



# BEVILL STATE Community College

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The Only Way To Study - *Daily Mountain Eagle*

# Chronic Pain, Part 1: The Crisis

## ■ History of the opioid crisis

By **LUKE BRANTLEY**  
*Summer Intern*  
*Troy University*

HAMILTON - America is in the middle of an epidemic. The disease? Opioid addiction.

And Alabama is in the hot-zone.

### The Statistics

Over 700,000 people in the U.S. died of a drug overdose between 1999 and 2017, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), which is based in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 2017, 68% of overdose deaths involved an opioid of some kind.

Over 70,200 people died of drug-related causes in 2017. 68% of 70,200 is around 47,736.

Although the U.S. makes

up only 4.5% of the world's population, it consumes 80% of global prescription opioids.

According to CDC data from 2017, Alabama's rate of opioid prescriptions per 100 people was 107.2, the highest rate of any state in the country.

In Marion County, the rate is even higher: 162.1 per 100 people. That's an average of 1.6 per person.



**Dr. Brent Boyett**

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See **CHRONIC** on page 3A.

drug cartels that smuggled the heroin into the U.S. found a new product that was much more potent and easier to smuggle. Not only that, but it was already being manufactured legally in the U.S.

The product was fentanyl. Phase three had begun.

Fentanyl is a legal prescription drug in the U.S., but it is also manufactured illegally here and in other countries, such as Mexico.

According to Boyett, fentanyl is 100 times more potent than heroin. This means traffickers can transport it in smaller containers and then dilute, or "cut," the fentanyl to sell more of it.

But this process isn't carried out in a safe, scientific environment, and it's not done consistently. Boyett said one particular dose might be fine for an individual, but another dose of fentanyl that was diluted differently could be lethal to that same person.

Boyett said that the nation is now entering the fourth phase of the ongoing opioid crisis, which he called the "combination drug phase."

Boyett explained that opioid misusers have begun to combine different drug classes with opioids to add a "turbo-boost" to their highs.

Examples of this include using psychostimulants like methamphetamines in conjunction with opioids, a method often re-

ferred to as "speed-balling."

Doctors have been inadvertently doing this, too. Boyett said that taking a prescription painkiller and adderall - a stimulant often prescribed to treat attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) - has the same effect as taking heroin and cocaine.

The only difference is the delivery.

"The assumption that 'it comes from a doctor so it's safe' is not a safe assumption," Boyett said.

## The Counterattack

Senate Bill 425 passed the Alabama state senate on May 28, and the House on May 31. The main purpose of the bill is to establish ground rules for buprenorphine use in drug addiction treatment.

The bill would allow for greater oversight for how money is used and how medications are prescribed.

It also set minimum requirements for counseling, behavioral therapy, case management and drug screenings.

Boyett was one of the main sponsors of the bill.

"The bill directs the board of medical examiners to create a 17-member standing working group to develop rules and guidelines for the appropriate prescribing of buprenorphine medication," Pathway Healthcare said in a statement.

"I appreciate Dr. Boyett working with me to set this bill up how it ought to be," Sen. Larry

Stutts, R-Tuscumbia, said. "We have a treasure in Marion County with Dr. Boyett."

Stutts, who is an obstetrician and gynecologist in Tuscumbia, said that drugs like suboxone, a brand of buprenorphine, don't cause severe withdrawal symptoms in newborn infants whose mothers are taking treatment.

Other drugs, such as methadone, can cause more serious withdrawal symptoms in newborns, who have to be weened off of it over the course of about three weeks.

The bill was designed to cut down on buprenorphine abuse and "pill mills," or "bup mills," offices and clinics that only take cash and don't accept insurance, but provide opioids to anyone willing to pay with little to no questions asked.

Boyett said these cash-only transactions make it impossible to regulate who is buying the drugs.

"These medications need to be regulated on therapy, not on a market," Boyett said. "Diversion (misprescribing opioids) is a big problem. We know people do it a good bit.

"It's our duty to diminish it as much as possible."

Boyett said he hopes and plans to be appointed to the Alabama working group to address the issue.

He is confident that the group will be able to model a plan similar to Tennessee and Virginia by its 2020 deadline.

Rep. Tracy Estes, R-

Winfield, was the representative who carried the bill through the House after Stutts carried it through the Senate.

Estes said that the bill didn't go quite as far as he and Boyett wanted it to, but for the sake of time, they decided to "trim the fat to increase its odds of going through."

"I was honored to carry the bill in the House because my district is within Congressman Robert Aderholt's Fourth District, which has the worst per capita opioid addiction problem in the entire country," Estes said.

"And (the U.S.) is worse than any other country, and by virtue of default, or the transitive property, we basically have the worst per capita opioid addiction crisis in the world."

Estes said Aderholt secured \$7 billion in federal money to go toward fighting the opioid crisis.

Estes said he would like to see this money go to Beville State Community College, which has a campus in Hamilton, so it can help with research and treatment.

Estes said this would do two things: Provide people struggling with an addiction a place to seek treatment, as well as bring more money into Beville State.

"It would be a great case study to use us to show how this works," Estes said. "I think it would be poetic to take the district that has the worst problem and show people there is hope."



**Northwest-Shoals**  
Community College

**NORTHWEST-SHOALS**  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

# Slim majority gives Colagross vote of 'no confidence'

By **SCOTT JOHNSON**  
*News Editor*

MUSCLE SHOALS - In a tight vote, Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) faculty and staff have indicated they are not confident in their president's leadership.

According to the *TimesDaily*, on Wednesday, June 27, NW-SCC employees on both



**Colagross**

campuses—Muscle Shoals and Phil Campbell—gave NW-SCC President Dr. Glenda Colagross a vote of “no confidence” with a 87-79 vote.

The vote of “no confidence” came only a week after a Montgomery judge ordered Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Chancellor Jimmy Baker and Beville State Community College (BSCC) President Dr. Kim Ennis to produce data sought by the BSCC-Hamilton Campus Leg-

See **COLAGROSS**  
on page 9A.

# Collagross

continued from front page.

islativ Task Force for Education.

The task force sued Baker and Ennis for ignoring requests for data the ACCS and BSCC allegedly studied while attempting to close workforce development programs in April 2018.

Baker named Colagross and Ennis presidents of their respective colleges in the same month, April 2018.

The 10-member task force, which consists of Marion County industry leaders, local politicians and community members, gave Ennis a vote of “no confidence” a year ago, in June 2018.

*TimesDaily* education reporter Lisa Singleton-Rickman wrote on June 27 that in a written statement, Baker gave little credence to the faculty’s vote, saying “a vote of ‘no confidence’ organ-

ized in this matter has no bearing on an individual’s job security.”

Paper ballots were cast anonymously by employees on June 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ballots from both campuses were hand-counted at the same time, making no distinction between how each respective campus voted.

According to the *TimesDaily*, out of the 415 eligible employees who could vote, only 168 participated (two ballots were left unmarked). Out of college’s 215 full-time employees, 139 of them cast ballots—or 65 percent.

Only 29 of the college’s 255 hourly and adjunct staff members voted, or 11 percent.

NW-SCC employee Jo McBride, who serves as president of the Shoals Education Association, said there have been multiple issues among

faculty and staff that have gone unaddressed leading to feelings of frustration and intimidation, according to the *TimesDaily*.

McBride hopes the vote opens dialogue in order to start resolving conflicts.

Rickman reported that Colagross came under fire most recently with her plan to hire three dean-level employees—positions that would mean a total of at least \$54,000 in raises.

One of the two positions posted recently involves a \$30,000 raise.

These raises came after 17 employees were laid off prior to the retirement of former NW-SCC President Humphrey Lee in December 2017, McBride said.

Dana Clement, the postsecondary UniServ director for the northern district of the Alabama Education

Association, told the *TimesDaily* votes of “no confidence” are a rarity in the two-year system.

Clement told the *TimesDaily*, “New high-paying positions are being established when there are employees there who’ve worked 15-19 years and are told there’s no money for their advancement or raises.

“The employees feel the environment has become hostile, and that the college is letting the community down by not meeting their academic and training needs.”

Following the vote, Clement said, “This vote says to me that there’s division in faculty and staff that’s concerning, and hopefully the result of this vote will open up dialogue with administration to move forward and good communication will occur in the future.”

The *TimesDaily* reported Baker went on to praise Colagross, saying she was brought to Northwest-Shoals to bring stability in the face of a difficult situation and she has done just that.

“I am confident in the leadership and capabilities of Dr. Colagross and it is my hope that the Northwest-Shoals community can move forward together keeping their sights on the most important piece of the Alabama

Community College System equation—our students,” Baker wrote.

Clement said she would be delivering Baker a report of the election results and they should serve as an advisory for the chancellor; however, she noted Baker is under no obligation to take action.

The *TimesDaily* said attempts to contact Colagross were unsuccessful as officials in her office said she was on a short-term leave.

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# Career Center to hold training information seminar

## ■ Hamilton Career center to host seminar July 9

By **LOUIS MELLINI**  
*Staff Writer*

HAMILTON - The Hamilton Career Center

will be hosting a Training Information Seminar on Tuesday, July 9, at the center on the Hamilton Campus of Beville State Community College.

The seminar will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 10 a.m. Presentations will include information on the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-

tunity Act and Individual Training Accounts (WIOA/ITA) information, career exploration, the college admissions process, Labor Market information and Free Application of Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)/Financial Aid information.

"At the Hamilton Career Center, we offer

regularly-scheduled workshops on a variety of topics that are going to help the community get jobs as well as teaching them things to keep those jobs," said Alissa Brown, an Employment Service Manager with the Alabama Career Center System.

"We also offer training opportunities

through career center programs such as WIOA. We also bring in guest speakers to speak about different topics such as life skills and financial responsibility, just anything that could help people."

Brown expressed that she believes the training greatly benefits

Marion County as the seminars and programs offered are very simple and accessible to those in the area who are interested.

For further information regarding the Hamilton Career Center, individuals may contact the center at (205) 921-5672.

# Winkler is crowned Miss Hamilton 2020

By **ABIGAYLE DUNKIN**  
*Summer Intern  
Bevill State  
Community College*

HAMILTON - Ashlyn Winkler has been crowned as the new Miss Hamilton 2020 during the annual pageant.

Winkler is from Dora and attends the University of Montevallo. She majors in speech-language pathology, which correlates to her platform statement, "Shining a Light on Autism Acceptance."

Samantha Hennings

became the newly-crowned Miss Outstanding Teen 2020. Hennings is from Springville and is a junior at Victory Christian School. Her platform is "Just Breathe," which helps to bring a light to mental illness, but more specifically, anxiety and depression.

Winkler and Hennings were also winners of the talent portion of the competition.

Blakeney Tibbs, daughter of Sonny and Regina Tibbs, became the newly crowned Miss

Hamilton Rising Star. She currently is in the fourth grade at Hamilton Middle School.

The competition was emceed by Miss Alabama 2019 Tiara Pennington. In the pageant, there were seven candidates who competed for Miss Hamilton and five candidates who competed for Miss Outstanding Teen.

In this process, the Miss Hamilton candidates had to complete a 10-minute interviews with the judges and compete in evening

wear, onstage interviews and talent categories in order to determine the new winner of the position.

The Outstanding Teen contestants had to complete a six-minute interview and compete in evening wear, talent, onstage questioning and fitness categories.

Amanda Clement Tice, a workforce solutions specialist at Bevill State Community College-Hamilton, is the new director for the Miss Hamilton competition.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shown (from left) in their gowns are Ashlyn Winkler (Miss Hamilton), Samantha Hennings (Miss Outstanding Teen) and Blakeney Tibbs (Miss Hamilton Rising Star).

**UPWARD BOUND**

# Hamilton senior attends leadership congress in nation's Capitol

## Ballard one of 180 chosen for paid trip

By **ABIGAYLE DUNKIN**  
*Summer Intern*  
*Bevill State Community College*

HAMILTON - A rising Hamilton High School senior was one of 180 students nationwide invited to the National Student Leadership Congress (NSLC) in June.

Brennon Ballard, 17, son of Jessica Parker and Christopher Ballard, traveled to Washington, D.C., during June 8-14 to attend the conference on an all-expense paid trip.

Ballard was selected to attend the trip through the Bevill State Community College-Hamilton Campus Upward Bound program after submitting an application and a written essay.

The conference consisted of debates, workshops and sessions which were designed to build confidence and leadership of the youth that attended.

Ballard also said he had the opportunity to tour monuments, museums, Georgetown



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brennon Ballard (right), 17, a senior at Hamilton High School traveled to the National Student Leadership Congress in Washington, D.C., from June 8-14. Upward Bound coordinator Donna Swinney is shown dropping Ballard off as he departs for the trip.

University, and even meet Sen. Doug Jones' assistant.

"Before this trip, I had never been to Washington, D.C., or flown," Ballard stated.

Life skills are not only changing the world, but they are also changing the way Ballard thinks.

When Ballard left for the NSLC, he truly did not know where the path in front of him would lead.

He arrived in Washington with fellow recipient Araceli Ramirez of Carbon Hill High School.

"I learned just how much diversity is in the world, ranging from different views, opinions, cultures and political parties," Ballard said.

He explained, "I wanted to go to strengthen my leadership qualities and I was able to become more outgoing and talk to

more people because of this experience."

Donna Swinney, an Upward Bound coordinator, could not be more proud of the hard work that Ballard has put into getting where he is. She believes that the all-expense paid trip could have not gone to someone more deserving.

"Brennon has had a high GPA and attendance rate, which helped him earn his spot. The care that he has put into Upward Bound while always focusing on his education and objectives made him perfect for this. He earned it all on his own," Swinney explained.

Ballard would like to recognize Swinney for all her help in helping him reach his goals and continuing to support him with his priorities.

When asked what his priorities were for the summer now that his big trip was over, he stated that he was now focusing on getting his summer course completed, accomplishing his football goals, and getting ready to go on the Upward Bound summer trip.

Because of this experience, Ballard has expanded his horizons for his future. He said, "Col-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brennon Ballard is shown at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., during the National Student Leadership Conference in June.

lege is not just where you are from or where you live."

He has expressed his dreams to go to UAB's nursing school, specifically sports medicine. Ballard has also not stopped believing that he could also go to the acclaimed college of Georgetown University to pursue his aspirations.

This positive event has influenced Ballard

to ask if more people will be able to encounter the energy that electrified him on his trip. He strives to ask more questions and to try and find the truth within himself. He continues to express his unwavering gratitude to Upward Bound and Swinney.

Ballard has one brother, Dauson, who also attends Hamilton High School.



# BSCC recognizes nurse educator in Sumiton



*Dr. Jennifer Killingsworth*

By **NICOLE SMITH**  
Daily Mountain Eagle

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SUMITON — Nursing educator Dr. Jennifer Killingsworth is being recognized for the impact she makes in the lives of her students.

Killingsworth recently received an Outstanding Faculty Award from Bevill State Community College for her work on the college's Sumiton campus.

She joined the college as an adjunct instructor in 2012 before she began

teaching full-time in 2013.

Killingsworth is a product of Bevill State, then UAB Walker College, where she graduated with her associate's degree in nursing. She admits earning her associate's degree was the most difficult, despite going on to obtain bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She also received a doctorate degree in nursing from Samford

**See KILLINGSWORTH, A2**

# Killingsworth — From A1

University in 2017.

“Really, I was just wanting to further myself and see what I could do for the profession of nursing,” Killingsworth said. “I was trying to look at different ways that I could influence patient care.”

Killingsworth started working at Walker Baptist Medical Center after earning her nursing degree. She says she gained experience working on all floors of the hospital, in the intensive care unit, and in other areas.

She stayed with Walker Baptist until she started teaching full-time at Bevill State.

With the exception of obstetrics and psychology, Killingsworth educates her students at Bevill State on a variety of specialties. She also facilitates their clinicals and observes simulations.

“I always tell them, ‘I want you to be the type of person that I want to take care of my family members,’” she said.

The compassion it takes to be a nurse comes naturally to Killingsworth. Her mother, Gail Earnest, was a nurse at Walker Baptist. Like her daughter, Earnest had experience in a number of areas at the hospital, including critical care, medical-surgical nursing, and emergency medicine.

Killingsworth says her mother worked at Walker Baptist (then Walker County Medical Center) in April 1983 when a man said he saw the face of Jesus on a door at the hospital.

He saw the image while waiting on a report about his son, who was in critical condition following a motorcycle accident.

Her mother reportedly helped care for the man’s son.

The door made national headlines and brought a reported 10,000 people to Jasper to view the door, according to the Daily Mountain Eagle archives.

Killingsworth said it’s her mom who inspired her to be a nurse.

“I saw what she felt for the patients,” Killingsworth said.

When Killingsworth learned she was the recipient of an Outstanding Faculty Award, she said she was shocked and humbled. Knowing she was voted on by her peers made the award even more special, she says.

“I truly wasn’t expecting it,” she said. “One way that I can actually influence patient care is through student engagement and teaching future generations.”

# Bevill State decision a win for public access

In Marion County, a group of citizens have gotten court action on Bevill State Community College that the Alabama Press Association is touting as a great victory for open records.

Circuit Court Judge James Anderson ordered Bevill State and the Alabama Community College System to provide a cost estimate for printing out records to a group of citizens called the BSCC-Hamilton Campus Legislative Advisory Task Force for Education (named that way because a now ousted legislator put it together himself). The citizens are trying to determine how the college decided to drop courses at Hamilton, which were later reinstated. However, they fear that college officials illegally ignored a six-year process in the Code of Alabama to make those decisions (with a three-year monitoring phase and a three-year phase-out process) and that they could come back to drop the courses again-and that they really want to torpedo the whole campus.

The Journal Record in Hamilton, whose managing general manager (my former boss) is on the committee, was noting that the Daily Mountain Eagle reported that at a Summit Campus town hall meeting to discuss the cut-backs-the only one, as the other campus meetings were canceled and the courses reinstated-that Bevill State President Kim Emis said, "We've done an in-depth study of our data-every program that we offer. We haven't made any decision that didn't have data to support those decisions."

So no one has been able to see a report. A half-page summary was given to us and the folks in Marion County. State Rep. Tracy Estes, R-Winfield (who also represents part of Winston County) has asked to see more and he even abstained on the Education Budget as officials dragged on. So when the citizens filed a court suit to get the study and any data used in the decision making process, lawyers for Bevill filed to prevent the records from being released, saying the citizens only wanted to harass the college, and even got the hearings moved to Montgomery.

At a June 17 hearing-I've seen the transcript-a lawyer for Bevill and the



## From Where I Sit

Ed Howell

college system, Roger Bates, denied a plan to close the Hamilton Campus. Then he said the records involved five years of computer enrollment data. And I loved the next quote from Bates, which the Journal Record also related in its June 26 edition.

"It's rems of documents which, quite honestly, if I gave every bit of that data to Mr. (Tony Glenn, the citizens' attorney), he nor any of his clients, could even interpret that data — you have to be schooled in this," he said. You can imagine what the reaction to that one was.

Then, after another defendant attorney, Tracy Davis, earlier said, apparently referring to the half page summary, "They have been given a study. They didn't like what they got," Bates said there never was a study (noun) but that they studied (verb) the situation, so that there is not a report to give them. That caused a near meltdown in court right then.

Bates said the data could run 500 to 1,000 pages, that it could be produced in 10 days, and that it might cost like 50 cents a page, and Glenn said his side was willing to pay.

However, Bates said, "Here's my concern about this: We're walking a thin line between trying to turn over management of a college to a community-based group that lacks standing to be in this court through using the guise of a freedom of the Open Records Act decision. And I'm very concerned about that, and I know the chancellor is and I know the board is. These people cannot manage the college." Glenn denied that and the judge seemed skeptical, suggesting Bates get a price for the printing, which Bates said he would.

Glenn afterward said, "We have people capable of interpreting those documents," He added it doesn't matter, because they are public records and the public is entitled to see them.

Meanwhile, Alabama Press Association Executive Director Felicia Mason told the Hamilton newspaper the decision in court was "a win across the board" for public access to government information and applauded the actions of the citizens, noting the ruling will be used as a legal tool in the future.

"The law is clear. The intent is that the entire deliberative process be open to the public. That process is important to know how a government body

# Howell

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*From A4*

reached a decision. Just knowing the outcome is important, but it is more important to know the process used to arrive at a decision. The taxpayers and the public deserve to know that. There are situations that are deemed more complicated than others, but that is no reason not to release the information.”

I'm quite sure there are public officials in Walker County who should be aware of this intent and that it is perfectly legal to find out the process of how they made their decisions as well. Government decision making is not the exclusive intellectual property of a government official. It is not just the decision that the public deserves to know, but how that decision was made.

That is why I and other reporters ask questions and ask for documents at government board meetings.

Hopefully, Beville State and the college system has learned that lesson now as well.

# Shattering barriers

Carbon Hill student thrives in Upward Bound program

By **NICOLE SMITH**  
Daily Mountain Eagle

Rising senior Araceli Ramirez is a first generation American and soon to be first-generation college student, and Bevill State Community College's Upward Bound program is helping her reach new heights.

Upward Bound helps students from disadvantaged backgrounds with tutoring, academic instruction, coun-



seling, and other services.

Ramirez started participating in the program this year and has since enhanced her grades and had a number of unforgettable experiences, but the teenager was already on a path to greatness.

Ramirez has attended Carbon Hill schools since she was in kindergarten. While most children were playing with toys at that age, Ramirez was teaching herself to learn both the Spanish and English languages.

"I taught myself how to read and

See **BARRIERS, A5**



Daily Mountain Eagle - Nicole Smith

*Upward Bound student Araceli Ramirez is determined to succeed in honor of her parents.*

# Barriers From A1

write in Spanish," she said. "I had to teach myself English. I did that through books and watching TV."

Being fluent in both languages was important since only Spanish was spoken at her home and English was spoken at school.

"I'm grateful that I had to do that, because now whenever I see someone struggling I can help because I know what that struggle is," she said. "Having to do that at such a young age, it has opened my mind to the different types of struggles that there is in the world."

As Ramirez has grown into a young woman, her determination has grown even stronger to succeed.

This year, Ramirez decided to take part in Upward Bound, and she was one of only two Bevill State Upward Bound students chosen to attend the National Student Leadership Congress (NSLC) last month in Washington, D.C.

The event was open to 179 TRIO students across the nation. Upward Bound is under the umbrella of TRIO, which consists of eight federally funded programs for students in need.

Ramirez impressed at the event and was chosen to be a spokesperson for a mock Congress group at the NSLC. She and other TRIO students also visited famous landmarks in D.C.

"I definitely got to see a lot of different things that I wouldn't have seen. It was definitely an experience that I will keep with me throughout my life," she said. "I got to see and meet so many different people from Guam, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and I got to see so much open-mindedness that you normally don't see. It was just such a great experience."

Through Upward Bound, Ramirez has been able to take other trips this summer and participate in mock college courses through Bevill State.

During the next school year, she will have access to Upward Bound tutoring at her school, and upon graduation in 2020, she will have an opportunity to take two college courses at Bevill State free of charge.

"She's definitely going to be able to accomplish whatever she sets her mind to," Bevill State-Sumiton Upward Bound coordinator Gina Thomason said. "We will push her hard because we know what she's capable of."

Ramirez credits Upward Bound tutoring for helping her make an A in chemistry this past year, and she said the program has afforded her opportunities that she may not have had otherwise.

She spoke highly of her parents, saying that nothing would be possible without their sacrifices.

Her parents immigrated to America as teenagers and have always worked tirelessly to provide for Ramirez and her two siblings.

"They've instilled in me that drive to go out and do stuff. They motivate me to be the best that I can be because they've had to work really hard," she said.

Ramirez says her father works in the coal mines and her mother is employed with Mar-Jac. Both work long hours, yet they make time to encourage Ramirez to do her best in school.

Seeing their struggle has also inspired Ramirez to possibly pursue a degree in immigration law, so she can help those who strive for the American dream.

"They work really hard just to give us a better life," Ramirez said of her parents. "They inspire me, just their hard work. That step ahead that they gave me, I can't let that go to waste. I have to show that their efforts aren't going to go in vain."

She added, "They've given me the opportunity that not a lot of people had. If I would've been born in Mexico then I wouldn't have had the same educational resources as I do here. They definitely gave me that step ahead."



# Hardison-Carter is BSCC outstanding faculty member

This year's recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award on the Fayette Campus is Beverly Hardison-Carter. Hardison-Carter began her educational pursuits at Beville State Community College, graduating Cum Laude with an Associates in Arts Degree in 1997 as a Liberal Arts major. In 1999, she received her Bachelor of Arts in English from the Mississippi University of Women. She received a Master of Arts in English from The University of West Alabama in 2002.

Hardison-Carter believes that an instructor should possess two characteristics that she describes as dynamic, "agreeable and hardworking."

"First, I feel that faculty members should be agreeable when it comes to working with not only students, but also administration," she said. "For example, after my mentor, Cyrus Brock, passed unexpectedly, the administration needed me to step in and teach eight classes because we had such a deficit between the number of courses we needed to offer and the number of teachers that were available to teach. As a matter of fact, I taught eight



classes for two consecutive semesters.

"Of course, it was difficult, but not impossible. Sometimes, we all need to push ourselves beyond our normal boundaries so that we can continue to grow and be creative in our craft."

She is also an advocate of dual enrollment for secondary students. She commutes throughout the college's West Alabama service area to teach students. This exemplifies her second instructor's characteristic, "hardworking." She believes it is her duty to teach students as long as they want to learn; therefore, she always makes time to accommodate students' schedules even when the appointments are outside of her normal office hours.

# OUR VIEWS

## *Optics is everything*

Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Chancellor Jimmy Baker took a one-two punch in June.

The first punch landed on Monday, June 17, in Montgomery, when 15th Judicial Circuit Judge James Anderson ordered Baker and Beville State Community College (BSCC) President Dr. Kim Ennis to produce data requested by the BSCC-Hamilton Campus Legislative Task Force for Education.

The 10-member task force, composed of industry leaders, local politicians and community members, requested the records in attempts to acquire an alleged “study” Baker and Ennis used to made their decision to close and relocate three BSCC-Hamilton Campus workforce development programs.

Those Hamilton workforce programs in question were allowed to stay open following large-scale criticism from the public and intervention from public officials.

This move, when you consider it, is highly suspect, allowing community uproar to prevent something those college officials believed must be done.

(It is important to mention here that transcripts from the open records hearing have indicated that Baker and Ennis intended this to be just a one-year stay. Apparently, a decision involving these programs returning in Fall 2019 has yet to be made. We strongly encourage these officials to not touch these programs.)

The task force sued the two-year college officials last year after its open record requests for the study were ignored. During the June 17 hearing, Baker and Ennis’ legal counsel tried to argue no such “study” (noun) was ever done. Instead, they studied (verb) five year’s worth of data. That data is what will be produced by the court order—data the defendants argued should not be produced as they suggested the task force was incapable of interpreting it.

In a second blow to Baker only a week later, Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) faculty and staff in Muscle Shoals and Phil Campbell gave NW-SCC President Glenda Colagross a vote of “no confidence” in a slim 87-79 vote.

There is an interesting connection with these two events as Baker selected Colagross and Ennis as presidents of their respective colleges in the same month, April 2018.

The vote serves simply as an advisory opinion for the chancellor, and from the tone of his reaction statement, Baker may side with the slim minority. A decision to keep Colagross would be another a strike against his judgment.

These two strikes in June seriously bring Baker’s judgment into question and, more crucially, degrade the perception of our two-year community college system.

When institutions depend on recruiting, optics is everything. The actions by these officials over the last year and a half and the recent loses for Baker have damaged the image of our two-year colleges.

Community colleges have never been more important. In a time where skilled, technical labor is increasingly harder to find and the weight of student loans is crippling, we cannot afford to have our two-year colleges being mismanaged.

College officials fumbled the handling of the attempted program closures in Hamilton and underestimated the tenacity of the Marion County community.

To add insult to injury, neither Baker nor Ennis conferred with any local industry leaders or public officials before making the decision, and it caught everyone flatfooted.

The Northwest Alabama Economic Development Agency (C3), which provides key industrial recruitment services to Marion, Fayette and Lamar counties, was holding a meeting on the Hamilton Campus the day Ennis made the cuts.

The officials were meeting to discuss sharpen-

ing and strengthening the Hamilton Campus’ workforce programs. Meanwhile, on the other side of campus, officials were announcing those very programs would be closing and moving. And nothing was said. To say this is image-damaging is an understatement.

When BSCC officials started trying to play catch-up with the fallout, they started referencing research and data.

The language of a “study” has been controversial over the last year.

The idea there was a physical “study” began with statements by Ennis, who told attendees of a BSCC-sponsored town hall meeting at the Sumiton Campus, “We’ve done an in-depth study of our data—every program that we offer.”

When the media and public began to ask for this “study,” Ennis fed into the belief of a document-type study by circulating a half-page report showing graduation rates for each affected course. When pressed as to where the information came from, Beville State stopped responding. The college’s public relations efforts have been sorely lacking in many, many areas.

This idea was even perpetuated in the June 17 hearing when one of Baker and Ennis’ lawyers told the judge, “They have been given a study. They didn’t like what they got.”

However, immediately after these comments, lead ACCS attorney Roger Bates backpedaled and instead argued there was confusion around the word “study,” saying the task force was mistaken in their idea that the study was a report. Instead, Bates explained that the ACCS and BSCC had *studied* data from the past five-years. He said a catalog-type document was never produced in the decision.

Was there a report-like study? It does not appear so. But any belief there was one is the result of mixed messages and language used by commu-



## Optics

continued from page 4A.

nity college leaders. And even when they appeared in court, they couldn't give a clear explanation. This is another strike against perception.

While the "study" debacle may finally be solved, another issue comes to the forefront: Should there have been a study?

Alabama Code 300-2-2 lays out a six-year process for program closures. This includes a three-year review period once a course has been identified as non-viable. The course is also subject to a phase-out period of up to three years to allow students to complete the course.

According to information shared by Ennis in a closed community college meeting, the Hamilton workforce programs would have been shut down only a year after viability reviews began.

The task force will now pay for the production of hundreds of pages of data to sift through to see if the decision which was made was justifiable.

If the half-page study the task force and the **Journal Record** was presented in the weeks following the April 2018 announcement was what was done, then what is this data the ACCS/BSCC is producing now?

It is unclear why Baker and Ennis refused to hand over data when asked—there is very little communication between the newspaper and the our community college these days. (Mind you, this newspaper has an extensive history working with BSCC-Hamilton Campus and providing free publicity. Our bound volumes speak volumes about Beville State.)

We have to ask the question: If there is nothing to hide, then why hide at all?

Colleges lean heavily on enrollment numbers for funding, enrollment numbers rely on confidence and confidence decays without transparency. If hiding is the strategy they are insisting on, they shouldn't be shocked when puzzled par-

ents and students begin considering investing elsewhere.

Yes, we believe this is part of their grand scheme to close the college or, at best, reduce it to simply a satellite campus. It has not stopped Beville State officials from suggesting that the **Journal Record** is a factor in the dragging numbers. (Yes, they have done this.)

Fighting a records request was a lose-lose battle from the get-go. Even if Baker and Ennis were able to protect the data, all the public sees are more high-earning officials unwilling to give room to accountability.

Perhaps protecting the public records was just a spiteful attempt to exhaust their critics and force them to waste their time and resources?

It wouldn't be beyond them. In October 2018, the task force was given a commitment to speak during an ACCS' board meeting. Members of the task force—including mayors and industry leaders—appeared at the meeting in Montgomery that day. Instead of getting to address the board, the board's legal council cited a technicality and barred the group from speaking.

Sadly, no one told the task force they were wasting their time making the three-hour drive—one way. They could have been curtius and let these individuals know beforehand they weren't allowing these individuals to speak. Instead, task force members heard reports how athletics were helping change the brand of one community college in the state.

Sure, Baker and the ACCS board may argue it was in some way justified, but muzzling the public during a public meeting's public comments portion is a strike against your perception.

It's hard to imagine that these officials really believed they would win an open records case when the law is pretty straightforward. The arguments presented during the hearing seemed like the defendants were just throwing objections in the air to see what would stick or cause more de-

lays.

Is Baker more than happy to fight these losing battles on the taxpayers' dime to help old associates? The community college system is no doubt a cash cow for Baker's former employer, Birmingham-based Hand Arendall, whose managing lawyer, Roger Bates, represents the ACCS in court.

Press reports concerning Bates and the ACCS have shown Handel Arendall being paid millions in legal fees over the years. This may be completely legal and technically ethical, but it does not look good.

Digging a little deeper, one can see where Baker is a former employee of Bates.

At this point, it appears the only chance the ACCS board of trustees has of restoring confidence in the community college system is not trying to save face, but to start changing the face of two-year college system.

This means there needs to be new faces in leadership, beginning with Baker. We need new leadership at Beville State and Northwest-Shoals.

The board, quite honestly, needs a fresh coat of paint as well. This board has operated for Baker too long. We need new board members.

We believe the only way left for these officials to help their schools and the community college system is by stepping down—either of their own accord or by force.

Now is the time for leadership on the community college state level and local levels which has no hidden agendas. Baker himself is so quick to note that "our students" are "the most important piece of the Alabama Community College System equation."

Sadly, Baker and others have lost sight of that fact. It's also sad we've reached this point, and we fully realize, and have known this, our students are the most important piece. They always have been.

- Scott Johnson, News Editor

# First Fridays returns Aug. 2

## ■ Chris Williams to perform; free booths available

By **SCOTT JOHNSON**  
*News Editor*

HAMILTON - The Hamilton Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its final "First Fridays" downtown shopping event on Friday, Aug. 2.

The chamber's final First Friday's event was originally scheduled for Friday, June 7. However, it was cancelled due to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/JOHN BOYETT

The Yellow Hammers performed during the Hamilton Area Chamber of Commerce's First Fridays event held on Friday, May 3, in downtown Hamilton. Shown performing are (from left) Conner Nix, Colby Nix and Cody Bass.

rainy weather.

The final summer event will take place from 7-9 p.m. with local and satellite vendors setting up booths lining

the city square and downtown businesses extending their usual hours to host shoppers.

Local musician Chris Williams will be provid-

ing entertainment, sponsored by the Alabama Power Foundation and Beville State Community College.

"We hope you all will

come out and enjoy the entertainment and shopping," said chamber president Lacy Williams.

Just as during previous shopping events, the City of Hamilton is partnering with the chamber to have the downtown streets closed.

This closure will include the downtown sections of 1st Street Southwest and 1st Avenue Southwest.

Williams advised that all vehicles should be cleared from this area by this time.

For more information on a free booth, in-

terested persons are encouraged to contact the Hamilton Area Chamber of Commerce by email at [chamber@hamilton-chamberofcommerce.org](mailto:chamber@hamilton-chamberofcommerce.org) or call its office at 921-7786.

The chamber's office hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### T-shirts for sale

Official First Friday T-shirts are currently available for purchase at First National Bank, First State Bank and Listerhill Credit Union.

Sizes small, medium, large and XL are \$12. Size XXL is \$15.

# Students receive credentials from Winston Career Academy

By **P.J. Gossett**  
Staff Writer

[peter@mynwapaper.com](mailto:peter@mynwapaper.com)  
DOUBLE SPRINGS - Students from the Winston Career Academy received credentials and were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society, Tuesday, May 7.

"The goal of the society is to see that deserving technical students be recognized and that people of our community become aware of the talents and abilities of the young people and adults who chose technical education pathways to a successful future," WCA Director Bart Shannon read.

"We want to commend each of these students for their efforts and dedication," Shannon said.

After the awards ceremony was over, NTHS students, both



**National Technical Honor Society members were inducted in a ceremony. Those inducted were Alexis Herrero, Logan Lewis, Lexie Mitchell, Logan Kent, Autumn Black, Drew Harris, Morgan Garrison, Lauren Henson, Aleesa Suggs, Sarah Borden, Jenna Downey, Mitchell Taylor, Jameson Moon, Ella Moore, Robert Hood, Ally Blackston, Kaitlyn Ward, Ronica Gordon, Breonna Palmer, Stephen Nix and Michaela Thorn.**

old and new, were treated to a reception with cake and refreshments.

Julie Kladke, student services specialist at Bevill State Community College, awarded scholarships to the following: Jordan Martin, career-technical summer dual enrollment; Judson Skinner, career-technical summer

dual enrollment; Julen Gilcrease, career-technical summer dual enrollment; Alayna Darty, torch; Thurman Borden, torch; Riley Thacker, career-technical summer dual enrollment and summer honors torch; Caleb Winters, career-technical honors and torch and Rheanna Baker, career-technical honors and honors choice.

Lindsey Oliver, coordinator for student development and recruitment at Northwest-Shoals Community College presented applied technology scholarships to the following: Emily Lowery, Selena Avalos and Kady Bonds.

Karen Downs from the financial aid department at Wallace State Community College awarded career-

technical scholarships to Cody Malcolm, Paeton Randolph, Abigail Taylor and Jacob Elliott.

Individual awards and credentials were then given out by the faculty: Latricia Faulkner, business/co-op; Cali Alexander, cosmetology; Kristen McCay, health science; Bryan Woods, welding; Bubba Lewis, automotive and Danny Snoddy, electrical.



Applied technology scholarships to Northwest-Shoals Community College went to Selena Avalos, Emily Lowery and Kady Bonds. Shown is Bonds.

"Those are industry-certified credentials that are recognized throughout the country," Shannon said. "These credentials say these specific students are ready to go to work in their areas or to continue their career. We encourage them to do both as they continue their journeys."



Cosmetology Instructor Cali Alexander is shown with her credentialed students. Top row, from left, are Alexis Dailey, Esther Dake, Summer Hogan, Alexis Herrero, Sissy Suttles and Shaylee Avery. Second row, Makenzie Moody, Celeste Daugherty, Kailee Curtis, Cara Puckett, Bridgette Herrero, Madison Owens and Jordan Dees. Third row, Kadince Kilgo, Madalyn Humphres, Christal Lapeyrouse, Makenzie Morgan, Paeton Randolph, Ashley McDonald, Alexis Mitchell and Madison Jernigan. Not shown are Daniel Bailey, Kenna Butler, Hailey Carter, Marilyn Donaldson, Logan Douglas, Brookelynn Dowdy, Jassmine Ergle, Lilly Hammack, Leah Henderson, Savannah Knight, Makayla McDonald, Madison O'Quinn, Samantha Perva, KaMeila Poole, Abigail Taylor and Nefertari West.



Receiving welding department credentials are, back row from left, Chase Briscoe, Logan Schmalfeldt, Zakiah Garner, Instructor Bryan Woods and Alex Taylor. Front row are Jay Ingram, Hunter Riley, Jessie Clark, Jarrett Daniel and Nicholas Marcum.



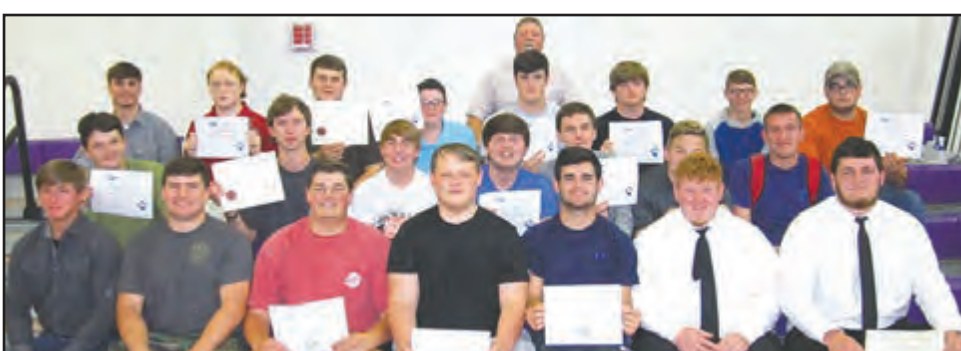
Wallace State gave career/technical scholarships to Cody Malcolm, Paeton Randolph, Jacob Elliott and Abigail Taylor, who is not shown.



Automotive credentials went to the following: front row from left, Michael Avery, Zan Ergle and Henry Swafford. Second row, William Holt, Thomas Treece and Justin Duck. Top is Instructor Bubba Lewis.



Bevill State torch competition winners are, from left, Caleb Winters, Riley Thacker, Thurman Borden, Alayna Darty, Julen Gilcrease, Judson Skinner and Jordan Martin.



The electrical department received many credentials this year. Top is Instructor Danny Snoddy. First row, Mitchell Taylor, Orrin Osborne, Chandler Ownby, Mason Franks, Aaron Farmer, Garrett Stewart, Ethan Baker and Austin Smith. Second row, Samuel Linzer, Seth Edwards, Shawn Harbinson, Kruz Cheatham, Luke Wright, Jackson Worthington and Evan Lamb. Bottom row from left are Logan Kent, Colby Manasco, Braden Cagle, Judson Skinner, Micah Cagle, Bryan Gibson and Bradley Vickery.



Health science credentials went to, top row from left, Lauren Henson, Alayna Darty, Andrea Cornelius and Allie Tucker. Instructor Kristen McCay is shown next. Second row, Samantha Bridgeman, Dante Smith, Katelyn Bullock and Ethan Moore. Bottom row, Samantha Marcum, Saige Blanton, Reagan Dozier, Katie Beth Pendergrass, Johnny Key and Jonathan Baker.



Business class, front row from left are Instructor Latricia Faulkner, Riley Thacker, Noah Hadder, Tesslie Tidwell and Jacob Jackson. Back row are Beverly Tiller, Katelyn Sherer, Alisha Nelson and Shelby Harper.

# BSCC gets largest performance-based increase

■ **FY 2019 budget bumped up to \$16.5 million**

By **SCOTT JOHNSON**  
*News Editor*

MONTGOMERY - Bevill State Community College's (BSCC) will receive the largest performance-based funding increase among the state's 23 community colleges.

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Board of Trustees approved a \$320.6-million operation and maintenance budget at its board meeting on Wednesday, July 10, in Montgomery—a \$19.3 million boost from the previous year.

Bevill State's 2019-2020 budget was set at \$16.39 million—roughly an \$800,000



increase. However, after factoring in performance, the community college received an additional \$122,103, making its total budget \$16.52 million.

According to press reports, this is the second year the ACCS has used "performance-based outcomes" to determine its community colleges' allocations.

Last year, performance-

based outcomes gave BSCC's \$15.57-million budget an \$8,000 increase.

This year, BSCC received the largest boost out of the 10 community colleges to benefit from their performance, receiving a 0.739% increase.

There were 13 other colleges which experienced small losses due to the formula.

The next highest boost

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See **BSCC** on page 2A.

# BSCC

continued from front page.

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was given to Northeast Community College in Rainsville, which benefitted with an additional \$66,372 for performance, or a 0.334% increase.

Performance-based outcomes resulted in a loss for Northwest-Shoals Community College, with a decrease of \$26,577, or a 0.2% loss.

ACCS Chancellor Jimmy Baker told *Alabama Daily News*, "...It's kind of like a reward, in a way. It works in the reverse as well, so it may look like they got a big-

ger bump but someone else may have gotten a lesser amount."

ACCS Communications and Marketing Administrator Rachel Adams told *Alabama Daily News* each college has 10% of its annual operation and maintenance budget placed at risk in the performance model, and can lose no more than 2% of that. They also can't gain more than 2% of the 10%.

Lawmakers created a task force in 2017 to develop a model for outcome-based funding. Previously, annual allocations were simply

based on numbers from previous years or on enrollment.

The new formula awards additional state dollars to community colleges which experience increases in the number of associate degrees and certificates earned and student credit hour production.

The method also factors in if a college is serving minorities and low-income populations and if it is helping to produce a skilled workforce.

Requests for comment by BSCC were not returned by presstime on Friday, July 12.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Delta Kappa Gamma Alabama State chapter presidents (left to right) Ronni Rena (Alpha Xi), Shelby Mann (Beta Psi) and Dr. Barbara Miller (Alpha Tau)

## Delta Kappa Gamma holds tri-county meeting

By **STEPHANIE BURLESON**

FAYETTE - Once a year, Delta Kappa Gamma Alabama State holds a tri-county meeting with members from the Winfield (Alpha Tau), Fayette (Alpha Xi), and Lamar County (Beta Psi) Chapters.

On Thursday, April 4, the Tri-County and Founders' Day Banquet was held at Bevill State Community College-Fayette. Members enjoyed participating in a silent auction before being served a delicious meal by Kayron Silas. Soon after, the chapter presidents--Dr. Barbara Miller of Alpha Tau, Ronni Rena of Alpha Xi, and Shelby Mann of Beta Psi--welcomed all members.

World Fellowship speaker Kriza Kay Calumba was unable to attend due to an injury; however, members watched a video of Ms. Calumba thanking Delta Kappa Gamma for the scholarship money she has used to pursue her education degree.

Later, Lindy Hindman from Fayette County High School provided entertainment through her beautiful singing.

Dr. Barbara Miller then introduced the keynote speaker, Patsy Poole, who serves as District One director. Ms. Poole shared an inspiring message of "Growing a Garden of Members in DKG."

All members in attendance enjoyed the fellowship and presentations throughout the evening.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Winfield Alpha Tau members



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fayette Alpha Xi members



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lamar County Beta Psi members

# Whisnant named Outstanding Faculty Member

## ■ HVAC instructor receives faculty award

By **LOUIS MELLINI**  
Staff Writer

HAMILTON - Brad Whisnant, Bevill State Community College-Hamilton HVAC instructor, is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award.

Whisnant has been at the college since 2007, where he began as a maintenance worker.

He received an Associate's degree from BSCC in Dec. 1998, and a Bachelor's of education from Athens State in 2016.

"The highlight of my teaching career has been the opportunity to form relationships with students. Being able to provide them with a skill set that will enhance their lives once they leave my classroom and enter the work field has been very rewarding," said Whisnant.

"Due to many contacts I have with HVAC

companies, I have been able to secure jobs for many students while enrolled, as well as after graduation. I consider it my highest honor that my students have a lot of confidence in me as their instructor."

Whisnant has worked to rebuild the HVAC program from the ground up, as it had previously been a part-time program.

He successfully sought donations and received funding for a simulation house where HVAC students are provided with a real-world working example of HVAC jobs.

Under his leadership, several projects have been completed on the Hamilton Campus, including installation of new units in both the automotive and welding labs as well as routine maintenance on all HVAC systems at the campus.

Whisnant stated that he makes it a priority to stay in close contact with his students throughout their studies and after graduation.

"Many students still contact me regularly requesting advice concerning various HVAC

jobs they are working on," he said.

"I always make it a priority to continue to work closely with current students as well as graduates outside of the classroom setting to help them excel in their chosen career."

Whisnant is also heavily involved in SkillsUSA and serves as a Skills Student Advisor.

He also serves as Children's Church leader at Mt. Olive Baptist Church and is a youth T-Ball coach in Hackleburg.



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# 'This is what community looks like'

*For photos from Saturday's event, see B4 of today's Eagle*

**By NICOLE SMITH**

Daily Mountain Eagle

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Hundreds of people attended the City of Lights Dream Center's Back 2 School Bash in Dora Saturday.

The second annual event serves to prepare area children

in need for the first day of school by providing a number of free giveaways and services.

Children received backpacks filled with school supplies Saturday and enjoyed face painting, inflatables, music and other activities outside. Inside the Dream Center, located at the old T.S. Boyd School, Alabama Lions Sight/Lions Club provided vision screenings for children, and nursing students with Beville

State Community College also performed health screenings.

Each visitor also had an opportunity to browse the gymnasium at the center, which was set up like a clothing store with lightly used clothing and shoes that were donated for the event. Parents and children pieced together an entire outfit free of charge.

Children were lined up down

**See COMMUNITY, A5**





Daily Mountain Eagle - Nicole Smith

*One girl receives a backpack filled with school supplies at Saturday's Back 2 School Bash in Dora.*

## Community — From A1

one hallway to get a free back to school haircut to go along with their new wardrobe.

There was a meal provided as well for fellowship.

Jamie Massey, who founded the Dream Center with her husband, Victor, posted a video to the center's Facebook page on Saturday morning. She praised the event's volunteers and spoke of the large crowd.

"This is what community looks like when we all come together to help each other," she said.

The Sumiton Church of God, Dream Center, and many other organizations made the event possible.

The City of Lights Dream Center planned to give away 800 backpacks Saturday but announced that some backpacks and supplies are still available on a first-come, first-serve basis by calling 205-649-0014.

The Dream Center serves those in poverty, as well as people who have battled drug addiction. An after-school program is held at the center, and parenting, addiction recovery, and life skills classes are also provided. The center is also a hub for adult educational services and youth athletic leagues.

More recently, the center has opened a shelter for women and children in need of assistance.

To inquire about the center's services, call 205-255-6688.

# UA student develops life skills course for area students

**Editor's note:** *The following is the final installment in a four-part series that has featured University of Alabama students who have interned in Jasper this summer.*

By **NICOLE SMITH**  
Daily Mountain Eagle

A life skills course may be implemented in Walker County Schools, thanks to the vision of one University of Alabama student.

Rising senior Rolanda Tina Turner completed an internship with the Walker College Foundation (WCF) in Jasper on Friday as part of UA's New College internship program.

One mission of the WCF, which awards scholarships from Beville State Community College to high school seniors, is to help students prepare for college.

Under the guidance of WCF Executive Director



Photo Special to the Eagle

*University of Alabama student Rolanda Tina Turner poses with Walker College Foundation Executive Director Holly Trawick. Turner has been interning at the Foundation this summer.*

Holly Trawick, Turner crafted a vision for a life skills course, which she calls Branch Out. The course would ideally be taught to juniors or seniors in the Walker County School system and potentially students

in Jasper City Schools. "It teaches them financial responsibility, balancing a budget, time management, interview prep skills, creating a resume, going through mock interviews, body

See **STUDENT, A10**

language and how to talk to people, test-taking skills ... just basic necessities,” Turner said, recognizing millennials sometimes lack the skills necessary to manage adulthood. “You would be surprised how many people don’t know how to write a check or they don’t know the difference between a debit or a credit card. They just don’t acquire the basic skills that are needed for post-grads.”

She added, “This course equips them with every single facet that cannot be taught with a book.”

Turner has met with counselors, educators and school board officials to pitch her pilot Branch

Out program, and she said they are all on board.

There is a legal process, however, to mandate the course, but she’s hoping students will be able to enroll in Branch Out as early as the fall of 2020.

In addition to developing the life skills course, Turner helped organize the WCF alumni reunion.

Turner is a political science and psychology double major at UA, and she is minoring in communications studies with a concentration in childhood adolescence.

She ultimately aspires to be a lawyer, but she first wants to take two years off after graduation and accomplish another goal.

“During my time off I want to work as a research analyst for a Fortune 500 company. Then I want to jump into law school,” she said.

Unlike other UA interns that spent time in Jasper this summer, Turner could relate to the small community of Jasper.

She is from Pell City, which she says is comparable in size.

“There’s always someone to turn to when you feel down or you feel lonely. That aspect of the internship is making me feel at home in my own backyard,” Turner said.

She commended Jasper’s resources and sense of equality.

“There’s just one common goal in Jasper and that’s to make it the most decent, welcoming and innovative environment for anybody to come to, and I think that’s very important in today’s society,” she said. “It’s a big point with this country being so divided that you can come to a small town in Alabama with so many great resources and feel like you’re welcomed and loved.”

Turner is one of four students that interned in Jasper this summer through New College. The Walker Area Community Foundation has sponsored dozens of UA students to come to the city for nearly 10 years.

## Walker College Foundation announces scholarship recipients

## Special to the Eagle

Many recent high school graduates will be attending Bevell State Community College this fall thanks to scholarships from the Walker College Foundation. The following is a list of those who received a scholarship, along with some academic and athletic highlights from their high school careers.

• **Cody Gilbert**, the son of Terri and Kenneth Black and Harley Gilbert of Jasper, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's Dr. David J. and Mary Ellen Rowland Family Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus.

Cody is a graduate of Curry High School where he participated in Beta Club, Anchor Club, Student Government Association, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), FCCLA, the Spirit Squad, Yearbook staff, YLDP, and Math Club. He was honored to serve as an International Anchor Leadership Summit delegate, a Hobby Leadership for Service delegate, a Superintendent's Student Leadership Academy delegate, a 2016-17 State Anchor Director, and a 2018-19 State Anchor secretary. He was awarded the Anchor Club Excellence Through Service Award and was selected to join the National Honor Society.

Cody plans to pursue a career in business.

• **Hannah Walker**, the daughter of Rodney and Brandi Walker of Jasper, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's Pinnacle Bank Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus. This scholarship is a partnership between WCF and Pinnacle Bank.

Hannah is a graduate of Curry High School where she participated in Anchor Club, Beta Club, Student Government Association, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), and the volleyball team. She was selected to join the National Honor Society, served as a class officer, and earned recognition on the Curry High School Honor Roll. Hannah's favorite pastime is reading, and she has read over 500 books.

She plans to pursue a career in business.

• **Allie Sickles**, the daughter of Harold and Stacy Sickles of Cordova, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's Education Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus. The Education Scholarship exists because of the Carl T. Hare and Juanita Strickland Hare, Doris and Mildred Myers, Simmons Family, Iva Fern Stinson, William J. Amundson, and Stella and John Whit Long scholarship funds.

Allie is a graduate of Cordova High School where she participated in Beta Club and Anchor Club, served as Variety Cheerleader captain, Senior Class President, and Cordova High School Homecoming Queen. She was selected to join the National Honor Society. Allie's outside achievements include winning Bevell State's Talent Search competition multiple times, being honored as the Bevell State Talent Search Outstanding Student of the Year, and winning the Warrior Day Talent Competition. She was an All-American Cheerleader, an American Idol Participant and was asked to sing the Birmingham Baron's Pre-Game National Anthem, the 2018 ESPN Birmingham Bowl Pre-Game National Anthem, and the 2019 Birmingham Iron Football Pre-Game National Anthem. Allie also volunteers her time to coach middle school and toy bowl cheerleaders.

She plans to pursue a career in elementary



education.

• **Lucia Sanchez Siquina**, the daughter of Pedro Sanchez and Maria Siquina of Parrish, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's Pre-Nursing Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus. The Pre-Nursing Scholarship exists because of the June O'Rear Deavours, Charlotte B. Flagg, Marion Sis Grant/WBMC Auxiliary, Mayo and Jeanette Guthrie, Shirley J. Key, Krysta Langley Memorial, and Charles E. Tweedy Jr. scholarship funds.

Lucia is a 2010 graduate of Cordova High School where she participated in Beta Club, Spanish Club, Math Club, Science Club, and was vice-president of the foreign language association. She was a member of the Yearbook Staff and the Peer Mentors group. She participated in Bevell State's Torch Competition and volunteered for the Red Cross.

Lucia has a passion for helping others and plans to pursue a career in nursing.

• **Isaac Whitlock**, the son of Jonathan and April Whitlock of Jasper, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's Larry Drummond Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus. Isaac is an honors graduate of Jasper High School and graduated a semester early due to his academic diligence. While in high school, he participated in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Mu Alpha Theta, and was selected to join the National Honor Society. He was nominated as Student of the Quarter. Isaac is an avid community volunteer. Some of the non-profit organizations he has volunteered with include Backyard Blessings, Celebrate Recovery, Fields of Faith, Samaritan Purse, Operation Thanksgiving, and Mission of Hope.

Isaac currently works part-time for an engineering firm in Jasper and he plans to pursue a career in civil engineering.

• **Ryan Childers**, the son of Chayne and Misty Childers of Jasper, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's Larry Drummond Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus.

Ryan is a graduate of Jasper High School where he participated in Beta Club, Key Club, HOSA, and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). He played on the Jasper High School basketball and baseball teams. He was selected to join the National Honor Society and earned a place on the Jasper High School "A" Honor Roll. He was chosen by his classmates as the class favorite of the senior class and Who's Who-Most Witty.

Ryan plans to pursue a career as a nurse anesthetist.

• **Cody Nix**, the son of John and Angeline Nix of Jasper, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's Dr. Jack L. Mott Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus.

Cody is a graduate of Cordova High School where he participated in Beta Club, Student Government Association (president), National FFA, and was a member of the Cordova High School football team. He was selected to join the National Honor Society and earned a place on the Cordova High School "A" Honor Roll. Cody was chosen as a WBRC Fox 6 Rising Star and participated in the Walker County Youth Leadership program, the Walker County Junior Ambassador program, the Rotary Youth Leadership Ambassador program, the Superintendent's Student Leadership Academy and Alabama Boys State. He is also a dedicated volunteer for the Salvation Army's annual Kettle Campaign.

Cody plans to pursue a career in mechanical engineering.

• **Dillon Roberts**, the son of Sammy & Christy Roberts of Jasper, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's William S. Thornton Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus.

Dillon is a graduate of Carbon Hill High School where he participated in Beta Club and FFA and was a member of the Carbon Hill High School football, basketball, golf, and track teams. He was selected to join the National Honor Society and earned a place on the Carbon Hill High School "A" Honor Roll and the Eagle Elite group. Dillon earned a Summer Honors

scholarship, participated in the Bevell State Torch Competition, and earned the highest average in chemistry and biology.

Dillon's future plans include the study of animal sciences and horticulture.

• **Ciera Miller**, the daughter of Jennifer and Mark Horton of Carbon Hill, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's Dr. Jack L. Mott Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus.

Ciera is a graduate of Carbon Hill High School where she participated in Beta Club, Anchor Club, FCCLA, FBLA (President), and Upward Bound. She was selected to join the National Honor Society and earned a place on the Carbon Hill High School "A/B" Honor Roll. Ciera earned a Summer Honors Scholarship to Bevell State and earned second place in BSCC's Torch Business Competition.

Ciera plans to pursue a degree in business accounting and then attend law school.

• **Caitlin Vines**, the daughter of Elizabeth Courtinger of Parrish, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's Murphy/Walker Family Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus.

Caitlin is a graduate of Oakman Hill High School where she participated in Educational Talent Search and was an ambassador for the Walker County Center of Technology. She earned a place on the Oakman High School "A" Honor Roll and has completed her certifications in Microsoft Word and in Advertising and Design.

Caitlin plans to pursue a degree in accounting.

• **Maranda Wilson**, the daughter of Jennifer and Mark Horton of Carbon Hill, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's William S. Thornton Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus.

Maranda is a graduate of Carbon Hill High School where she participated in Beta Club, HOSA, FCCLA, and Upward Bound. She was selected to join the National Honor Society. She has already earned her Certified Nursing Assistant License, her EKG Technician Certification, and ServSafe Certification.

Maranda plans to pursue a degree in nursing.

• **Allie Parr**, the daughter of Amy and Jonathan Parr of Carbon Hill, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's William S. Thornton Scholarship and the Perry Franklin Newcomb Book Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus.

Allie is a graduate of Carbon Hill High School where she participated in Beta Club, Anchor Club, FCCLA, Future Busi-

ness Leaders of America (FBLA), Student Government Association, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). She was a member of the varsity basketball and softball teams, the Walker County Junior Ambassador group and the Walker County Youth Leadership group. She was selected to join the National Honor Society and earned a place on the Carbon Hill High School "A" Honor Roll for four years. Allie's athletic accomplishments include being selected as a Wendy's Heisman School Winner, a member of the 2016 Softball All-Area Tournament Team, a member of the 2018 Walker County Softball All-Tournament Team, and the Basketball Eagle Elite Second Team.

Ciera was the Carbon Hill High School class valedictorian. She plans to pursue a degree in nursing and sonography.

• **Karlie Ratliff**, the daughter of Scotty and Tiffany Ratliff of Nauvoo, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's William S. Thornton Scholarship to Bevell State-Walker College/Jasper campus.

Karlie is a graduate of Carbon Hill High School where she participated in Beta Club, Anchor Club, FCCLA, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). She was a member of the varsity volleyball, softball, and cheer teams. She was selected to join the National Honor Society and earned the highest physical science average. Allie's athletic accomplishments include earning a spot on the All-County Volleyball Team, All-State Honorable Mention in Volleyball, All-Area Volleyball Team, 2018 Walker County Softball Most Valuable Player, All-Area Softball Team, and the Eagle Elite Softball 2nd Team Utility Player. In academics, she won the BSCC Torch Competition in algebra and government and was awarded a Bevell State Honors Scholarship. She was chosen as the 2019 Miss Hilltop Echoes.

Karlie plans to pursue

a career in nursing.

• **Adison Alexander**, the daughter of Brad and CaSondra Alexander of Jasper, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's William & Minnie Thornton Scholarship for \$1,400 to the college of her choice.

Adison is a graduate of Carbon Hill High School where she participated in Beta Club, Anchor Club, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Student Council Class President, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). She was selected to join the National Honor Society, served as a Junior Ambassador, and earned a spot on the Carbon Hill High School "A" Honor Roll. She played on the Varsity Softball Team and was chosen to play on the All-County and All-Area Varsity softball teams and the Daily Mountain Eagle Varsity Softball second team. She is a member of the Liberty Grove Whosoever Will Youth Group.

Adison's honors and accomplishments include competing in Bevell State's Torch Competition, earning a Bevell State Summer Honors Scholarship, and earning the University of North Alabama (UNA) Leadership Scholarship and Academic Scholarship. She also reached the ACT benchmark score in science, English, and reading.

Adison will attend UNA in the fall to pursue a career in law.

• **Chloe Corry**, the daughter of Bull and Stephanie Corry of Oakman, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's Junior Ambassador Scholarship for \$500 to Bevell State Community College. This scholarship is a partnership between WCF and the Chamber of Commerce of Walker County.

Chloe is a graduate of Oakman High School where she participated in Student Government Association (vice president and most volunteer hours), Beta Club, Anchor Club, Lucky 13 Club (LTC), EHK (president), Science Club (vice

See SCHOLARS, B2



president), and yearbook staff. She participated on the Cheer Team, Cross Country Team, and the Archery Team. She earned a President's Award and was featured on the Oakman High School "A" Honor Roll and "A/B" Honor Roll. Chloe's athletic accomplishments include being chosen as an All-American Cheerleader, and All-County Cheerleader, a Cross Country State Qualifier, the Cheer Team Co-Captain and Captain, and as a HOBY Girl Candidate.

Chloe plans to pursue a career in nursing.

• **Will Dutton**, the son of Nicole Dutton of Jasper, has been awarded the Walker College Foundation's Earnest Moss Scholarship to Beville State-Walker College/Jasper campus.

Will is a graduate of Carbon Hill High School where he participated in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), FFA, the Hilltop Echoes Year-

book Staff and served as an office assistant. Will's accomplishments include being a member of the Walker County Youth Leadership Class of 2018, the Chamber of Commerce Junior Ambassadors, the Walker County Center of Technology Ambassadors, and earning his place on the Carbon Hill High School A/B Honor Roll. Will was honored with the Walt Williams Memorial Scholarship, the Donna Baxter Justice Memorial Scholarship, and a Beville State Summer Scholarship.

Will is the fourth person in his family to attend Beville State/Walker College. His great-grandmother, Nellie Maude Grace Dutton, was in the very first Walker College class in 1938 and her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have also attended this college.

Will continues his family's legacy by pursuing a degree in drafting.

# 15 students sign with Career Pathways Academy

By **NICOLE SMITH**  
Daily Mountain Eagle

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Bevill State Community College's Career Pathways Academy is continuing to prepare high school students for careers in automated manufacturing.

Fifteen students from Walker

and surrounding counties signed Career Pathways Academy scholarships on July 13 after completing a summer robotics camp to jump-start their journey through the academy.

The Career Pathways Academy began four years ago and has since served an estimated 80 high



**See PATHWAYS, A12**

# Pathways

## From A1

school students. Bevell State's Maurice Ingle coordinates the program and explained that students begin the academy during the summer prior to their junior year of high school.

After completing the robotics camp the scholarship recipients go on to take two courses each semester at the college during their junior year that focus on automation and industrial maintenance. The summer before their senior year students complete job tours to observe men and women actively working in automated manufacturing.

By the time students graduate, they will have earned a short-term certificate in automated manufacturing and go on to complete associate's degrees before entering the workforce.

Ingle said some students who have graduated the academy are currently enrolled at Bevell State and have received scholarships to complete their education.

The newest group of scholars who completed robotics camp impressed instructors with their ability to quickly learn robotic programming.

"Students amaze me with how quickly they pick up on programming. The second day, they were programming the robot to do different things," Ingle said. "The week of Career Pathways Academy's Robotics Camp was an exciting week. I enjoyed meeting some amazing young students and have witnessed them learning and planning for their futures."

Bevell State instructors Robbie Spears, Chris Shelton and Colby Patton lead students in the academy and help prepare them for industry jobs.

"The Career Pathways Academy is a great opportunity for students," Spears said. "They're able to train on top of the line robots with Yaskawa certified trainers. The opportunities that students have through Bevell



Photo courtesy of Andrew Brasfield/Bevell State Community College

*Pictured are Walker County rising juniors who signed scholarships to Bevell State Community College's Career Pathways Academy. From left are Shannon Ary and Brianna Cooper of Cordova High School, Nathan Harris and Summer Meigs of Jasper High School, Gina Pendley of Cordova High and Claire Moore of Jasper High.*



Photo courtesy of Andrew Brasfield/Bevell State Community College

*Pictured are rising juniors who signed scholarships to Bevell State Community College's Career Pathways Academy. From left, are Colton Abernathy, Trace Nelson and Tyler Lollar of Berry High School, and Jackson Criswell, Joseph Dill and Brett Ray of Corner High School.*

State's career technical training are monumental."

The Career Pathways Academy is made possible through grant funding, and Ingle said the college is working to secure additional funding in order for the program to continue producing the next generation of automated manufacturing employees.

"I am glad to hear this year's robotics camp at Bevell State's Career Pathways Academy has been a success," Sen. Greg Reed, R-Jasper, said in an emailed statement to the Daily Mountain Eagle. "I worked closely with Bevell State's leadership

back in 2015 and 2016 to help secure funding for this initiative, and I am pleased with the success Bevell State has had in teaching valuable technical skills like robotics to high school students from Walker, Winston, Fayette and Tuscaloosa counties."

He added, "We have had good participation from area employers who have partnered with Bevell State's Career Pathways Academy, and I hope there will be opportunities to expand the program in future years to offer more high school students a chance to learn the technical skills that are in demand in today's job market."

Each student who

signed a scholarship on July 13 received an iPad and was joined by their parents to mark the occasion.

The following is a list of students who received Career Pathways Scholarships: Shannon Ary, Brianna Cooper and Gena Pendley of Cordova High School; Nathan Harris, Summer Meigs and Claire Moore of Jasper High School; Colton Abernathy, Trace Nelson and Tyler Lollar of Berry High School; Jackson Criswell, Joseph Dill, Brett Ray and Landon Shexnayder of Corner High School; and Mason Sherrill and Trace Taylor of Fayette County High School.

# Byrne makes quick stop in Walker County

By **ED HOWELL**  
Daily Mountain Eagle

U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne, R-Ala, who is running for the U.S. Senate, said Tuesday he is firmly in favor of President Trump and believes he will be re-elected in 2020.

Byrne, 64, made a number of stops Tuesday in Jasper, including Walker Baptist Medical Center and the Jasper's industrial park, as he prepares for the March 3 Republican Primary.

He said in an interview that the state elected "the wrong person in 2016," referring to U.S. Sen. Doug Jones, who was elected as a Democrat.

"I know Doug Jones. I like him personally. I don't think he represents Alabama. He's pro-gun control. I am against gun control. He's pro-abortion. I am against abortion. He voted against Judge (Brett) Kavanaugh. I would have gladly voted

**See BYRNE, A5**



*Bob Phillips, left, chief executive officer of Walker Baptist Medical Center, listens Tuesday as U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne, center, makes a point in the hospital conference room. Also joining is Cindy Key, chief nursing officer.*

Daily Mountain Eagle - Ed Howell



against Judge Kavanaugh. He's against building the wall. I am for building the wall. He's against President Trump. I'm for President Trump. This is a pretty stark difference."

He said no other Republican candidate has his track record as a fighter for conservative values. Byrne, who has represented the 1st District in Congress since January 2014, noted he was chancellor of the Alabama Community College system from 2007 to 2009.

"I was charged (as chancellor) with cleaning up a swamp and I cleaned up a swamp against the toughest, most powerful special interest group in this state," he said, noting he had to make cuts during the Great Recession and still delivered basic service.

He also served in the Alabama Senate from 2003 to 2007. He was a member of the Alabama State Board of Education from 1995 to 2003.

Byrne said he agrees with Trump about 99 percent of the time and that the national news media is from the far left and is mistreating him and is portraying him as something he is not. He said Trump understands that and is tweeting to go around the media.

"I think the country is a lot better off. I know our country is a lot better off," he said. Traveling for the House Armed Security Committee, he said the nation's security is better, and he is happy with Trump's judicial nominations, adding he thinks Trump will be re-elected.

If the House impeaches the president based on the Mueller Report, which he said he has read "cover to cover, some portions more than once, I would not vote to remove the president, because I do not think there is anything in there that indicates crime."

He said some should "quit trying to abuse the impeachment process to achieve a political end," adding the proper means of removal at this point should be by election in 2020.

On immigration, Byrne said he went to the Mexican border last week and spoke to Customs and Border Patrol and U.S. military officials, watching two people running across the border illegally where there was no fencing. Military officials said they were finding nothing but professionalism from Border Patrol and ICE.

He said he went to an ICE detention facility. "You've been hearing all these horror stories. I didn't see anything like it. I saw a very clean, air



Daily Mountain Eagle - Ed Howell

*U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne visited Jasper Tuesday while campaigning for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Democrat Doug Jones.*

conditioned place, with comfortable beds and televisions and iPads," as well as the infirmary and food preparation.

"So we've got this far left media that is trying to tell you that the conditions down there are different than they really are," he said, saying professionals are doing well with the resources they have, but they need much more.

Byrne said the Affordable Care Act has not made healthcare more affordable. He said federal officials should be negotiating with drug companies over how much the feds will pay for drugs, which will drive down prices for others. He also said health insurance should be allowed to be purchased across state lines and more should be done to protect local rural hospitals.

On the race issues brought up with Trump's tweets over Baltimore and U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., Byrne said while Americans can disagree with one another, they should never discriminate against one another over skin color or ancestry.

"On the other hand, I think there are people in Washington and in the national press who use the race issue as a weapon, and unfairly so in many cases," he said, noting he voted against a resolution saying Trump's tweets are racist. "I strongly disagree at that," saying people are using race "to poke their finger in his eye, but it is driving down the debate in America. It is not helping. It is hurting."

Byrne said the many new jobs brought to Alabama have not been evenly distributed, and many rural areas of the state have been left behind. He said while U.S. Interstate 22 was

a great asset to attract industries, "you have to have the education and job training programs to go along with it."

"I think you campuses in the Bevill (State Community College) system are extremely valuable assets for economic development" for training and economic recruitment. He said two-year colleges are "an underutilized asset in Alabama."

He also said broadband is critical for rural areas not to be left behind.

Byrne said agriculture is still the state's top industry, noting the current national trade issues "has posed a particular problem for agriculture." China not buying soybeans has driven down the price of that crop. He said the fight is actually over other things, and agriculture serves as collateral damage.

"I support the president in his trade efforts," he said, including his talks with China. "I understand that has a negative effect in some cases on agriculture. I want us to figure out a way to take care of agriculture without it causing collateral damage as we continue these talks with China."

He said every student coming out of the system has at least a high school education. If they are not prepared to go to college, they should at least have technical education to use for getting a job. However, he did not want to federal government to tell state officials what to do on schools,

On foreign relations, Byrne said "by far and away, I'm most concerned about China. China has stated it is there intention to become the dominant nation in the world by 2049, the 100th anniversary of the Peoples Republic of China, with 1.3 billion people in China and 325 million in

the United States. "They intend to replace us in such a way that we are subjugated to them and that bothers me a lot," he said.

He also is also worried about Russia's military funding, Iran's missile and nuclear programs, North Korea's actions and threats from terrorists. He said the U.S. hasn't faced as complex a security system since World War II.

"We've been asleep and we need to wake up," he said, adding allies are also starting to realize the threat.

Byrne said there is "no question" that Russia has tried to interfere with American elections, saying the Obama administration allowed that to happen.

"There are some very clear things being done. I can't discuss some of them because I know some of them from classified briefings," he said. "But I think it is very important for the national intelligence security and law enforcement people to stay in continuous contact with state governments who actually run the election system to make sure that no one is actually infiltrating the mechanics of our election system."

He is also concerned that Russia, China and others will manipulate to create fake news on social media "to sew chaos and division in this country. We need to push back against that by being better consumers of the news and being a lot more skeptical of what we are seeing," and finding ways to verify it.

On gun violence events in the nation, he said it was a mental health issue, noting his grandfather was shot and killed by a mentally ill person. "We have too many people who have severe mental health problems who have not been diagnosed, much less treated," he said, saying the right actions might cut shootings in half.

He said in almost all the shooting incidents, there were warning signs the shooter was mentally ill that people either didn't understand or just didn't take the steps to stop the shooter from taking action. He said society should be more aware of the signs, "and I don't think we put near the resources in place to deal with mental health that we should."

He said he was disappointed to see mental health funds cut back in Alabama.

"I think that is to the detriment of everyone in the state. I think that puts all of us to some extent at risk," he said.

# Many scholarships awarded

By **P.J. Gossett**  
Staff Writer

[peter@mynwapaper.com](mailto:peter@mynwapaper.com)

DOUBLE SPRINGS - Winston County High School honored the graduating class of 2019 with more than 100 scholarships and awards being given out at the senior banquet on Monday, May 20. The food was catered by Chef Troy's Talk of the Town.

Scholarships from colleges were given out first.

University of Alabama, presented by Jake Gibson, recruiter: Samantha Marcum, University of Alabama Recognition; Tesslie Tidwell, University of Alabama Recognition; Samuel Crowe, Foundation in Excellence and Tutweiler Engineering; Jesslyn

Downey, collegiate scholar; Ethan Moore, presidential, alumni scholar, and store book scholarships and Noah Hadder, Tutweiler Opportunity and University of Alabama Recognition;

University of North Alabama, presented by Hadley Skalnik, admissions counselor: Jonathan Baker, academic, housing, leadership, honors and salutatorian; Kailee Curtis, academic, housing and leadership; Jesslyn Downey, academic, housing and leadership; Jacob Jackson, academic; Samantha Marcum, Vanguard; Grace Nix, academic; Elijah Tidwell, Vanguard and Pride of Dixie Marching Band Performance award;

Macie Walker, Vanguard and Chase Cummins, mascot;

Athens State University, presented by Tricia Oleyte, admissions advisor: Chloe McCullar, Glasgow Presidential Scholarship;

Northwest-Shoals Community College, presented by Holly South: Emily Lowery, applied technology;

Bevill State Community College, presented by Carla Manasco, student services specialist: Noah Hadder, honors choice; Saige Blanton, summer honors and Upward Bound Summer Bridge; Rheanna Baker, career-technical honor; Caleb Winters, career-technical honor and torch; Ashley McDonald, torch; Jacob Jackson, academic excellence; Jesslyn Downey, academic excellence, Upward Bound Summer Bridge and torch; Daniel Chambless, torch; Thurman Borden, torch; Tesslie Tidwell, academic honor and Jonathan Baker, torch;

Wallace State Community College, presented by Alecia White, coordinator of recruitment: Jacob Elliott, Bagwell Foundation; Jonathan Baker, academic excellence; Abby Taylor, career-technical; Cody Malcom, career-technical and Paeton Randolph, career-technical;

Blue Mountain College, presented: Saige Blanton, athletic;

UAB at Birmingham, presented by Jeff Cole: Jonathan Baker, college honors, MENSA, Alabama American Legion Outstanding Achievement and freshman biology scholarships.

Other scholarships and awards, some from local organiza-



The top ten of the class of 2019. Back row, from left, Jacob Jackson, Zachary Wright, Ethan Moore, Jonathan Baker, Jesslyn Downey and Principal Jeff Cole. Front row, Chloe McCullar, Noah Hadder, Kailee Curtis, Saige Blanton and Tesslie Tidwell.



Wallace State scholarship recipients are, from left, Paeton Randolph, Abby Taylor, Jonathan Baker, Jacob Elliott, Cody Malcom and presenter Alecia White.



Scholarship recipients to the University of Alabama, from left: Jesslyn Downey, Samantha Marcum, Ethan Moore, Tesslie Tidwell, Noah Hadder, Samuel Crowe and presenter Jake Gibson.



Chloe McCullar received a scholarship to Athens State University. Presenter Tricia Oleyte is also shown.



Emily Lowery is heading to Northwest-Shoals Community College. Holly South is the presenter.



Scholarship recipients to the University of North Alabama, back row from left: Jonathan Baker, Chase Cummins, Jacob Jackson, Elijah Tidwell and presenter Hadley Skalnik. Front row, Macie Walker, Samantha Marcum, Grace Nix, Jesslyn Downey and Kailee Curtis.



Bevill State bound graduates are, back row from left, Thurman Borden, Jonathan Baker, Jesslyn Downey, Saige Blanton, Jacob Jackson and presenter Carla Manasco. Front row, Caleb Winters, Ashley McDonald, Rheanna Baker, Tesslie Tidwell and Noah Hadder.

tions and individuals, were given out next.

Tracy Estes presented two Jacket Pride scholarships to Daniel Chambless and Zachary Wright;

Double Springs Civitans Club, presented by June King of First

National Bank: Rheanna Baker and Chase Cummins;

Panorama Study Club, presented by Kathy Pendergrass: Grace Nix;

Double Springs Study Club, presented by Pat Berry: Ashton

Steele and Chase Cummins;

Traders and Farmers Bank, presented by Patsy Jones: Jonathan Baker;

Mike Gilbreath Ser-

See MANY,  
Page 9B

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# Region sees uptick in unemployment numbers

By **MICHAEL E. PALMER**  
*Staff Writer*

MONTGOMERY - Marion County's unemployment rate ticked up six percentage points to 4% from May's record low of 3.4% according to data released by the Alabama Department of Labor.

In May, only 440 people of an available labor force numbering 12,857 were looking for jobs as compared to June when 515 people in Marion County were looking for

work. The labor force is the number of people aged 16 and over who are either working or looking for work.

The county numbers match a regional trend in unemployment rates. The surrounding counties all posted slightly higher unemployment numbers from May to June.

Fayette County's unemployment rate ticked up seven percentage points in June to 3.8%.

Franklin County's unemployment rate

rose from 2.7% in May to 3.2% in June.

Winston County had a difference of 6 percentage points with a rise to 3.9% June.

Walker County posted the highest margin in unemployment from May to June with a rise of 8 percentage points to 3.8% in June.

David Thornell of the C3 Northwest Alabama Economic Development Alliance says the upward tick is fairly common after May when a higher number of

younger people are entering the job market.

"It's just this one month where you have graduates from high school and colleges that are entering the workforce," Thornell said. "We'll absorb those numbers, but you will see it only in the next few months."

Thornell suggests anyone looking for work should visit the Alabama Job Links website or Alabama's Career Center System located on the Beville State Com-

munity College-Hamilton Campus to see the actual status of employers seeking workers.

"They'll find that there are many employers hiring and there is a good variety of jobs available right now," Thornell said.

Thornell said the latest job numbers report indicates a bit of contradiction between overall state numbers and the northwest Alabama region. The report indicates that the overall unemployment rate

for Alabama decreased as the region's increased.

"On average, with the larger cities, they have a greater capacity to absorb new entries into the labor force," Thornell said.

However, the over-the-year numbers for the region indicate that more people are employed now as compared to June last year.

In June 2018 604 people were seeking employment in Marion County.

## MARION COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

# Hall of Fame set to welcome 26th class

■ Class of 2019 will be inducted during Aug. 3 ceremony

By **MATTHEW PUCKETT**  
Managing Editor

**(Sports editor's note:** This is the listing of the honors and achievements of the 2019 Marion County Sports Hall of Fame class members. New inductees have been listed alphabetically by last name.

Each list of awards and achievements is compiled from information submitted by the inductees. If a photo is not shown, one was not provided. **MJP**)

The Marion County Sports Hall of Fame will induct its 26th class during a ceremony at the Beville Center in Hamilton on Saturday, Aug. 3, at 6 p.m. The 2019 class will be made up of 28 members.

Tickets for the event are \$10 each and can be purchased at the door. A ticket will be required for admission. There will not be a meal.

Board members for each school are Jack Hayes (Brilliant), Ronnie Anglin (Hackleburg), Mark Dearen (Hamilton), Larry Akers (Marion County), Scott Veal (Phillips), Kim Hubbert Lee (Winfield) and Susan Seals (secretary).

### Brilliant

• **Joseph Burleson** graduated from Brilliant in 1989 and lettered in football and basketball. He played both sports for coach Jack Hayes. As a basketball player, Burleson was a forward for all four years. In football, he was a line-backer, guard and fullback for four years. During his playing career, Burleson saw his team win the Northwest Alabama Conference championship and Marion County championship in 1986. He was named all-conference in 1987 and 1988, all-county in 1988 and all-state second team in 1988. He received the Glendon Gibbs Award in his junior and senior years and was the leading tackler those two seasons. He was named team captain his senior year and elected Mr. Brilliant High School in his senior year. He sponsored and coached park and recreation/dixie youth sports, including basketball and football. He served on the Brilliant Park and Recreation Board for several years and as the vice president of the Brilliant Toy-bowl Association. Burleson has owned and operated Fluttering Springs Poultry Farm for 25 years. After leaving the poultry business, Burleson spends much of his time with his dad and son raising cattle, going to cattle sales and cutting and hauling hay. He remains a big supporter of his alma mater and serves on the school advisory board and booster club. Burleson is a member of the Brilliant Alumni Association and was elected Alumnus of the Year in 2017. He loves watching his son play sports--if his son is wearing a Tiger jersey, you can be certain that Burleson will be close by. He resides in Brilliant with his wife of 22 years, Cynthia, and his son, Braden, who will be a junior at Brilliant High School. Burleson is a multi-generation Brilliant Tiger and is the son of 2013 Marion County Sport Hall of Fame member Billy Wayne Burleson and Martha Bostick Burleson.



**Burleson**

• **Brian Gunnels** was part of the 2003 graduating class at Brilliant. Gunnels was named all-state in football as a wide receiver in 2001. He was also recognized as a pre-season *Birmingham News* and Alabama Sports Writers Association (ASWA) first-team all-state wide receiver in 2002. He was named All-Marion County and All-North Alabama Conference (NAC) with multiple games of 300-plus receiving yards as a junior and senior. Gunnels was named the Glendon Gibbs Offensive Player of the Year and Mizeman Football Player of the Year runner-up his senior year, along with multiple other school awards and achievements. As a basketball player, Gunnels was named all-county and all-conference for three years. In baseball, Gunnels was named an all-state outfielder in 2002 and 2003 and all-county and all-conference for four years. He finished second-place in the Alabama High School Athletic Association state track meet's high jump event his senior year and third-place in his junior year in track and field. Gunnels continued his baseball career at Beville State Community College-Fayette before two shoulder surgeries ended his playing career. He graduated from Athens State University in 2010 with a bachelor's in physical education and received the Athens State University Outstanding Leadership Award. Gunnels coached two years at Carbon Hill High School as



**Gunnels**



the head baseball coach and defensive coordinator. He served as an assistant football coach and baseball coach at Cordova while teaching at Bankhead Middle School in Cordova before coaching four years at Sparkman Middle School, where he served as the head baseball coach, head girls basketball coach and defensive coordinator. His team won the Madison County Middle School championship. His team's defense allowed just 60 points in nine games. Gunnels currently serves as the head football, baseball and girls track and field coaches and is the athletic director at Brilliant. His biggest coaching achievement is coming back to Brilliant and winning his first varsity football game as a head coach. Gunnels added, "To some, that may not be a big deal, but that was a dream of mine going to school." Gunnels and his wife Kayla have been married for eight years and have two children: Paxton, 8, and Pypier Grace, 6, and are expecting another girl, Baylor Brooke, in September.

• **Jack (Trey) Hayes III** is a 2003 graduate of Brilliant High School. He played for coaches Royce Young, Alan Smith, Darren Cotton, Patrick Sutton, Ricky Gibbs and Gary Miles. Hayes was the Wendy's High School Heisman State Winner, Bryant-Jordan Scholar-Athlete Class 1A State Winner, first-team All-American Athletes of Good News, Who's Who Among American High School Students and Who's Who in Sports, United Services Automobile Association (USAA) National Leadership Merit Award, Coca-Cola Scholars National Finalist, *Birmingham News* All-State Academic Team, Alabama Youth Summit, HOBY, Boys State delegate, valedictorian, Mr. Brilliant High School and Fellowship of Christian Athletes captain. As a football player, Hayes was a five-year varsity letterman, named All-Marion County in 1998, 2001 and 2002, All-North Alabama Conference in 1998, 2001 and 2002, all-region in 2001 and 2002, all-state in 2001 and 2002, team captain in 1999 and 2002, Alabama's Mr. Football Class 1A Back of the Year finalist and Walker Offensive Player award winner. Hayes lettered four years in basketball and was named all-county in 1999, 2002 and 2003, all-conference in 1999, 2002 and 2003, all-area in 2003 and team captain in 1999 and 2002. On the baseball field, Hayes lettered five years and was named all-county in 2002 and 2003 while earning all-conference honors in 2003. He won the 400-meter dash for the county and conference in 2003 and was part of the 4X400-meter relay team that won the county in 2003. As a powerlifter, Hayes finished first in the county in 1998, 2002 and 2003. He also finished first in the Saks Invitational in 2003 and third in the state in 2001, 2002 and 2003. He attended the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa from 2003-08 and earned an industrial engineering degree while finishing as magna cum laude. Hayes also attended Auburn University in Montgomery from 2010-12 and earned his master's degree in business administration while earning summa cum laude honors. In college, Hayes earned the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award (Most Outstanding Male UA graduate), John Fraser Ramsey Award (Most Outstanding UA junior), Capstone Hero, UA National Alumni Association Outstanding Senior Award, George C.K. Johnson Industrial Engineering Award, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society Outstanding Junior Award, Alpha Pi Mu Outstanding Junior Award, Jasons Honor Society, Mortar Board National Honor Society president, Anderson Society, Omicron Delta Kappa Society, Blue Key Honor Society, Blackburn Institute Fellow, Ambassadors of the College of Engineering president, Honors College Ambassador, Academic Honor Council Engineering Justice, five-time intramural flag football



**Hayes**

champion and ACIS Collegiate Flag Football Men's First Team All-American. Hayes lives in Montgomery and has been married to Amanda Hayes for 11 years. The couple has two children: Sam, 5, and John, 2. His parents are Jack and Debra Hayes, both of Brilliant. He is the brother of Kristin Jones (Chris) and uncle to Hayes, Emmie and Mollie, who live in Trussville. He is the godson of Leslie and Brenda East in Decatur. He is an economic development project manager with the Alabama Power Company. He is an adjunct professor of servant leadership and council charter board member at the University of Alabama's Honors College and Landmark Church deacon and adult education teacher. Hayes' hobbies include reading and becoming increasingly frustrated with the game of golf.

• **Kyle E. Jack** graduated from Brilliant in 1999 and played football and basketball for coach John Holladay and baseball for coach Joey Eddy. He lettered four years in football and was named All-Marion County twice and the Glendon Gibbs Defensive Player of the Year Award winner for the team. Jack lettered three years in baseball and was named all-county two times and voted most valuable pitcher in multiple seasons. He was a two-year letterman in basketball and was named to the All-North Alabama Conference tournament team. As a powerlifter, Jack was the county champion in his weight class. He received the National Scholar-Athlete award and was a Wendy's High School Heisman nominee. Jack attended Beville State Community College for two years from 1999-2001 and continued his education at the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) from 2001-03, where he earned a degree in marketing. He currently works at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama and is married with two daughters. Jack enjoys spending time with his family and coaching his daughters' youth sports teams.

• **Bobby Wayne Sanderson** is a 1967 graduate of Brilliant High School. He played and lettered for four years in football and basketball. Sanderson was named team captain, All-West Alabama Conference and All-Marion County in basketball. He lettered two years in baseball and was named Mr. SGA (Student Government Association). He was coached by Glendon Gibbs and Gene Dickinson. After high school, Sanderson attended Northwest Alabama Technical College in the school of barbering. He has owned and operated a barbershop for 33 years in Winfield and worked as a car salesman for 22 years at Midtown Auto Sales. Sanderson enjoys watching all sports on television, especially Alabama football. He really misses not being able to play golf. Sanderson has been married to Doris for 51 years. The couple has two daughters, Brandy Weeks and Brooke Spann with three grandchildren, Kaitlyn Weeks, Haley Spann and Taylor Spann.



**Sanderson**

• **Ann Vaughn Seaborn** graduated from Brilliant High School in 1981. She played volleyball under coaches Sue Tidwell and Carolyn Howell and basketball and track and field for coaches David Sexton, Howell and Kenny and Glenda Goggans. She received the best defensive player award in volleyball during her senior year. Seaborn also played trumpet in the band and served as a majorette. She was a member of the Student Government Association (SGA), journalism club, FHA and a cheerleader. She is the daughter of the late Curt and JoAnn Vaughn and is a member of Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church in Brilliant. Seaborn has been a member of Brilliant's Lions Club for five years and serves as the membership chairman. She recently received the "Lion of the Year" award. She has two sons, Zach Nix and Seth Seaborn. Nix and his wife, Hollie, have two children, Madie Jane and Jaxon, while Seaborn and his wife, Ashley, have two children, Ross and Ryleigh. Seaborn would like to add, "I love Brilliant High School and the memories that it left me with. Thank you and God bless."



**Seaborn**

### Hackleburg

• **Paul Cleveland** is a 1996 graduate of Hackleburg High School. He was a standout basketball player for the Panthers. Under coach Ronnie Anglin, Cleveland played the positions of forward

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and center. He played for three years and was a starter each of those years. Cleveland's senior year proved to be his best. He scored an average of 17 points per game. Cleveland scored a career-high 30 points against Guin. Defensively, he was the leading rebounder of his team. He received the award for most rebounds two years in a row. Cleveland was named captain and most valuable player of the 1996 Panther team. He was also selected to the All-Marion County team. Perhaps his most memorable game was January 1996. While playing Mt. Hope, Cleveland stole the ball, dribbled down the court and dunked the ball. The crowd went wild. This was said to be the first dunk ever during a Panther basketball game. After high school, Cleveland joined his father in working for the family business, Northwest Alabama Supply, Inc. He has been the sole operator of the business for the past 16 years. Cleveland resides in Hodges with his wife, Tanya McCarley Cleveland. They have two children, Layla Grace and Kasen.



Cleveland

• **Carolyn Williford Lynch** graduated from Hackleburg High School in 1970. She was valedictorian of her senior class. While in high school, she participated in track and field--the only sport that was offered for women at that time. She placed first in the county track meet in the 50-yard dash, first in the 100-yard dash and third in the high jump. She went on to represent Hackleburg in the district track meet. Lynch received an associate in arts degree from Northwest-Shoals Community College, a bachelor of science degree from the University of North Alabama (UNA) in Florence and a master of arts degree from the UNA. These degrees were in the field of education with double majors in health, physical education and recreation and history. Since few opportunities existed at that time for girls' athletics, she hoped that with these degrees she might help establish sports opportunities for high school girls at Hackleburg. Lynch began teaching physical education and health at Hackleburg High School in 1974. She later taught history and would finish her teaching career in that field. She also served as junior class prom sponsor, Beta Club sponsor, cheerleader sponsor, and AEA faculty representative. Lynch also taught an American history class at Beville State Community College. She served as Upward Bound coordinator and tutor for Northwest Community College and at Beville State Community College for 13 years. She helped guide first-generation college-bound students in choosing college courses and career guidance and helped students obtain scholarships to these two colleges. Lynch was selected in the Who's Who Among American Teachers. She has served as secretary for the Marion County Historical Society and is a member of the Alabama Historical Association. She is a member of the Hackleburg Alumni Association and has served four terms as president. She has worked for many years with the other volunteers to prepare and decorate for the alumni banquet each year. She has worked with the Hackleburg Scholarship Trust Fund since its origin in 1989. She is currently serving as a trustee on this board and serves as the secretary of this organization. She is a member of the Mt. View Church of Christ. Lynch worked with many other faculty members after the April 2011 tornado to salvage many school supplies from the destroyed school. Lynch taught for 37 1/2 years at Hackleburg High School and retired on Dec. 20, 2011. Lynch began coaching track and field in 1974. Each spring 30-40 students in grades 7-12 would compete in the Marion County Track Meet. Competition would include various races from short dashes to mile runs, high jump, long jump, shot put and relay races. Hackleburg High School also served as host for this county track meet. In the 1975-76 school year, Lynch started the volleyball program at Hackleburg High School. While starting a program where one had never existed had its challenges, the rewards were far greater. In its second year, the volleyball team competed for the first time in the District Volleyball Tournament at Bradshaw High School. Hackleburg won 6-of-8 games and was awarded the best sportsmanship award for the area tournament. In the team's third year at Hackleburg, they finished with a 15-3 record. In regular season games, Hackleburg had wins over Hamilton, Brilliant, Bear Creek, Guin and Haleyville. Hackleburg suffered its first loss of the season in the Marion County Volleyball Tournament. Hackleburg was runner-up in this tournament. Hackleburg hosted the area tournament and defeated Guin 15-4 and 15-4 and Berry 15-11 and 15-5. The Hackleburg volleyball team received the first-place trophy, placing them in the regional volleyball tournament. Hackleburg also hosted the double-elimination regional tournament with Millport, Kennedy, Berry and Hackleburg competing. Hackleburg defeated Kennedy 15-7 and 12-8 as time expired. Hackleburg continued to win with a 14-9 and 15-6 victory over Millport and won the final match over Millport 15-1 and 11-9. This win placed the Hackleburg volleyball team representing this region in the state playoff for the first time in history. Hackleburg



Lynch

competed in the state playoffs at Troy and placed fourth in the state. Lynch's last year to coach volleyball was the 1979-80 school year when volleyball was no longer offered. Each year that she coached, the volleyball team maintained a winning season. Lynch established the softball team at Hackleburg in 1983-84 and coached through the 1986-87 year. Many challenges were again faced in establishing an athletic program when one did not exist. In each of her four years coaching softball, Lynch had a winning season. In 1986, Lynch was chosen as the Marion County Softball Coach of the Year. Her 1885-86 team began its season with a 22-5 win over Vina--scoring 20 runs in one inning and going through the Panther batting order 2 1/2 times. Hackleburg had a total of 22 hits to defeat Hamilton 7-1 and advance to the championship game in the Marion County Softball Tournament. Hackleburg would be runner-up in this tournament. Hackleburg defeated Class 3A T.M. Rogers from Florence 7-6. Hackleburg then competed in the 15-team sectional tournament in Russellville. Hackleburg defeated Vina 18-3 and Waterloo 14-10 before being eliminated. One of the highlights of her softball coaching career was an unassisted triple play in which, with the bases loaded, the third baseman caught a line-drive, then tagged third base getting the player out that was running home and then tagged the runner coming from second to third attempting to slide in--all three outs by one Panther player unassisted. The other major highlight was that Lynch was instrumental in helping three students obtain softball scholarships to further their education in college. Lynch is the daughter of Eileen Williford and the late Rex Williford. She is married to Russell Lynch, who taught physical education and health at Hamilton Elementary School for 38 years and assisted her in the softball program. They have two children. Jon is a systems engineer at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center and Jennifer works for the United States Army Aviation and Missile Command. She is a logistics management specialist in the Blackhawk helicopter directorate. Jon's wife, Alicia, has a degree in business and has been a stay-at-home mom to their three children and this fall will be teaching at the Mom's Morning Out program at the Madison Church of Christ. Lynch and Russell have three grandchildren--William, 11, Wyatt, 8, and Annaliese, 3. Lynch believes that any success she had while coaching at Hackleburg High School was due to the good character and talent of the students that she had the privilege of working with. She feels extremely fortunate to have taught and coached at Hackleburg High School. She is extremely honored to be inducted into the Marion County Sports Hall of Fame.

• **Clint Randolph** graduated from Hackleburg High School in 2005 and played baseball for Rod Hudson, football for Johnny Hardin and basketball for Ronnie Anglin. He started the last game of his eighth-grade year at quarterback in 2000 against Phil Campbell and continued as the team's quarterback through his senior year. He was named a *Birmingham News* all-state quarterback honorable mention in 2003 and was a Top 10 state finalist for the Wendy's High School Heisman. All of his football stats were lost in the 2011 tornado that hit the school. His baseball career saw him start at second base as an eighth-grader and play second base, shortstop and pitcher through his senior year. From 2003-05, Randolph was named the Alabama Sports Writers Association's all-state second baseman as an honorable mention (2003-04) and first team (2005). He was a member of the back-to-back state runner-up baseball teams in 2003 and 2004 and was selected to play in the North-South All-Star baseball game in Montgomery. For his career, he had a .411 batting average, 21 home runs, 153 RBIs and the team finished 133-32. As a pitcher, Randolph went 9-0 with a 2.13 earned run average (ERA). As a sophomore, he went 3-0 with a 2.04 ERA and went 6-0 with a 2.22 ERA as a senior. Randolph threw a perfect game against Red Bay as a sophomore in 2003. He attended Northwest-Shoals Community College from 2005-06 and UNA from 2007-2010. He graduated from the UNAIN 2010 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He was named to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at NW-SCC and to the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society at UNA. He was also named Who's Who among junior college students. Randolph started his accounting career in February 2011 as a staff accountant working at Financial Biz Partners in Hamilton. Three years later, he started working at CIS Financial Services in Hamilton and worked there until February 2019. While at CIS, he served as a staff accountant from July 2014 through July 2015 before being moved to assistant controller from July 2015 through June 2018 and then became controller from June 2018 through February 2019. Currently, he is the controller at Homan Industries in Fulton, Miss., where he began working in February 2019. He and his wife, Kayla Randolph, have two daughters: Reagyn, who will be 9 in August, and Rayne, who was born July 17 this year. His main interests include anything that involves major sports and his family. Randolph's hobbies are playing golf and spending time with his family.



Randolph

• **W.B. Spratlin** graduated from Hackleburg High School in 1955. He attended Auburn University from 1955-59. He is the owner and manager of Johnson City Chemical Co. He enjoys fishing and hunting and is married to Jimmie Ballard. The couple has three children, including the 1995 NCAA National Golf Champion Chip Spratlin. Chip, who played at Auburn University, won the 1995 championship with a 5-under 283 at Ohio State University Golf Course in Columbus, Ohio. Spratlin also has five grandchildren.

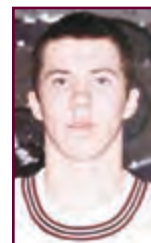
## Hamilton

• **Tyler Bowen** graduated from Hamilton High School in 2000. He played football for four different coaches, including Rusty Clark (freshman), David Shaw (sophomore), Mark Lassiter (junior) and John Holladay (senior). He was named team captain and co-most valuable player, All-Marion County, All-West Alabama Conference, Alabama Sports Writers Association's all-state team, Marion County player of the week (two times), Shoals area player of the week for four-reception, 199-yard and one touchdown performance against Muscle Shoals, is in a tie with several other players for the state record for longest touchdown reception--99 yards, caught four touchdown passes in first half against Midfield during third round of state playoffs and selected for North-South All-Star Football game his senior year. Bowen played basketball his freshman year for Rusty Clark, sophomore year for Greg Evans and junior and senior years for Blaine Hathcock. He was named all-county his sophomore, junior and senior years and all-area during his senior season. Bowen played golf for Rusty Clark his freshman and sophomore years before playing for Blaine Hathcock his junior and senior years. The Aggie golf team qualified for state his junior year and won the county tournament and WAC tournament in his senior year with Bowen qualifying individually for state. He also participated in track and field for coach Ryan Borque his senior year and was part of the 4X400-meter relay team that won the county, WAC, sectional and state meets. Bowen attended the University of North Alabama in Florence and played football from 2000-02 and led the Lions in receptions in 2001. He earned a bachelor's degree in business management and administration in 2005 at the University of Alabama. He completed his doctor of pharmacy degree at Samford University in 2009. Bowen currently works at the University of Alabama in Birmingham Hospital as an investigational pharmacist. He is married to Anna Bowen and the couple has a daughter, Violet, and is expecting a second baby in December. He is the son of Barry and Pam Mixon and Louis and Jennifer Bowen.



Bowen

• **Jake Headrick** is a 2001 graduate of Hamilton High School. He was coached by coaches Blaine Hathcock, Scott Veal and Rusty Clark. Headrick was named to the All-Marion County team three times, All-West Alabama Conference two times, all-state honorable mention and helped lead the team to three consecutive state playoff appearances. He hit 14 free throws in a row to lead the team back from a 16-point deficit in the 2001 area semi-final contest against Haleyville. Headrick attended Beville State Community College-Jasper from 2001-03 and registered a career-high 11 assists against Northwest-Shoals Community College. He attended the University of Montevallo from 2003-05 and played on two Sweet 16 and Gulf South Conference championship teams. He won the 2005 coaches award at Montevallo and played with GSC Player of the Decade Marcus Kennedy. Following his playing career at Montevallo, Headrick has worked as a coach at the University of Montevallo, Chipola College in Marianna, Fla., University of Mississippi, Samford University and Missouri State University. In his coaching career, Headrick has coached in the Division II Elite 8, National Invitation Tournament (NIT) at Madison Square Garden in New York, two National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Tournaments and the 2007 NJCAA national championship game and Florida Region 8 state championship game three times. He was named the 2011 Panhandle Coach of the Year and coached over 30 players that went on to sign Division I scholarships at Chipola. He helped lead Samford to its first postseason appearance in 17 years and a win at the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament (CIT). Headrick coached two current NBA players in the Milwaukee Bucks' Eric Bledsoe and the Los Angeles Clippers' Jamychal Green. Headrick is set to enter his second season as an assistant coach at Missouri State University. He and his wife, Tommye, have two children, Eli, 2, and Hannah, 3 months. He enjoys going to church, golfing, grilling and spending time with his family and friends.



Headrick

• **Josh Hollingsworth** is a 2009 graduate of Hamilton High School. While in high school, he played football, basketball, golf and baseball.

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ing time around home.

• **Jason Taylor** is a 1990 graduate from Marion County High School. He played football for six years under coaches Mike Bates, Doug Goodwin and Don Jones. He was named All-Marion County in 1988 and 1990, all-area in 1989 and 1990 and *Birmingham News* Super Seniors in 1989 for football. In basketball, Taylor played six seasons under coach Van Nelson. He was selected as All-Marion County and all-area in 1990. After high school, he attended Beville State Community College followed by the University of Alabama. He graduated from Alabama in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in public relations and a business marketing minor. Taylor has been married to Mandy Taylor of Hackleburg for 21 years and has two daughters, Braely and Bretta. They reside in Hamilton and own and operate S&H Supply Company, Inc.



Taylor

## Phillips

• **Chantry Hagood** graduated from Phillips High School in 2006. He played under coach Scott Veal. Hagood earned the most improved award, All-Northwest Alabama Conference, All-Marion County, all-area, all-state honorable mention, *TimesDaily* player of the month, *Birmingham News* player of the month, a Wendy's High School Heisman nominee, June Glass Athletic Achievement award, best 3-point shooter award, 3-point record holder at Phillips since 2005 and was named team captain and most valuable player in basketball. As a football player, Hagood was named the most valuable player for special teams. He was also a 4X800-meter relay gold medal winner. He attended Wallace State Community College in Hanceville and graduated in 2011. He is married to Hallie Hagood and the couple has two children: Lyric, 4, and Judah, 3 months. He is a physical therapist assistant and the associate pastor at the Hackleburg Community Church. He is a certified personal trainer and health coach. Hagood's hobbies are spending time with his family, playing golf, hunting and health and fitness.



Hagood

• **Cortney Kennedy-Johnson** is a 2006 graduate from Phillips High School. She played for coaches Reba Jett, Debbie Grubbs, Jonathan Raper, Jennifer Hornsby, Teresa Armstrong, Brandon McDuffa, Nancy Hallman, Mary Williams-Kennedy and Linda Real. Kennedy-Johnson played volleyball at Beville State Community College from 2006-07 and was the starting middle blocker/hitter. She ranked as the 32nd blocker in the region. She is currently working as an emergency medical technician (EMT) at Keller Ambulance Services and is enrolled at Itawamba Community College in Fulton, Miss., to become a paramedic in the fall. She has four children and they all love anything outdoors, having family movie nights and going to church.



Kennedy-Johnson

• **Glenn S. Phillips** is a 1982 graduate of Phillips High School, where he was the first of a third generation to graduate from the school named for his great-great-grandfather, John R. Phillips. While in school, Phillips participated in basketball and football, as well as track and field, where he was a two-time state qualifier. However, Phillips shared that where sports were concerned, he may have been small but he was slow. Despite living in metro-Birmingham for years, Phillips is a financial, mentoring and academic supporter of Phillips High School athletic programs. He has been present at every team state championship won by Phillips High School, as well as every Final Four and volleyball Elite Eight where Phillips High School participated. At each of these events, he has provided the teams and coaches with financial and logistical support. His support extends to Phillips High School marching band, where he has provided financial assistance and has even served as volunteer assistant band director. Phillips earned his associate's degree from Northwest Alabama State Junior College and a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Auburn University. In 2003, Phillips was named the Phillips High School Alumnus of the Year. He has also been named as the 2005 Auburn University Outstanding Young Engineer and 2010 Auburn University Outstanding Alumnus for computer science and software engineering. Phillips has served in a variety of advisory roles with the Alabama Department of Education and currently serves on the Auburn University Entrepreneurship Advisory Council. In 1991, he founded the technology company Forte' Incorporated. Since 2011, he has been the chief executive officer (CEO) of Lake Homes Realty, where he leads one of the fastest-growing real estate brokerages in the country and a three-time honoree on the Inc. 5,000 list. In the Birmingham business commu-



Phillips

nity, Phillips has been named as one of the "Top 40 Under 40," then years later, to the "Top 50 Over 50." Phillips is married to Doris Phillips and they work together and reside in Hoover.

• **William Craig Wilson** is a 2007 graduate of Phillips High School. He played basketball for Scott Veal, football for Gary McCarley, Jonathan Raper and Chris Gillum and baseball for Gary McCarley, Scott Veal and Chris Gillum. As a freshman, Wilson received the most improved and hustle awards for both basketball and football. In his sophomore year, he earned the best hitter and most improved awards and was named to the All-Marion County team in baseball. He was named the football team's most valuable player and earned a spot on the Class 1A, Area 13 All-Tournament Basketball Team. Wilson was named the most valuable pitcher and player for baseball his junior year. He earned the best rebounder, offensive and defensive player, free throw shooter and most valuable player awards in basketball, along with being named the Northwest Alabama Conference tournament's most valuable player and NAC all-tournament team, All-Marion County team and Class 1A, Area 13 all-tournament team for basketball. He was selected as a team captain for football and was named the most valuable offensive player and earned spots on the All-Marion County team and all-conference team. As a senior, Wilson earned best hitter and most valuable player awards, along with being named team captain and all-conference for baseball. In basketball, he was named the best offensive player, best free throw shooter, co-best rebounder, most valuable player, team captain, All-NAC tournament team, All-Marion County team and All-Class 1A, Area 13 tournament team. Wilson was named the football team's best linebacker, most valuable special teams player, most valuable player and team captain for his senior year. He received the June Glass Athletic Achievement Award in 2006-07, North Alabama Sports Classic 2006 Academic of the Year and Who's Who in High School Football, U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete for 2006 and 2007 and finished his basketball career with 1,056 points. He earned his associate of applied science degree from the Community College of the Air Force in 2015 and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Management and Technology in 2018. He coached youth football and baseball in Knob Noster, Mo., and youth basketball in Shalimar, Fla. He has served in the U.S. Air Force for the past 11 years and is currently stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. He is married to Kallie Wilson and the couple has two children: LouElla, 8, and Karson, 6. Wilson enjoys spending quality time with his family, hunting, fishing, coaching, watching Auburn sports and playing intramural sports when he has time.



Wilson

## Winfield

• **Roger Box** graduated from Winfield City High School in 1973. Sports were more than a pastime for a boy from Rock City in rural north Alabama. Box was consumed with playing ball of any kind at any time. Like most boys, he dreamed of the excitement and fame his love of sports could bring. Born the oldest son of Joyce Vickery Box and the late Jimmy R. (Bobby) Box, his attitude was that of a winner. He enjoyed a generous helping of athletic ability and was often rewarded by earning his position on a team ahead of those who were older and had more experience. Early on, he had established goals and set his mark for a possible career in baseball after high school. Box participated in varsity football at Winfield City High School under head coaches Bobby Jones and Billy Coleman from 1970-73. Playing at defensive lineman, halfback and punter, he was named defensive player of the game numerous times in his three seasons. He also maintained a hefty punting average of 40-plus yards and remembers well the 3-0 win over Fayette in 1973 when his game average was 50 yards per punt--and one punt was only 28 yards. Box was a guard while playing for coaches Ralph Pinion and Billy Coleman on the basketball court. As a member of the varsity team from 1970-73, his point-per-game average was 22 and the most points scored in a game were 38. His shot from 3-point range was dangerous, but there were no 3-point shots in high school basketball at that time. Box received All-Winfield Invitational, All-Marion County, and All-West Alabama Conference tournament honors for his efforts on the court. Box was also a member of the track team while in high school, running the 4X100-yard relay from 1970-72. Baseball was Box's favorite sport and he proved it in the shortstop and catcher positions from 1969-72. Under the direction of coach Ralph Pinion, Box was moved to a starting position on the varsity team as a freshman and finished under coach Mickey Beatty. With a batting average of .800, he was selected as a team member and played in the annual East-West All-Star baseball game two times, his sophomore and junior years. It was here that he was contacted by scouts for the St. Louis Cardinals and Los Angeles Dodgers in 1972. Box's goals and his life made a surprising change during the summer of 1972 when he chose to marry his number one supporter and favorite

high school cheerleader, Ann McMillan. Even though he had been approached by college coaches and professional baseball scouts, Box did not attend college, but instead entered the coal industry at the age of 17 as a heavy-equipment operator. He continued his love for sports playing on local independent baseball and softball teams for several years in many league games, tournaments and state playoffs. Now retired due to health issues and living near Glen Allen, Box and his wife of 47 years, Ann McMillan Box, raised three daughters: Amberly Box Cicero, Adrian Box, and Allyn Box. Over time, the focus of their lives changed from Box's ballgames to the activities their girls participated in, including band, cheerleading, softball, track and basketball. Like their dad, each daughter possessed that winning attitude and excelled in their individual abilities. A son-in-law (Jason Cicero), two granddaughters (Sarah and Abby Grace Cicero), and two grandsons (Nathan Cicero and Chance Concord) complete their family. Box said he is blessed to be able to spend time with family and loved ones--some of the greatest joys in life. Looking back, he can tell you without hesitation that he believes in the providence of God. He knows his life took the turns it did and became what it is for a reason. In 1997, he was literally given the gift of life when he received a liver transplant as the result of a lengthy illness which almost cost him his life. That was when the winning attitude of that boy from Rock City reappeared and the hard work began again--and in the greatest contest he has ever competed in, Roger Box remains undefeated. In this life, he is a true winner.

• **Adam Miles** is a 2005 graduate of Winfield City High School. He played football for coaches Joe Nettles (freshman), Rusty Clark (sophomore) and Danny Adams (junior and senior). He was coached by defensive coordinator Scott Goodwin in football his junior and senior year and track and field throughout high school, along with coach Steve Reaves in track and field. Miles was coached by Mike Jenkins in baseball for his freshman and sophomore years. As a football player, Miles played four years and was named All-West Alabama Conference and all-state honorable mention his senior year. He was named as a *Birmingham News* all-academic athlete as a junior and led the football team in tackles his senior year. He was the defensive captain his senior year as the team finished 13-1 and advanced to the state championship, where he played middle linebacker. In track and field, Miles competed all four years and was named All-WAC and all-county his sophomore, junior and senior years. He was selected as Winfield's most valuable track athlete his junior year and was named Gatorade's "Will to Win" athlete his freshman year. He played baseball his freshman and sophomore years. Miles earned an advanced diploma and was a member of the National Honor Society his junior and senior years. He attended Boys State his senior year and was voted class vice president his sophomore year and class president his junior year. He earned Winfield's Mr. Citizenship his senior year. He graduated from the University of Alabama with a bachelor's of science degree in psychology with a biology minor in 2010 and was on the Dean's List. He is currently employed at Centurylink as an engineer and lives in Winfield. Miles is married to Mallory and the couple has one son, Carter, 3. He enjoys spending time outdoors fishing with his wife and son and also throwing a ball around with his son, along with going to Winfield athletic events.

• **Brett Tilley** graduated from Winfield High School in 2000. He played football for coaches David Shaw (eighth-grade) and Benjie Parrish (sophomore). He played baseball for Mike Jenkins (eighth-grade and senior), Jon Randolph (freshman) and Joey May (sophomore and junior). Tilley played basketball for Joseph Wilson his sophomore, junior and senior years. He started on varsity in baseball as an eighth-grader at third base and played his final four seasons at catcher. He hit three home runs as an eighth-grader, including his first hit being a home run against Haleyville. He added a two-home run game against Winston County that season. He went 23-of-23 on stolen base attempts his freshman year. His sophomore year saw him hit for a .569 batting average with three home runs, including a two-home run game against Phil Campbell in one game. Tilley's junior year saw him hit for a .526 batting average and five home runs. He went 13-of-20 (.650 batting average) with five home runs in the West Alabama Conference tournament, including a two-home run game against Walker High School. He hit for a .513 batting average his senior year and added three home runs, including his fourth two-home run game of his high school career with two home runs against Sulligent in one contest. No player recorded a stolen base against him during his senior year. Tilley struck out only seven times from his sophomore through his senior seasons and was named All-Marion County, All-WAC and all-state honorable mention. Tilley had Major League Baseball



Tilley

(MLB) scouts in attendance at games during his junior and senior years, including the Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees, Chicago White Sox, Cincinnati Reds and Colorado Rockies. The Chicago Cubs and Tampa Devil Rays had Tilley work out with them before his home games. He signed a baseball scholarship with the University of Alabama in Birmingham and his first collegiate hit, like his first high school hit, was a home run. As a basketball player, he started from sophomore year through his senior year. His team went to the Final Four his sophomore year. He was named team captain and had the best free throw percentage his senior year. He went from the worst his junior year to first place his senior year. He was named All-Marion County and All-WAC his junior and senior years. As a football player, Tilley started on special teams for the varsity team as an eighth-grader and was awarded the best defensive lineman award his sophomore year. He was also named to the All-WAC team his sophomore year. Tilley placed first in the discus

event in the WAC, Marion County and regional meets from his sophomore through senior years, only needing one throw each time. Tilley is the national sales manager at KITH Furniture and has been in the furniture industry since he graduated from the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 2005. He likes to spend his time outdoors hunting and fishing and coaching his children. He also likes to take his children to historical place like Washington, D.C. Tilley has two children, Braxton, 12, and Audrey, 7. He has been married to the "luckiest lady in Marion County" Allyson Tilley, for 13 years.

• **Mallory Parrish Wynn** graduated from Winfield in 2004. She lettered three years in cheerleading, including being named the Ole Miss (University of Mississippi in Oxford) camp champions (sophomore), University of Alabama in Birmingham camp champions and the Alabama High School Athletic Association Class 3A state runner-up (junior). She lettered four years in basketball and earned the best free throw percentage award her junior year before being named

to the All-Marion County tournament team and earning the heart of a champion award her senior year. As a softball player, Wynn was named ace pitcher, All-Marion County tournament team and all-sectional tournament team her junior year. She was named to the All-Marion County tournament team and All-West Alabama Conference tournament team her senior year. She was nominated for the Bryant-Jordan Scholar-Athlete award and Wendy's High School Heisman in 2004. Wynn was her class valedictorian. She attended Bevill State Community College-Fayette following graduation and was a member of the cheerleading squad from 2005-06. After graduating from Bevill with an associate's degree in business, she transferred to Mississippi State University in Starkville, Miss., and earned her bachelor's in accountancy and master's in professional accountancy. She is a licensed certified professional accountant and works as the finance manager and interim controller at Bolzoni Auramo, Inc., in Sulligent. Wynn lives in Winfield with her husband Jonathan. The couple has three girls, Keely Beth, Sterling and Sophia.

## THE ONLY WAY TO STUDY



Daily Mountain Eagle - Rick Watson

Three Bevell State nursing students were hanging out in Gamble Park Tuesday. Bridgette Jenkins, Crystal Cagle and Ashley Bailey were studying for an upcoming fourth semester nursing school final. "This is our ticket out," Jenkins said.