes offer independence. The residents have assistance and support at all times as well activities, but they have a choice. If the activity is not something they want to do, they can stay home.

The CCCDD offers a variety of programs including daycare and preschool for infants to 5 years of age, summer programs, an early intervention program and case management services.

Many of the clients are working paying jobs with TQI (Top Quality Industries), which operates at the CCCDD campus. TQI does work for Wal-Mart. It receives three trucks a day of boxes that the 40-50 employees sort through, flatten, remove barcodes/shipping labels from and return to Wal-Mart.

For many adults with developmental disabilities, finding employment is extremely challenging. TQI offers them a comfortable work environment, encouragement, schedule flexibility and a real paycheck.

The bus departed the CCCDD and Danford thanked everyone for their support adding, "I love the work we do at the United Way! Oftentimes people are unsure who to donate to or want to help everyone. We strive for great stewardship so people know their money is going where it's needed most at that particular time. This is why our agencies offer unique services and we don't duplicate services."

For more information on all the United Way partner agencies, stop by the United Way at 304 First Ave. NE in Cullman or visit www.uwaycc.org.

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80:

2004 Chevy Tahoe VIN # 1GNEC13Z54J131123
1995 Lexus L/S VIN # JT8UF22EXS0007821

These vehicles will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Johnson's Auto Tire and Tow, LLC, 178 County Road 1332, Vinemont, Alabama 35179, on Friday, September 14, 2018, at 8:00 a.m.

PB MIN BK 172 PG 786 - 08/01/2018 03:00 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF **CASE NO: PC2018-201**

A.A.V.
D.O.B. 12-15-2011
A MINOR CHILD.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR MINOR NAME CHANGE

TO: **RAUL VARGAS AGUIRRE OR ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNDISCLOSED PERSONS OR THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER.**

A PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE OF MINOR CHILD WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY KRISTIE MICHELLE CHACON, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS NAME CHANGE, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE. THE RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS ARE SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, ROOM 101, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

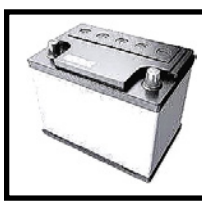
DONE THIS 1st DAY OF August, 2018.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

JOSH O'NEAL
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
200 2ND AVE. SE
CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055
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Cullman High School Auditorium
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$18 online at goodsamaritancullman.com
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www.goodsamaritancullman.com
256-775-1389, ext. 0
FACEBOOK: @GoodSamaritanCullman
TWITTER: @SamaritanCullman

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Plunkett, McCain headline community luncheon

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – High school football was the theme of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's August Community Luncheon on Friday, with both of the new local head coaches on-hand as the featured speakers. Matt Plunkett and Cody McCain are entering their first seasons at Cullman High School and Hanceville High School, respectively.

McCain, a graduate of West Point High School, was hired in April after most recently being the head coach at Clements High School in Athens. He talked about his career path that his brought him back home as the head coach of the Bulldogs.

"I've been at some really interesting places. None of those jobs that I've had are very glamorous jobs except for the one I have now, in my opinion. A lot of the schools I've coached at, the idea was, 'We need to either shut the football program down or hire Cody,' so, I've been at some places that can be pretty tough to coach at," McCain said. "When I graduated college in 2008 that was a time when you opened the newspaper up and saw teacher layoffs all across the state. It was a bad time in education, the budget was bad, and a lot of non-tenured personnel were getting let go everywhere and a lot of people told me if I'd just start subbing or take an aid position I might be able to get my foot in the door. Well I had a young family at the time and that really wasn't an option for me, so I decided I was going to send my application everywhere in the state and hope that something comes up. Something did come up in Monroe County at Excel High School."

Coaching in a different part of the state was a new and at sometimes strange experience for McCain. He believes that joining the Pleasant Home staff afterward was a pivotal decision for his career and paved the way for his next step as a coach.

"My vision and my knowledge of south Alabama growing up was that I'd been to Montgomery, I'd been to Auburn and I'd been to Gulf Shores. That's about all I knew about south Alabama, and with the experience I gained at Excel and then later at Pleasant Home, it's a different world when you get below Montgomery. We're still part of the same state, but it's a stretch," McCain joked. "It's a different world and you may call a repairman who says he has nothing to do but he says it'll take him three days to get there. Life moves really slow in south Alabama. Pleasant Home is 7 miles from the state line, about 55 miles north of Pensacola. Those kids were some of the hardest-working kids I've ever been around before, but they were also the most country kids you could ever imagine. We have country kids here, but they wouldn't hold a candle to what you see there. My first day there a lot of the kids showed up in shorts and boots and that was it. No shirts, no athletic shoes, no cleats, just shorts and boots, and I'm thinking 'What in the world have I gotten myself into?' But the coach there, Coach (Robert) Bradford, really took me under his wing and I learned so much about coaching football and the game of football from him and I owe a ton of credit to him for what I've been able to do since then."

In his time at Pleasant Home, McCain saw the players step up to the challenge that was presented to them and make things happen at their school that had never happened before. These years were also another opportunity for McCain to grow as a coach and take on his first head coaching job.

"The kids bought into what we were trying to do, and we won five games and made the playoffs. I think they had made the playoffs one other time in school history, and people felt like (Bradford) had done such a great job just making the playoffs that he got hired at Enterprise to be the head coach. I was 23 at the time and I went ahead and applied for the job and the principal called me in and said he just couldn't turn the program over to a 23-year-old and I told him I understand," McCain said. "He brought in a coach from Florida and that next year Coach (Ronnie) Douglas did the defense and I did the offense and we won eight games, which was the most the school had ever won, and we won the first playoff game in school history. They felt like (Douglas) really did a great job and so he got the job at Tate High School in Pensacola and this time I guess that year of maturity did me some good because they did hire me," McCain joked.

"I say that to say at 24, I thought I was the smartest guy in the building everywhere that I went. Here I am at 24 and I'm a head football coach, a lot of guys have to wait until they're 44 to get that kind of opportunity, and I made mistake after mistake with that responsibility, but I am grateful for it because I learned a lot," shared McCain.

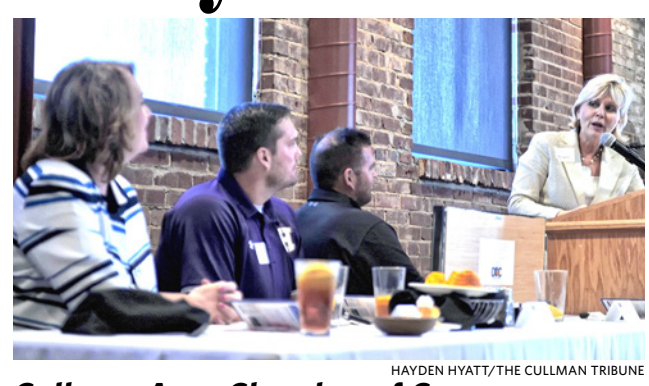
"Now I have the mentality that hopefully if I'm the smartest guy in the room, then the room isn't very bright. I want to have people in the room that are smarter than me, more experienced than me and that will help me out. Being a head football coach, there's so many people you have to rely on to be successful and do what you need to do to have a successful program."

McCain is excited to return to Cullman County for the tradition and history on the field, but he's also been surprised to see how much the area has changed in the last decade.

"To be able to see the growth in the city and the county in the last 10 years, when you look at it from afar, has been really amazing because I'm old enough to remember when Wal-Mart was in the Hobby Lobby building. Some of you guys that have been around here a long time know what I'm talking about," McCain said. "I moved away in 2008 and when you come back in 2018 and see all the things that the city and county have to offer now it's amazing. We're really excited to be back here."

Plunkett, who came on board at Cullman in January from Gardendale, talked about his anticipation for game one next week and what will be going through his head before the game that night.

"I know I'm going to lose all credibility with the statement I'm about to make, but this morning I had breakfast with Jimmy Dale (Burgess) and he asked me, 'Next Thursday night when the national anthem is playing and you're getting ready to be the head football coach at Cullman for the first time, what's going to be going through your mind?' And I told him, there's going to be a lot of emotions there," Plunkett said. "Most people probably think it'll be 'What's going to be our first play call?' or 'How is the game going to start?' 'If the game starts bad, what adjustments do we make?' 'If the game starts good, can we keep our kids out of the clouds?' What's going to be on my mind during the national anthem is my cousin who went and fought in Afghanistan for six years and represented our family. I think about my daughters, I think about my wife and just think about how fortunate I am to be part of something really special.



HAYDEN HYATT/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Director of Finance & Administration Jackie Moore (right) speaks at the Chamber's August Community Luncheon Friday at the All Steak Restaurant.

Those are the things that are on my mind. I pray as a football coach to always keep those things close at heart."

Plunkett shares that mentality with his teams and believes that as long as they are focused on the important things in life like, things will take care of themselves on the football field and beyond.

"In my experience, with the players I've coached, the ones that are focused on the important things become winners. They become very successful not just in athletics, but academically most importantly, and on into their future careers and as husbands and fathers. That's my coaching philosophy. I can be a really hardnosed guy; we had a couple guys find that out yesterday when I kicked them out of the stadium, but I'm a pretty soft-hearted guy too when I drove in on the ice cream truck after practice," Plunkett said. "So, the key with Coach Plunkett is you better be on your toes because I'm going to coach your heart, I'm not going to coach the athlete because I believe if your heart is in the right place you can accomplish anything. Guys I'll tell you, you're going to get my heart and soul and everything about me and I pray that our teams play that way as well. The number one thing I tell everybody, our players do the job they're supposed to do in the classroom, so we'll have good students and that means we'll have good players. If we have a team that buys into that hardnosed, academic mentality about being where they're supposed to be and excelling in the classroom, I'll show you a great team."

For Plunkett, the most important thing to worry about at this early point in his tenure at Cullman is building the program the right way. The foundation for the future is something he is focused on and he has a clear plan for what he wants the program to be about.

"I'm just looking forward to some really special moments. I hope I'm here for the rest of my career; that is my goal. That's going to require a lot of hard work and I'll close with this: For us to do this the right way at Cullman High School, we need to be the man that builds our house on the rock," Plunkett said, "with a solid foundation so that when adversity strikes, we can handle it. When the winds blow, and the rain comes, our house is going to be strong because it was built the right way. We don't want to be that man who built his house on sand, because when times get tough we all know what happens to that house. So, our program is going to be built on discipline, toughness, detail and a commitment to excellence."

Arrest reports: Aug. 13-16

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for Aug. 13-16, 2018. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; **FTA** = failure to appear

MONDAY, AUG. 13-WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Monday, Aug. 13, 2018

Arnold, Nancy Belew, 55
• obstruction/using a false ID

Cornelius, Ronnie Lee, 59
• negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument (2 counts)

Gilliland, Jason Lee, 43
• FTA- driving while revoked

Goodwin, Gary Wayne, 54
• judge's order- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Hankins, Tyler Mark, 23
• FTA- first-degree theft of property
• attempting to elude
• GJ- first-degree theft of property

Jackson, Stephanie Robertson, 41
• FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

League, Cobie Thomas, 19
• second-degree bail jumping- illegal possession of prescription medicine
• first-degree bail jumping-first-degree receiving stolen property
• first-degree bail jumping-unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle (3 counts)

Lovelace, Robert Gene, 50
• probation violation-unlawful possession of a controlled substance

New, Melissa Renee, 28
• public intoxication

Soles, Donald Richard Jr., 44
• FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Steele, Jacob Webster, 28
• FTA- speeding

Totman, Michael Lynn, 34
• FTA- public intoxication

Tubbs, Eric Brandon, 30
• FTA- third-degree domestic violence-menacing

Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018
Arrington, Anthony Ryan, 37
• third-degree criminal trespassing
• third-degree domestic violence- harassing
• reckless endangerment

Capps, James Ronald Lee, 47
• FTA- DUI- influence of alcohol

Cummings, Madyson Brooke, 20
• judge's order- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Gilbert, Richard Lee, 43
• FTA- third-degree criminal mischief
• FTA- disorderly conduct
• FTA- DUI- alcohol and controlled substance
• FTA- resisting arrest

Goodwin, Joseph Grady, 28
• probation violation-third-degree burglary

Johnson, Mark Anthony, 32
• FTA- negotiating worthless negotiable instrument

Laney, Brandon Christopher, 22
• judge's order- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Marsh, Stacie Lynne, 32
• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

Martinez, Francisco Javier, 26
• first-degree rape
• sexual extortion

Mathews, Megan Taylor, 18
• judge's order- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Nickens, Shannon Dwayne, 31
• harassment

Rouse, Ricky Gene, 40
• FTA- fourth-degree theft of services

Sellman, Henry Ennis III, 35
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018
Allaire, Richard Lee Jr., 58
• FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Bakley, Curtis Edward Aurturo, 30
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment
• interfering with a domestic violence emergency
• first-degree unlawful imprisonment

Capps, James Ronald Lee, 47
• FTA- DUI- influence of alcohol

Grace, Christen Michelle, 21
• FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Guzman, Jose Marcelino, 25
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Lindsey, Cody Garrett, 31
• probation violation- first-degree theft of property

Morrow, Daniel Tyson, 37
• GJ- first-degree burglary
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
• FTA- first-degree receiving stolen property

Peak, Sonya Leann, 30
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Raphael, Lorena Lynn, 37
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Russell, Lindsey Nicole, 35
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Sillence, Kortdero Keyonta, 28
• probation violation- first-degree theft of property

Tarvin, Kristen Leigh, 21
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15, 2018
CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Perkins, Zachary C., 25
• FTA- expired tag
• FTA- insurance violation (2 counts)
• FTA- no tag

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No report provided.

THURSDAY, AUG. 16, 2018
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
No report provided.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Peek, Daniel W., 33
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance (2 counts)
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Boatright, Vickie M., 55
• fourth-degree theft of property
• third-degree criminal trespassing

Green, Daniel T. Jr., 46
• FTA- DUI
• FTA- improper lane usage

White, Kimberly M., 47
• public intoxication

Grimes, Mickey J., 61
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment
• DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No report provided.

Find arrest reports online Monday-Friday at www.CullmanTribune.com.

Addison Bulldogs



Bill Miller Photography

TEAM ROSTER

#1 Logan Wilkins, 10, REC
#2 Zayne Guthrie, 12, QB
#3 Christian Roberts, 9, QB
#5 Xavier Barley, 10, QB
#7 Brett Smith, 11, REC
#8 Luke Chambers, 11, REC
#12 Justin Mather, 9, REC
#13 Eli Melvin, 9, REC
#14 Gage Gilliland, 12, REC
#15 Quentin Barley, 10, REC
#16 Brody Dollar, 9, REC
#18 Grant Rice, 11, QB
#20 Matthew Harris, 11, REC
#22 Blake Denson, 10, RB
#23 Nelson Hernandez, 10, RB
#25 Jason Pellicer, 11, RB
#26 Caleb Crider, 11, RB
#28 Will Tuggle, 9, RB
#30 Mark Williams, 9, RB
#34 Jack Wilson, 9, RB
#43 Weston Smith, 10, RB
#45 Colt Tyree, 11, RB
#50 Mac Cagle, 9, OL
#52 Luke Waldrep, 11, OL
#54 Hayden Ray, 12, OL
#57 Landon Lee, 10, OL
#58 Jake Wilson, 11, OL
#60 Ross Steele, 9, OL
#61 Jacob Trussell, 9, OL
#64 Noah Jeffreys, 9, OL
#70 Jeb Robinson, 11, OL
#72 Tim Trussell, 11, OL
#73 Caleb Simmons, 10, OL
#78 Bailey Wilson, 10, OL
#88 Trace Thompson, 12, REC

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 - at Curry
Aug. 31 - v. Piedmont
Sept.7 - at Winston County
Sept. 14 - v. Red Bay
Sept. 21 - at Sheffield
Sept. 28 - v. Vinemont
Oct. 5 - at Colbert County
Oct. 12 - v. Tanner
Oct. 19 - at Tharptown
Oct. 26 - v. Hatton

CHEERLEADERS: Mattie Womack, Lexi Anders, Candace Barley, Lyndsey Denson, Mattie Grace Brakeman, Annsley Nuss, John Naylor, Emily McCain, Mattie Ward, Haley Marlin, Chloe Brockwell, Rheagan Holland and Julie Plaza

COACHES: David Smothers – head, Woody Smothers – offensive coordinator, Scott Flynn – receivers and defensive backs, Shane Chambers – offensive line and defensive line, Ray Yarbrough – offensive line and defensive line, Brian Denson – running backs, Brandon Womack – defensive backs, Todd Cook – junior high head coach and Kelly Ergle and Jeremy Luker – assistant coaches

Freedom Insurance Agency

Gloria Williams – Agent

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HAVE AN OUTSTANDING SEASON!

Addison Bulldogs

Addison Bulldogs hungry for another playoff run

Football is back, and in Addison and that means it's time for blue and gold crowds to fill A.G. Hicks Stadium and gear up for a potential playoff run. The Bulldogs fought their way into the third round last season and came up just one game short of a trip to the State Championship in 2016 so they're hungry for a chance to take that next step in 2018.

David Smothers is entering his seventh season as the head coach of the Bulldogs and a playoff standard has been set during his tenure. One of the new things that Addison will deal with this season is a shake up to the schedule. There are a few teams on the calendar this year that Addison hasn't faced in a long time, and Smothers is excited to see the new competition.

"We had a good summer; I think we've gotten into really good shape and we're excited about this upcoming season," Smothers said.

"We've got a lot of new faces on the schedule, some teams we haven't played in a long time and some teams we've never played, so we're excited about that. Everything this summer has been really good and we're just ready to get started."

Senior linebacker Gage Gilliland knows that the road is a little harder this year for him and his team, but he's excited to see what they can do this fall after working together throughout the offseason.

"We've just been looking to come closer as a team and get better together," Gilliland said. "The schedule is going to be a little tougher this year, but I think we'll be able to do really well if we just take it one game at a time and stay focused. We've been working hard all summer and we're just looking forward to it."

Gilliland is one of just four seniors that'll be on the field and in the locker room for the Bulldogs this season, and he hopes that so far, he and his classmates have done a good job in that leadership role.

"I think we've helped them a lot," Gilliland said. "We don't have many seniors on the team this year, we're a young team, but I think over past times they've helped us a bunch and I hope that we have, too."

Even though Addison will have a small number of seniors on the roster this season, they won't be short on talent. All State First Teamer Zayne Guthrie will be returning to his quarterback spot this fall and the Bulldogs will look to him to duplicate the type of season he had as a junior.

In front of him, All State Second Team selection Hayden Ray will be returning for his senior season, and like Guthrie, Ray will be expected to help move the ball once again this year. Along with Ray and Guthrie, Matthew Harris is another All State player returning to the Bulldog offense.

Those three will be huge for Addison on the offensive side of the ball this season after losing last year's leading rushers to graduation. The backfield is definitely a priority for Smothers and his staff this fall, but outside of that, the Bulldogs should have a lot of familiar faces on the field.

"Position-wise, the biggest unknown for us is going to be at our tailback spot. The two kids that have handled that for us both graduated last year and that was Ben Robinson and Tyler Borden. They were a big part of our offense so that's the biggest question mark for us," Smothers said. "All the other spots have kids returning or the kid that is there played a significant role at that spot last year. So, the biggest spot on offense is definitely tailback, and then on defense it's probably going to be at corner."

Addison has made the playoffs every year since Smothers took over as head coach in 2011, including some deep runs in the past two seasons, so it can be tough for coaches not to look ahead, but the goal hasn't changed for Smothers: just win the next game.

"The goals are always the same for us. Deep down we all dream about getting down there and playing for a championship, but we realize you've got to take it one game at a time," Smothers said. "Right now, our number one goal is to be 1-0 after the first week and then just pray for health throughout the year and be competitive. We want to play hard and play competitive and make the people here in Addison proud."

By: Nick Griffin







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ADDISON BULLDOGS

2018 FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, CHEERLEADERS



HAVE AN OUTSTANDING SEASON!

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 18, 2018

First look: planning underway for Cullman's annual Veterans Day Celebration on Nov. 3

Hayden Hyatt
hayden@cullmantribune.com



HAYDEN HYATT/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Reenactors from Wallace State portray various World War II figures at a press conference for this year's Cullman Veterans Day Celebration. The press event took place Wednesday at Cullman's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2214.

CULLMAN – Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs, event representatives and World War II reenactors met at Cullman's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2214 Wednesday to announce the features of the upcoming annual Cullman Veterans Day Celebration, which will take place on Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Cullman Regional Airport.

The celebration will feature Wallace State reenactors, historic military aircraft and other military vehicle displays, a climbing wall and a performance by the U.S. Army Silver Wings parachute team. Admission and parking will be free.

Patrick James, publicity chairman for this year's celebration, is hoping for an even bigger event than in years past.

"We've had a pretty good attendance at this event over the past few years and we're hoping to attract an even larger crowd this year," said James. "According to our Veterans Affairs representatives at the Cullman County Courthouse, we have over 7,000 veterans living in our county; we have a lot of local vets to honor and thank."

Jacobs spoke about some of key features of the celebration.

"For our history buffs, and especially our Navy veterans, the Commemorative Air Force in Peachtree City, Georgia is going to be here and they're bringing a World War II Corsair (fighter plane)," said Jacobs. "(The event will also feature) a Dauntless Dive Bomber from WWII, if you want a ride in that, they're going to be doing that. Also, the U.S. Army is going to have their Silver Wings parachute team, and that's always exciting to see those guys jumping."

Rides will be offered on three different historical aircraft at the celebration: a Huey Helicopter, a Dauntless Dive Bomber plane and a Cobra attack helicopter.

There is a limited amount of tickets. The costs are $85 per person for the Huey, $325 per person for the Cobra and $995 for the Dauntless.

Ret. Major Robert Stephens, a former Cobra pilot during the Vietnam War, spoke about his experience with the historic helicopter.

"Just to give you a little perspective about a Cobra, my first tour I flew B models and we'd tour around in the sky at 80 knots and that's about all you could do," said Stephens. "You couldn't get away from anything. My second tour over there, I was fortunate enough to fly the AH-1G (Cobra), by the way, this was the world's first dedicated attack helicopter.

"To give you an idea of the advancement we had, think about a 1939 Ford (truck), a '39 ford could do 80 miles an hour basically and that's what we were doing basically in a B model helicopter. Along comes a Cobra, think of a Maserati or a Ferrari or something like this, that can do 200 miles an hour. That's the difference between the B model and the AH-1G. It gave us a tremendous advantage, and if you ever tried to get away from a bullet, you'll appreciate how fast you can go."

Leigh Ann Courington, a history instructor at Wallace State, was at the announcement and brought along a team of WWII reenactors who will also be at the celebration in November. According to Courington, the theme the reenactors will focus on is the Pacific theater of WWII.

The reenactors portrayed Major Pappy Boyington, a Marine pilot with the Black Sheep Squadron that flew the Corsair, and Mrs. John Bolton, the wife of John Bolton, who was a Marine pilot in the same squadron. Other reenactors portrayed Navy Lt. Dick Best, a pilot of the Dauntless Dive Bomber, Private Quinn, of the U.S. Army's 77th Infantry Division, and Rosie the Riveter, the star of a recruiting campaign for defense industries during WWII.

Courington was in costume herself, portraying Frances Langford, a singer who traveled with Bob Hope and the USO.

In addition to those reenactors, there will be others dressed in period dress, and the Wallace State Jazz Band will be performing a Glenn Miller 40s swing concert. Veterans are invited to partake in free coffee and donuts at the lounge inside the terminal at the airport.

The mayor encouraged any veterans, family members of veterans or citizens of Cullman to come out for the event.

"As mayor I'm honored to be a part of this event," said Jacobs. "I want to encourage all our citizens and their friends and any veterans that they know to please mark down Nov. 3. Folks, this one is the best (Veterans Day celebration) in north Alabama, in my opinion."

Cullman's Veterans Day Celebration is sponsored by the Cullman City Council, Cullman County Commission, various local municipal governments and the local business community.

Forum: What's needed to attract workers to Cullman County?

Hayden Hyatt
hayden@cullmantribune.com



HAYDEN HYATT/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Albert von Pelser (center), Cullman Chamber Talent Recruitment Taskforce member and plant manager at REHAU, speaks to community members during the Cullman Area Community Needs Forum Thursday at Cullman City Hall.

CULLMAN – Members of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed a large turnout Thursday evening to the first of a three-part Cullman Area Community Needs Forum series it is calling "Your Community, Your Future," spearheaded by the Chamber's Talent Recruitment and Housing Taskforces.

Thursday's session focused on the "work" portion of the Chamber's "live, work, play" approach. Among the input asked for from the community members attending were three questions: Why do citizens commute to jobs outside the county? Why do people work in the Cullman area but live elsewhere? What could be added to make Cullman County a more desirable place to live?

Leah Bolin, president of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, led the question portion of the event.

Some community members indicated they work in Jefferson County or Huntsville, while others live in places like Tuscaloosa, Hoover or Scottsboro but work in Cullman.

Asked about what they thought Cullman County is missing and what would make it more appealing to potential residents, attendees had varying answers, ranging from things like better paying jobs, more well-maintained roads and additional housing, to even broadening the city limits or upgrading Cullman Regional Airport.

After the question session, attendees participated in three smaller focus groups to discuss the suggestions in greater detail.

Bolin said the details gathered from the focus groups will help decide the best course of action to improve the county.

"Basically, what we're doing now is we're asking more definitive questions," she said.

"Then we'll collect the data from all the answers from our interviewees tonight, put it together, and then that will help us with our overarching plan to determine what we need to do to be able to bring people here for work."

After all was said and done, the event had a strong turnout and the attendees were very interactive, according to Bolin.

"I was really excited about the amount of people who came out, because it really shows that they care about their community and they want to have a voice in what's done," Bolin said. "I was very pleased with it. I felt like people were very honest and sincere with their answers, really wanting to make a difference."

Bolin expects continued participation from the community for parts two and three of the Cullman Area Community Needs Forum.

"We don't have a date yet, but we will be doing the 'live' portion of the forum and then the 'play' portion," explained Bolin. "I think with each forum, we're going to have more and more people that come to be able to share their opinions and their thoughts about it."

She continued, "So just look for those dates coming soon. We might be in a different location next time, but it doesn't matter where we meet, we just want to hear your voice so that we can take your opinions and formulate them into a plan."

City of Cullman

NOTICE OF EXAMINATION FOR DISPATCHER

The **City of Cullman** is accepting applications for the **Dispatcher** exam. Employees in this class are responsible for receiving varied calls for police, fire and emergency services by radio or telephone, for transmitting calls to the proper party and for dispatching proper equipment and personnel as directed. Employees work under general supervision on routine phases of the work but receive specific instructions and assistance on difficult or unusual problems. Employees operate a two-way radio, computer, and related equipment in receiving and transmitting calls. Knowledge and skills required include: Considerable knowledge of the geography of the city, location of streets and important buildings, and the location of police personnel and equipment, good diction, clear voice, and skill in operating telephone and radio equipment along with receiving and transmitting calls, proficient skill in the operation of a keyboard, ability to think clearly and act quickly in emergency situations, ability to understand and follow moderately complex oral and written instructions, ability to keep simple clerical records and basic skills in operation of computer. Previous work experience indicating the ability to perform all required tasks is also preferred. Other requirements include: ability to pass 80 hour APCO certification and qualify for E-9-1-1 Board certification.

Applications must be submitted **by August 30, 2018, at 4:00 P.M**. to Cullman City Hall Personnel Department to be eligible for the exam. All applicants will be mailed a letter with test time and date. Applicants must score a 70 or above on the exam to be eligible for an interview. Employment is contingent upon successfully passing a drug test and physical. Benefits include health, dental, and life insurances, vacation and sick leave. Visit www.cullmanAL.gov for more information.

EDUCATION

St. Bernard Prep begins new school year with renovations, 3 new faces

Joyce Nix
St. Bernard

CULLMAN – Students at St. Bernard Prep School arrived on campus on Sunday, Aug. 12, 2018, to participate in a day of orientation for the 2018-19 academic year. Of the 162 students enrolled, 40 registered in the boarding division and moved into the dormitories. Much of the day was spent getting familiar with protocols for the new year.

One of the new features welcoming students to the new year was the renovated quad located at the center of campus. Newly installed exterior lights and concrete sidewalks were part of this summer's renovations. This project was part of the summer appeal campaign undertaken by the development office under the direction of Fr. Marcus Voss.

Three new teachers were named to the faculty at St. Bernard. Will Drake and Jennifer Glassford joined Mrs. Helen Glasscock in the English department, while Michael Kastner has been appointed the new director of fine arts.

Since graduating high school in Cullman, Drake received his Master of Fine Arts in poetry from North Carolina State University and his Bachelor of Arts in English and humanities from the University of Mobile. He is moving to St. Bernard from the newly established St. Michael Catholic High School in Fairhope, where he spent two years as the founder of the English program and the boys' varsity soccer program. He and his wife, Mallory, along with their 2-year-old son, have taken up residence in Cullman.

Glassford is originally from Mobile and returned to Alabama after completion of 20 years of active duty in the United States Marine Corps.

Her daughter, Alexa, attends the Aveda Institute in Philadelphia. Her son, Justis, attends Wallace State Community College. After retirement she worked part time for Westbrook Christian School and the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University and Master of Arts degree from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. She is presently enrolled in the Mississippi University for Women and pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree in non-fiction writing.



ST. BERNARD

Left to right: Will Drake, Jennifer Glassford and Michael Kastner

Upon completion of her MFA. she plans to further pursue her Ph.D. in English. She lives in Cullman with her son and her three dogs, Roxie, Copper and Riley.

Kastner joined the faculty at St. Bernard Prep School as the new director of fine arts. Originally from Tiffin, Ohio, Kastner and his wife, Betsey, have been married for 34 years and they have three children, Michelle, 30, who is a human resources administrative assistant in Toledo, Ohio; Melissa, 28, who works in higher education at Wright State University and is married to Ryan, who is proud to be a member of the U.S. Air Force; and Matthew, 25, who lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania (hometown of Father Linus), and is an instruction technologist in the department of education at Lehigh Valley Health Network. A graduate of Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan, Kastner loves traveling and taking walks with his wife, accompanied with their family dog, a Jack Russell named Annie. His passion for Catholic education, vocal music and especially Broadway musicals has guided him through 34 years of teaching and directing musicals for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. He is very proud and honored to be a part of the St. Bernard Prep School family.

Fr. Linus Klucarits, headmaster at St. Bernard is pleased with how the year has started: "We've had a great start to the year. We've had to make a few scheduling changes but, otherwise, all is well."

Saint Bernard Prep is a co-ed boarding and day school for students in grades 7-12. For more information, visit www.stbernardprep.com or call 256-739-6682 to schedule a private tour.

POLITICS

Aderholt challenger Lee Auman meets with Cullman area constituents

Christy Perry
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – Democratic candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, Lee Auman, hosted a town hall meeting Thursday night at the Cullman Civic Center. It was one of at least a dozen town halls Auman has planned across Alabama's 4th Congressional District, which includes Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lawrence, Marion, Marshall, Walker and Winston counties as well as parts of Blount, Cherokee, Jackson and Tuscaloosa counties.

Auman is seeking to unseat 22-year Republican incumbent U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt, who has run unopposed in the past three elections.

A native of Union Grove in Marshall County, Auman attended Snead State Community College and graduated from Auburn University. He joked with those in attendance about being an "AU-man." While attending Auburn, he served as a youth minister and worked with individuals with special needs.

Auman said, "I've talked to voters across all political spectrums and all have concerns and are affected by the same bread and butter issues. I want my campaign to be evidence of how I will represent you in office."

Before opening the meeting up for questions, he spoke about three areas of major concern: the opioid epidemic, the closing of rural hospitals and the slow economic recovery in many areas due to failing infrastructure.

Auman explained, "A study by Harvard University revealed that Alabama's 4th Congressional District is the highest opioid prescribing district in the entire country.

"My opponent has not addressed this report, but he has received $135,000 from opioid manufacturers.

"When asked about the opioid problem, Aderholt implied that depression was one of the culprits of the epidemic. Opioids aren't prescribed for depression. "

Auman hopes to introduce a bill requiring a national prescription database to help physicians better identify patients who have multiple prescriptions and those seeking out multiple doctors.

"If physicians are required to update the database in real time and check the database prior to writing a prescription, opioid abuse would decrease," he said.

"We need to have a national database that allows information sharing between the states."

Auman also has ideas to reduce the high level of rural hospital closings. He supports ending the reductions in disproportionate hospital funds.

He said that should have been done when the United States Supreme Court ruled a federal mandate to expand Medicaid unconstitutional and a state-level decision.

Investing in infrastructure is a way to build long-term employment opportunities throughout the district, according to Auman, who added, "Modernizing infrastructure will lead to immediate job creation and sustained economic growth.

"Our roads and bridges are in bad shape and I will fight for funding to fix these problems and create jobs."

When asked about the minimum wage, Auman said, "There should be regional minimum wage based on the cost of living in that area.

"Adjustments should be made yearly. Studies show no evidence of negative effects on business when raising minimum wage."

A local farmer asked Auman his views of recent tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump and bailouts paid to farmers hurt by them.

Auman replied, "The recent tariffs were a terrible idea. Tariffs can be fundamentally good, but they need to be well thought out and in coordination with other countries. Farmers don't want welfare. They want to sell their goods and earn their living. Other countries are now finding other countries to do business with this will have a long-term effect."

About protecting kids from gun violence at school, Auman said, "Everyone agrees that our kids should not fear for their lives at school. We can make changes and not infringe on Second Amendment rights."

Auman has been endorsed by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, formed following the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, "to demand action from legislators, state and federal, companies, and educational institutions to establish common-sense gun reforms."

"My positions on gun safety are based on evidence, not ideology," Auman said. His website, www.aumanforcongress.com, details his recommendations for reducing gun violence including closing loopholes for background checks and closing the "boyfriend loophole" by prohibiting convicted stalkers and abusers from owning guns.

Auman closed the town hall saying, "People are ready for a change. Let's make it happen."

The general election is on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Wallace State volleyball ranked 16th in NJCAA Division I preseason poll

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's volleyball team is ranked 16th in the NJCAA Division I preseason poll, released earlier this week. The Lions are recognized in the Top 20 preseason ranking for the eighth time in 10 years and will seek their 10th consecutive conference championship this season under coach Randy Daniel.

Returning Wallace State sophomores in 2018 are Lexie Riggins, Maya Jones, Alex Wiggins, Courtlyn Barber and Katie Edwards. Madison Turner and McKenzie Boland are sophomore transfers.

Riggins was the ACCC Tournament MVP last season. She was second in the Alabama Community College Conference with 393 kills and the league leader with 160 blocks and a .416 hitting percentage. Jones, a middle hitter from Hoover, was also an ACCC All-Tournament selection.

Wallace State features 10 freshmen on this season's roster. Wallace State finished with a 34-10 record last season, capturing its ninth straight ACCC/Region 22 tournament title and 10th consecutive ACCC/Region 22 regular-season championship. The team made its ninth straight trip to the NJCAA Division I national tournament and conference-best 17th overall. Wallace State opens the regular season on Aug. 24 in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Daniel, entering his 12th season with the Lions, has a 404-89 career record at Wallace State. He is the all-time winningest coach in program history. Kheala Roberts Beck, a WSCC volleyball alum, is a first-year assistant.

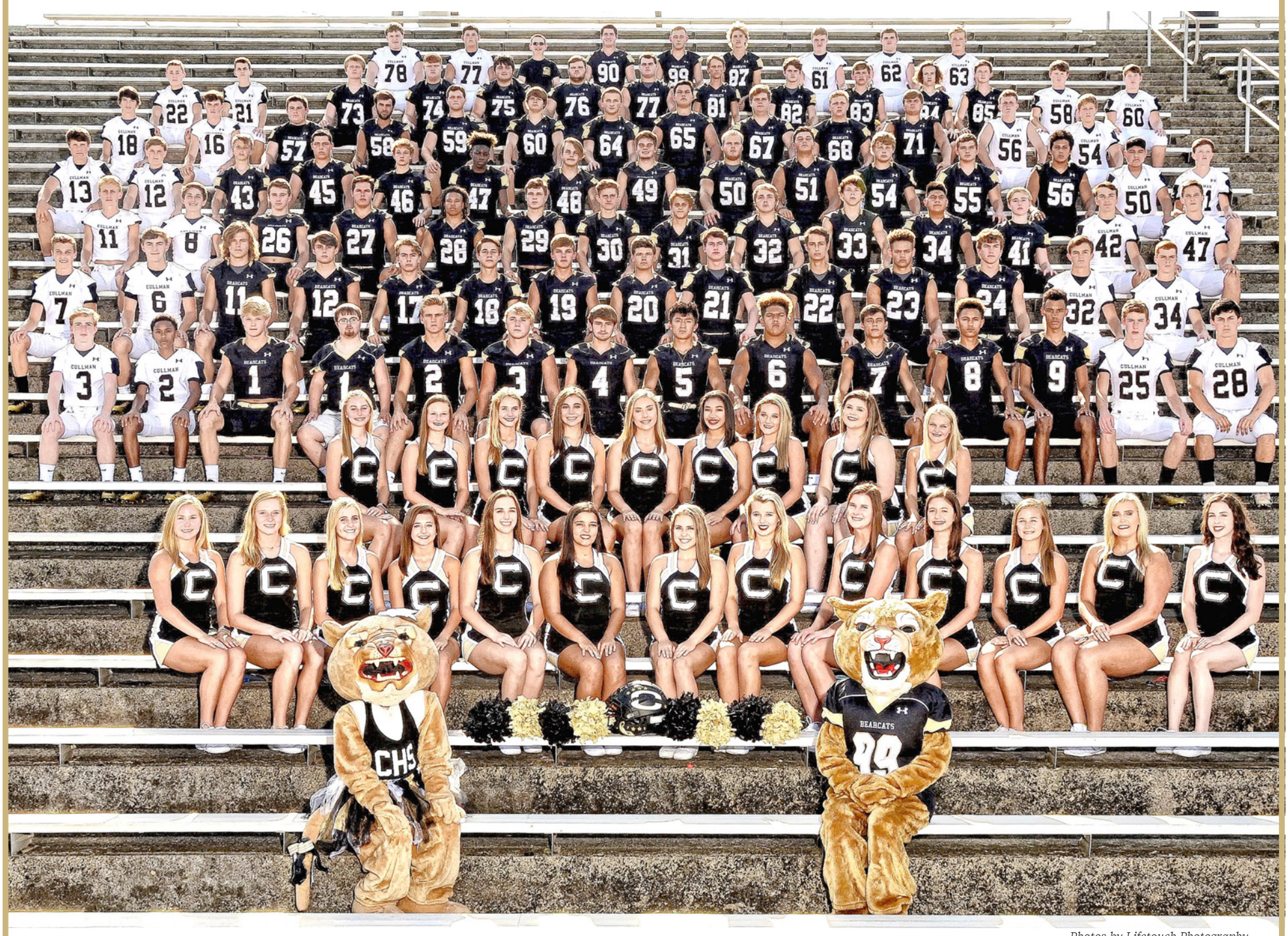
You can view the complete preseason poll here: http://njcaa.org/sports/wvball/2018-19/div1/polls. For more information about Wallace State athletics, visit www.athletics.wallacestate.edu.

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Cullman Bearcats



Photos by Lifetouch Photography

TEAM ROSTER

#1 Dylon Wallace, 12
#2 Max Dueland, 10
#3 Seth Gable, 12
#4 Brayden Scroggins, 11
#5 Jimmie Chau Le, 12
#6 Jaylen Hughey, 10
#7 Noah Bussman, 11
#8 Jaden Kay, 10
#9 Isaiah Jones, 10
#11 J.T. White, 10
#12 Ethan Echols, 10
#13 Caleb Heatherly, 9
#15 J.T. Blackwood, 9
#16 Hayden Stancil, 9
#17 Gabe Sosa, 10
#18 Matt Brock, 10
#19 Griffin Barksdale, 10
#20 Austin Hurt, 10
#21 Kennedy Griffin, 10
#22 Dustin Speake, 11
#23 Jayden Sullins, 11
#24 Peyton Colvard, 12
#25 Drew Conway, 9
#26 Cole Herfurth, 10
#27 Ezra Burks, 12
#28 Alex Sheppard, 10
#29 Carter Lindsey, 11
#31 Sam Brand, 10
#32 Canaan Lipsey, 12
#33 John Parker Millikin, 11
#34 Eric Lopez, 11
#35 Kaleb Bates, 9
#36 Dylan Sessions, 9
#37 Noah Key, 9
#38 Jake Dueland, 9
#39 Eli Ratliff, 11
#40 Riley Schaefer, 10
#41 Ethan Moore, 10
#42 Hunter Brooks, 9
#43 Brian Kuri, 10
#44 Drew Ball, 9
#45 Cody Lynn, 10
#46 Cannon Trimble, 10
#47 Daquin Wilson, 10
#48 Zane Melton, 11
#49 Riley Bradford, 12
#50 Bailey Hayes, 11
#51 Lane Smith, 11
#52 Keeton Williams, 10
#53 Evan Richards, 9
#55 Gage Butler, 10
#56 Josh Miranda, 10
#57 Kyle Schultz, 11
#58 Gavin Bush, 10
#59 Ben Turner, 11
#60 Owen Young, 10
#62 Jordan Ray, 12
#64 Keaton Kinney, 12
#67 Parker Andrews, 10
#68 Jay Knopp, 10
#73 Tanner Heatherly, 11
#74 Tyler White, 10
#75 Parker Hyatt, 10
#76 Jed Wilson, 10
#77 Carter Borden, 12
#81 Cameron Starnes, 12
#82 Gavin Monroe, 10
#83 Logan Holley, 10
#84 Braxton King, 11
#85 Houston Smith, 11
#87 Caden Barnett, 10
#90 Holden Atchison, 11
#93 Gavin Burtis, 12
#99 Luke Andrews, 12

SCHEDULE

Aug. 23 - v. Jasper
Aug. 31 - v. Mortimer Jordan
Sept. 7 - at Decatur
Sept. 14 - v. Columbia
Sept. 21 - at Albertville
Sept. 28 - at Hueytown
Oct. 5 - v. Athens
Oct. 12 - v. Muscle Shoals
Oct. 19 - at Hartselle
Oct. 26 - at Fort Payne

CHEERLEADERS: Front row, (left to right): mascot- Caitlyn McDonald and mascot- Alyssa Sandlin. **Second row, (left to right):** Ellie Jones, Emily Klair Brown, Karli Mcgehee, Ashton Story, Megan Flynt, Kennedy Witcher, Emily Little, Madison Bates, Sydney Ratliff, Elizabeth Baughn, Sophie Harrison, Lauren Sumrall and Autumn Calvert; **Third row, (left to right):** Maddie Baughn, Adyson Bauer, Carlie Fuller, Bailey Battles, Krislyn Scroggins, Lilly Rutherford, Zoe Vincent, Chloe Echols and Averi Wallace

COACHES: Matt Plunkett – head, Luke Hackbarth – assistant and quarterbacks, Trent Walker – offensive coordinator and running backs, Ty Campbell – offensive coordinator and wide receivers, David Hannah – offensive line, Matt Hopper – defensive coordinator and linebackers, Jonathan Romine – defensive backs, Kyle Morris – defensive line, Brandon Dingler – defensive backs, John Drake – quality control, Bill Griffin – equipment manager and Allan Mosteller - director of football operations; Will Tidwell - head ninth grade, Aaron Avery – ninth assistant, Daniel Moore – ninth assistant and Tyler Pitzing – ninth defensive coordinator

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A Younger Bearcat squad, Plunkett have top 10 aspirations

This fall will bring a lot of changes for the Cullman Bearcats as they look to fill several positions on the field, but the most noticeable difference will probably be on the sidelines. This season will be the first since 2001 that head coach Mark Britton will not be there for Cullman. Coach Matt Plunkett, who made the move from Gardendale, was officially named as Britton's replacement in January.

Plunkett is taking over a team that went to the postseason in 2017 and his earliest goals were just to improve on that team in the offseason. He has seen his kids step up over the course of the spring and summer, and as a result, Plunkett expects this Bearcat squad to have a chance to win every week.

"I think we've developed a very competitive football team. I believe we'll have a chance to win every game in the regular season. I think we'll go out there and play really hard and in the fourth quarter and it'll come down to two or three plays whether the game busts open for us or slips away from us, but my goal is that we'll have a chance to win in the fourth quarter in every game. I believe our strength numbers and the work we've put in this offseason will give us the ability to do that," Plunkett said.

"We're playing against some great competition; our region is really strong, so we need to have some early success and our kids understand that. Their mentality this offseason has kind of mirrored that attitude. They understand that you win games between January and August and you can tell that they've been very focused on that. From an attendance standpoint it's been great. Honestly I feel like we're a little ahead and I didn't think we'd be this far along, so I'm excited and I really believe our players are excited."

One of Plunkett's more long-term goals is to have the 'Cats in the top 10 on a consistent basis in the next few seasons.

"From a player's standpoint, we just felt like we had to get stronger. I didn't think our strength numbers were where they needed to be for us to be a top 10 6A program. That's my goal, is to get us into the top 10," Plunkett said. "Whether that be this year, next year or the year after that, my goal is within three years for us to be a top 10 program. Sometimes you can start out hot and slip into the top 10, but the key is that when that season ends, and they do the final poll, we're in that top 10 somewhere."

One of the things Plunkett has enjoyed the most about his early tenure at Cullman is getting to know his coaching staff. He believes that the Bearcats have one of the better staffs in the state and he has enjoyed working with them during this offseason

"Our coaching staff is second to none and it has been awesome working with the guys. They have been awesome and are very dedicated to our players here which is exciting for me as a head coach," Plunkett said. "The hardest thing to do in high school football is putting together a big-time staff and that was easy here. We've got a very good offensive and defensive staff so getting to know those guys and working with those guys in the offseason as a coaching staff has been great. Anytime you can step in at a new job and you've got coaches that have been through the fire and faced adversity and come out from it, that's big. A lot of coaches struggle when that adversity hits and I'll tell you what, this group of coaches is very close-knit, and they've made me a better head coach."

This year's Cullman team will have to replace a lot of game experience and production from last year's squad, but Plunkett doesn't want that to affect its identity on offense. Plunkett has seen a lot of young players step up this offseason and wants to take advantage of that talent pool this fall.

"That team last year had 31 seniors on it, so all those guys are gone. They were a very veteran team, so we've got new faces in a lot of places. The big thing is identifying a quarterback. The good news is we've got about six kids that are here from 10th grade all the way through eighth grade that we really like. The bad news is, none of them have any game experience," Plunkett said. "So, we've got some very good talent there, we're just very youthful. We're just young and inexperienced so we're going to take the attitude of managing the games, but I told Trent Walker and Ty Campbell, who are my offensive coordinators, and Luke Hackbarth my quarterbacks' coach, I've never been very conservative offensively. On paper it says we need to play conservative, but we've got a find a way to be conservative without showing our hand a little bit because I like to throw the ball down the field. We've got some good young playmakers out there that I'm excited about, and Max Dueland is leading the charge as our starter at quarterback and very close behind him is J.T. Blackwood who has had just an incredible summer. We've got no shortage of quarterbacks; the future is very exciting there and they aren't just your average high school players. They have a chance to be record breakers and do some big things."

Plunkett has high hopes for the skill players on offense this season and he knows that his kids are ready to win now. The Bearcats averaged just over 24 points per game last year and he'd like to see those numbers climb in his first season.

"From a passing game standpoint and being electric, with those young quarterbacks and the talent our offensive staff has, I'm excited," Plunkett said. "Those kids aren't looking at this as a building year. They want to go out and there and score points and win for the Bearcats. That's what they want, and that's been very obvious in their summer training. You're going to see a lot of kids plus Dylon Wallace and Peyton Colvard and maybe a little Seth Gable at times, come over and play receiver for us. That's a lot of bodies, and not a lot of seniors, so that's exciting for our future and for this year."

Junior running back Jayden Sullins will be the centerpiece of the 'Cats offense this fall, and Plunkett has seen him make big strides in the offseason. As a returning part of last year's offense, Sullins will be looked to as a leader on the offensive side who can move the chains.

"Another kid that you'll see playing some receiver but will also be our feature running back is Jayden Sullins. Jayden is kind of a guy that we can plug in anywhere and we're going to challenge him to have a career type of season and really be the guy that people say, 'If we don't stop him, we will lose.' He knows that this year he's kind of the older guy that is the workhorse and we need to be careful that we're not putting the game in his hands and we're spreading the ball around because we need to get Jayden is some one-on-ones. Jayden's going to win one-on-one, so we're excited about him. If Cullman Bearcat Football is going to accomplish some of the goals we have for this year, Jayden Sullins needs to have a big year, and that's no secret."

The Bearcats will have to replace All-State offensive lineman Tyler Nunnelley this season, but with several other starters coming back and a new addition to the coaching staff, Plunkett is expecting his offensive front to play well together.

"Offensive line-wise the big area that I think we've improved in there is just coaching. We've hired David Hannah, who is one of the top O-line coaches if not the top O-line coach in the state of Alabama. I would say that with this group, David is just looking for that passion, that heart, that intensity and that great technique," Plunkett said. "We don't have that guy up there that's 6'5", 320 pounds. There's no Wesley Britts or Spencer Regions, so we don't have that big body, but we've got a really solid unit of 6'0" to 6'2", 250- to 280-pound guys that are going to work well together. We feel like we've identified our top six for sure and Coach Hannah wants to identify our top eight that can play on Friday nights."

On the defensive side of the ball, the 'Cats had to make some moves at the linebacker position, but as a result, there will be two experienced seniors in the middle of the Black and Gold defense this season. Plunkett credited Defensive Coordinator Matt Hopper with the defense's early success in fall camp and looks forward to seeing what he can do with this unit throughout the season.

"Defensively, when I got here and looked at some film I thought, 'Man with all we're losing defensively we've got to find some linebackers.' So, Ezra Burks was a no-brainer to move to the linebacker position and he has been that key defensive leader day in and day out at mike linebacker for us," Plunkett said. "He's really smart, plays hard, he's a big hitter and he's always around the ball so just teaching him the game has been the big thing for us. Dylon Wallace will be the guy right beside him at will linebacker. He was second on the team in tackles last year and just absolutely is around the ball every play and does a great job in coverage and blitzing. The kid's just going to be tough to block and he's just active and productive. I could not be more proud of the job Matt Hopper has done with our defense here. He and I have worked closely together with our defense and Matt's done a fantastic job. Our players love him, he's a Cullman guy and I just know that I'm a better coach because of Matt Hopper."

One of those senior linebackers, Wallace, talked briefly about how the offseason has gone for the Bearcats.

"We've been really hitting the weights and our conditioning just to get ready for the season. I'm really excited to see how we do this season," Wallace said. "He's (Plunkett) really hardcore and he's trained us hard, so I expect a lot of wins."

Wallace has had to take on a bigger role as a leader this year as a senior and so far, he's adjusted well to the coaching change and is looking forward to getting back on the field.

"We've just had to step it up and be leaders this year with a new coach and everything, just getting everybody to cooperate with the change and it's been pretty fun," Wallace said. "I like our new head coach a lot. It's a grind with him. It's a lot harder than it was my past three seasons, but I've really liked it and he's getting us really prepared."

With so much youth hitting the field for Cullman this fall, a lot of people are expecting a bit of a rebuilding year from the Bearcats, but Plunkett and his team are ready to surprise people.

"I would think that those kids would be pretty mad at their coach if they thought I was just looking forward to 2019. I'm not; I'm looking forward to 2018 because these kids are going to prove some people wrong, and that's their motivation," Plunkett said. "They want go out and play really well this year and do some big things, so the sky's the limit for this group."

By: Nick Griffin

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Obituary Announcements: Aug. 17 - 22

Mr. Oscar Light, 88, of Huntsville passed away on Friday, August 17, 2018 at Floyd E. Tut Fann Veteran's Home. Arrangements are incomplete at this time and will be released by Cullman Funeral Home.

Mrs. Carolyn Sue Moore, 70, of Vinemont passed away on Thursday, August 16, 2018. No services are planned at this time. Cullman Funeral Home directing.

Funeral services for Orris "Gary" Helms, 81, will be held on Saturday, August 18, at 10 a.m. at the Chapel of Kilgroe Funeral Home, in Pell City. Graveside services will be at Valhalla Memory Gardens in Huntsville, on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at 2 p.m.

Rayford J. Murray, 91, of Cullman, passed away on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at his residence. Mr. Murray served in the Army during WWII. His favorite hobby was fishing and was known by many for being a great fisherman. He also enjoyed truck farming and supplied produce to the local stores. He was preceded in death by his wife, Wavalue Murray, his parents: Roy & Alma Murray and 7 siblings. He leaves to cherish his memory his daughters: Brenda (Sam) Scott, Barbara (Johnnie) Cole and Becky (John) Mullinax; sons: Glenn (Teresa) Murray, Dennis Murray and Steve (Melanie) Murray; grandchildren: Bradley Scott and his fiancée Sujata, Tina (Jeremy) Calvert, Misty (Tim) Knight, Christy Sanford, Colby Murray, Tommy (Emily) Murray and Jennifer (Brandon) Kennemur; 9 great grandsons and sisters: Colene Duncan Johnston and Nancy Abernathy. Mr. Murray's family will receive friends on Saturday, August 18, 2018 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. The Celebration of Life service will begin at 4 p.m. in the chapel of Moss Service Funeral Home. Burial with Military Honors will follow at Prospect Church of Christ Cemetery located at Guthery's Cross Roads. Moss Service Funeral Home is directing.

Funeral services for Melvin "Mickey" Latham, 75, formerly of Parrish, Al. formerly of Cullman, will be held Saturday, August 18, 2018 at 11 a.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Bobby Crawford officiating. Interment will follow in Ebenezer Cemetery. Visitation is Saturday from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. He was born on May 5, 1943 to Hythen and Helen Eubanks Latham. He was a 20 year retired veteran of The United States Air Force and he was the owner of Vinemont Floral, Gift and Herb Shop. He is preceded in death by his wife Gaynell Brock Latham. Survivors are: daughters Theresa Ferguson of Birmingham, Al., Crystal (Jay) Rodgers of Parrish, Al., son Melvin (Sheryl) Latham of Columbus, Ms., brother Jerry (Sandra) Latham of Villarica, Ga., 3 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

Billie "BG" Garlin Ward, 87, of Talladega, Alabama entered into rest on August 17, 2018 at his residence surrounded by his loving family. Mr. Ward was born on March 15, 1931. Visitation will be held on Sunday, August 19, 2018 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where services will be held at 2 p.m. Brother Gary Wakefield will officiate. Burial will follow in Sardis No. 1 Baptist Church Cemetery in Lynn, Alabama.

Doc Scroggins of Cullman Alabama passed away on August 15, 2018 at the age of 88. He was born in Clio Alabama on April 6, 1930 to Charlie and Vallie Belle Bracewell Scroggins. He is preceded in death by his parents and wife Ellen Maunette Scroggins. Doc was a veteran of The United States Army Military Police and he also worked as a salesman for R.L. Zeigler for 45 years. Funeral services are Sunday, August 19, 2018 at Moss Funeral Home Chapel at 3 p.m. with Rev. Brian Witcher officiating. Interment will follow in Cullman Memory Gardens. Survivors are: son Lydon (Rachel) Scroggins, daughter Alena Scroggins, son-in-law Jeff (Stacie) Thomas, sisters Mary Charles Long, Emma Jessie Easterling, Ann Baker, brothers Max Scroggins, Darrell Scroggins, grandchildren Amy (Jimmy) Drake, Cassie (Aaron) Sparks, Nikki (Jacob) Wheat, 7 great grandchildren. Visitation will be on Sunday at Moss Funeral Home from 12:30 p.m. until service time at 3 p.m.

Loretta A. Shaddix, 77, of Brimfield, OH went home to be with the Lord on August 14, 2018 after a lengthy illness. She was devoted to her family and her faith. She especially enjoyed her grandchildren and her church. During her employment, she enjoyed her coworkers at SGS Hand Tool Co. Loretta volunteered at several church events and Good Neighbors. She was preceded in death by her parents, Francis and Cora Day; five brothers; and two sisters. She leaves to cherish her memory, loving of husband of 52 years, Thomas Lee; daughters, Sheila Ballway, Sherri (Dennis) McGuinness, Cindy (Steve 2) Scott, and Candee (Steve 1) Brown; grandchildren, Jeremy (Becky), Daniel (Alison), Kristen, Cara, Nicholas, Cody, Kayla, Brady, Courtney, Tommy and Abby; great-grandchildren, Gabriella, Maggie and Robert; brother, Doug; and sister, Rosemary. She also leaves behind many neighbors and friends that she considered family. Her home was always opened to anyone that needed her. Family will receive friends on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, 255 County Rd. 1435, Cullman, AL 35058. Funeral Service will follow at Bethel United Methodist Church, 369 Bethel Church Rd., Eva, AL 35621. Burial will be at the adjoining cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to New Hope Church of God, 20990 Oak St. Alliance, OH 44601.

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STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2018-240

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF EVELYN H. BUETTNER, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to James R. Buettner, Sr. on the 8th day of August, 2018, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

James R. Buettner, Sr., Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMA COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JEAN MARIE LINDSEY, * **CASE NO.: PC2018-257**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to DARRYL EDWARD WASHAM, as Personal Representative of the Estate of JEAN MARIE LINDSEY, deceased, on the 9th day of August, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

NOTCE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all personas having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same be barred.

DONE this the 9th day of August, 2018.

Personal Representative:
DARRYL EDWARD WASHAM

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for 3 successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Jeffrey N. Cotney
Cotney Elder Law
717 Kerr Drive
Gardendale, AL 35071
(205) 271-7955

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2018-256

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF EUNICE FAYE SELF, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Pamela Self Scott on the 8th day of August, 2018, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Pamela Self Scott
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

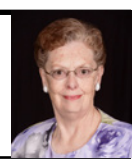
Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
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News from the Pond

Jimmie Dean Carnell
Tribune Contributor



Good morning, Tribune readers and families. Hope that everyone is enjoying this beautiful late summer weather. Can you believe that students and teachers are already back in classes? You shouldn't be surprised, even though it usually seems to come too soon. When I was in school, we started this early, then dismissed for two or three weeks to pick cotton. Aren't you glad we don't pick cotton now?

Members of the Dripping Springs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution attended a district meeting recently in Birmingham.

Twelve members attended. They had workshops on genealogy, meeting tips and committee work for various officers.

It was also good to meet the new Alabama Society Officers led by State Regent Tammy Clemons.

You will remember that Ms. Clemons was the installing officer for the local new officers recently. Members attending from the local chapter were Radene Oden, Cathy Shallal, Rhonda VanZandt, Athelia Gibbs, Julea Moats, Nancy Horton, Belinda Kilgore, Teresa Goodwin, Pam Reed, Linda Kuykendall, Donna Cornelius and Julia Floyd.

A reminder to all members that their new club year begins on September 2nd at the Cullman First United Methodist Church.

The Homemakers Club of Holly Pond held their August meeting on Tuesday afternoon at the Holly Pond fire hall.

Mrs. Deanie Walker, President, presided. Brenda Scott led in the pledge to the flag.

Amelia Wisener presented the devotional. Julia Floyd, secretary passed out the minutes of the last meeting for the members to read. Gladys Wisener and Linda Reid presented financial reports.

A report was also given on the trip which was the July meeting.

The club voted to compensate Brenda Wisener for transportation for the July meeting.

The program was presented by Mrs. Liza Holmes who oversees "Celebrate Recovery" held on Tuesday evenings at the Holly Pond United Methodist Church.

She told about the ministry and growth of this program. A few members asked her questions.



JIMMIE DEAN CARNELL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Dripping Springs Daughters of the American Revolution recently attended the Meeting of the Districts in Hoover. Members attending were Radene Oden, Cathy Shallal, Rhonda VanZandt, Linda Kuykendall, Julia Floyd, Pam Reed, Belinda Kilgore, Julea Moats, Teresa Goodwin and Donna Cornelius. (Not pictured: Nancy Horton, Athelia Gibbs.)

Members attending were Janice Murphree, Brenda Wiener, Brenda Scott, Dorothy Horton, Amelia Wisener, Nell Harbison, Deanie Walker, Julia Floyd, Gladys Wisener, Carolyn Bryan, Judy Jones, Peggy Ray, Linda Reid, Sue Morris, Louise Scott, Christine Wise, Jimmie Carnell, Lyndell House and Annette Yates.

The Holly Pond Civitans met on Tuesday evening. Kay Stewart president, presided.

Paul Brown presented the devotional. Lynn Jetton presented the Civitan Creed. Upcoming meeting schedule and fall District Meeting were discussed.

The next meeting will be on August 21st. Members attending this meeting were: Sharon Oliver, Paul Brown, Jimmie Carnell, Gladys Wisener, Tammy Black, Janice Murphree, Walt and Judy Floyd, Lyndell House, Lynn Jetton and Kay Stewart.

Until next time, enjoy this great late summer weather, stay safe.

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1936

Mr. R.C. Berry, of Vinemont, was a business visitor to Cullman on Saturday. He reported killing three, four hundred pound hogs last week. They decided to store the meat in their washhouse until morning, then cut the meat up to salt down and store.

The meat was frozen solid and could not be used until it was thawed to where it could be handled.

Mrs. J.M. Woodall, of Good Hope, died at her home on Friday afternoon. She was seventy eight and had been a member of the Baptist Church for sixty-one years.

Reverend W.L. Hudson conducted the services at Good Hope Church and her body laid to rest in the Good Hope Cemetery.

Cullman and Cullman County has nineteen legally qualified physicians living in Cullman County in 1936.

Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Edwards are announcing the birth of a little daughter.

Editor J.C. Norwood of The Cullman Tribune is suffering from a severe heart attack.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry White are the parents of a son, born last Thursday. He is named John Henry.

Herman Pruett, one of Cullman County's popular teachers, will be a reader of the Tribune for the year 1936.

Officers for the National Honor Society for this semester have been elected at Cullman County High School. They are: president – Marigene Wilhite; vice-president – Cortez Johnson and secretary – Lila Belle Ponder. The second issue of the high school paper will be published on Friday.

Cullman Motor Company has a new Chevrolet car for $495. Ad.

Miss Viva Lou Hyatt, age 24, passed away on Monday at Talladega School. She was a victim of pneumonia. Services were at Livingston's Chapel on Tuesday. She was a sister of Allen Hyatt, Jimmie and Robert Hyatt and Miss Gladys and Alta Hyatt, of Trade.

Don't make friends who are comfortable to be with. Make friends who will force you to lever yourself up.

From The Files Of 1950

Geraldine Zinsmeister, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Zinsmeister, of Cullman, has completed W.A.F. training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and is spending ten days with her parents.

A city truck caught fire at the city dump last Saturday when it was parked too near a blazing fire.

Lee Yeager, of East Point has a pear tree in full bloom.

The Reverend A. Wayne Johnson is the new pastor at Longview Church of God.

Mrs. W.H. Harris, of Crane Hill, died on February 6th. She is survived by a brother, Gerald Land and a sister, Mrs. Mary McAfee.

Pretty Odessa Swann is in the hospital from serious burns, which she sustained in front of an open grate at her parents (Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Swann) home when her skirt caught fire. Odessa is a senior at Cold Springs High School.

Reverend Sim J. Calvert of Good Hope preached at Bethany, on Sunday.

Derlan Harbison has purchased a new pickup.

Earney Shaw and Mary Martin had dinner in Blountsville on Sunday. Mary is a former Holly Pond teacher, who is now at Corner.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

It is well with my soul

Bill King
Tribune Contributor



A couple of weeks ago, we buried my sister-in-law. She was my only living sibling's wife, but she seemed more like a sister to me than a sister-in-law. She had been part of our family for almost as far back as I can remember.

Please read this next part entirely and carefully, before you jump to the wrong conclusion.

I married my sister-in-law's younger sister, but it didn't last. I never even bothered to tell Jean that I had been married before. I didn't figure it was important or that big of a deal. After all, that first marriage really wasn't even legal.

That was partly because we didn't have a marriage license, but the biggest problem was I was only six years old when my brother playfully performed the impromptu ceremony.

She was an older, more mature woman, all of eleven.

Just for the record, there was no exchanging or rings and certainly no kissing of the bride.

Like most any six-year old boy, I would have kissed a donkey right on the end of the nose rather than kiss a girl – even a pretty eleven-year old.

There was no cake and when we left, she went to her house, and I went to mine.

We didn't even see one another again for quite some time after that.

Now, before rumors begin, I've been married only once actually and that has been to Jean Willis King for the last forty-three years. Obviously, my first wedding was simply two children pretending.

My brother Briggs, and his wife Bobbie, on the other hand, had a real marriage that lasted fifty-six years. Bobbie loved Briggs so much, that she left her high school in the middle of her senior year to marry him.

She graduated the following spring, but she spent her final semester at a new school, where she had not known anyone. Briggs had already graduated.

To make that kind of sacrifice took love and commitment.

Briggs was already the pastor of a church when he and Bobbie married. Together, they spent their adult lives in ministry, with Bobbie right by his side wherever he went.

They moved away from home, so he could attend Bible school and college.

After he graduated, ministry took them to serve in in Tennessee, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, back to Alabama, and finally in Mississippi.

They recently retired from pastoral ministry and moved back home to Rainsville, Alabama.

After a lengthy struggle with cancer, Bobbie lost that battle, but at the same time she won her final victory. She planned her own funeral service.

She called me a few weeks before she passed and asked me to speak. She told me who else and what she wanted, including her favorite hymn, which was, "It is Well."

The time of her departure was at hand. She knew it and she was ready.

Her final weeks were spent in a hospice care facility, with Briggs and her family by her side.

After she had ceased to say much, what little she spoke was weak and barely understandable.

Then, with a loud clear voice, she said, "I'm ready to go." Briggs asked, "Where do you want to go?" She answered, "Home." "Which home?" he asked.

Her final words forever were, "I'm ready to go to heaven."

In her last weeks, her son, Phillip, created a music playlist of fifty classic hymns for her. She drew her last breath on July 27, at 6:39 a.m.

The song playing at that exact moment was "It is Well with my soul." I believe it was.

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-745-0588 (office) or 334-728-5514 (cell).

Poet's Corner

Immersed

By: Franklin Battles
Altoona, Alabama

When my heart cries, "ABBA, father
When I've wandered from your will
Immerse me in your presence
Then draw me closer still

Immersed in His presence
Overwhelmed by majesty
I'm consumed by the wonder
Of my Lord, the King of Kings

Immersed in His presence
Clothed in His awesome grace
I'm enraptured by His glory
Holy, Holy is this place

Immersed in His presence
Here the healing waters flow
May His cleansing flow within me
Til I'm purer than the snow

Immersed in His presence
There's a genuflection of my soul
As He guides my understanding
Of the blood that's made me whole

Now my heart cries, "ABBA Father
Draw me closer still
For I'm Immersed in Your presence
Lord, I'm abandoned to your will.

SERVICE NOTE

Trevor Slayton graduates U.S. Air Force basic military training

U.S. Air Force
Contributor

United States Air Force Airman Trevor M. Slayton recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Slayton is the son of Susan Jones of Dauphin Island and Jon Slayton of Cullman.

He is a 2017 graduate of Cold Springs High School.



U.S. AIR FORCE

Trevor Slayton





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Wild Game Cookout
(Will Be Held at 1207 Old Bolte Rd. SE (Bussman Residence Instead Of At The Church)
Saturday, August 25th – 4:00 until 9:00 p.m.
We will have a water slide, inflatables, fishing, fun prizes, games and great food, including Elk, Bison, Ostrich and more!

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