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Friday is National Red Dress Day
in Laurel...page 12

Tornadoes to play in MS/AL
All-Star game...page 15

Walmart opens first Training Academy in Mississippi

By Linda Cranford

A ribbon cutting and graduation ceremony was held on Thursday, January 26, to officially open the first Walmart Training Academy in Mississippi in Laurel and to graduate the first class of the Training Academy. The new Academy is located in the south parking lot of the Laurel Walmart on 16th Avenue. After the graduation ceremony, Laurel Walmart store manager Manny Martinez cut the ribbon signifying the official opening of the facility with Laurel Mayor Johnny Magee, several Walmart regional and marketing officials, and members of the first graduating class standing with him.

According to Walmart representatives, there were 60 individuals in the first Training Academy graduating class, all trained in sales floor skills leadership, merchandising, operations, and customer service.

During the celebration the Laurel Walmart handed out several Community Grant checks. They presented \$2,500 checks to Glade Elementary, Nora Davis Magnet School, and the Laurel Police Department. They also presented an \$11,000 check to the committee for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Jones County.

According to Regional Vice President Sammy Sappington, the academy will service 30 Walmart Stores near Laurel. Sappington said they will be opening two more academies in Mississippi in the near future.

"This has been a wonderful experience," said graduate Melinda Thompson, Boys and Girls Department Manager. "They taught us all the ins and outs of Walmart and the importance of doing your job well and that the customer is the most important thing."

See WALMART, page 2



Laurel Store Manager Manny Martinez, center, cuts the ribbon to officially open the first Walmart Academy in Mississippi. Also pictured with Martinez is Mayor Johnny Magee, left, and Walmart Regional Vice President Sammy Sappington, right. Photo/Linda Cranford

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As Thompson walked across the stage to receive her diploma, the entire crowd, including all graduates, exploded into cheers and applause. When asked why everyone cheered her so, she smiled and said, "I'm like a fixture here, I've been her so long." Thompson has been with Walmart since 1985.

Walmart representatives said Walmart plans to build approximately 200 academies in the U.S. by the end of 2017. The Laurel facility is the 55th Walmart Academy.



The first graduating class of the new Walmart Academy consisted of 60 store level managers. Photos/Linda Cranford



Boys and Girls Department Manager Melinda Thompson has been with Walmart since 1985.

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Academy Manager Donna Mills, right, presents a \$2,500 checks to the Laurel Police Department.

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Sunday Edition - Wednesday at 12:00 Noon
Wednesday Edition - Thursday at 3:00

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IFPA EDA of Jones County

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Join Chad and Marsha Schearer of Shoot Straight TV on Saturday, February 4, for a very special Sportsman's Tornado Relief Benefit. Enjoy a delicious barbecue dinner, incredible door prizes, a silent auction, and a hunting seminar. All proceeds will be donated to the tornado relief efforts. Tickets are only \$5 plus 2 canned goods. Order your tickets by visiting www.thecentralbaptist.com. Space is limited, so purchase your tickets today!

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BAB1342

February 2
First Baptist Church of Laurel will host a Precept Upon Precept Bible Study of the New Testament Book of I Corinthians which deals with overcoming divisions and difficulties in the body of Christ. This twelve-week study will begin Thursday, February 2 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and will be led by Margie Hauenstein with Kay Arthur lecturing on videos. An identical study will begin Monday, February 5 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. with Danny West teaching. For more information, please call Mr. or Mrs. Carey Hauenstein, Administrators at 601-428-4393.

February 4
At 6:00 p.m. Old Mt. Nebo Baptist Church will have a gospel singing featuring the Magnolia Boys. There will be a love offering taken. Old Mt. Nebo is located at the end of SCR 18-5 West of Bay Springs.

The Jones County Alcorn Alumni Chapter will hold its monthly meeting Saturday, February 4th at 12:00 noon at the Cook Avenue Center. For more information contact Ann Martin at 601-729-2334.

February 5
The Black Heritage Celebration Association of Covington County has the following events scheduled for the month of February: February 5 at 3:00 p.m. "Unity Praise, Worship @ Fellowship of Churches," New Hopewell MB Church, Taylorsville; "Beauty & Beau Pageant" February 11 at 4:00 p.m. at Collins Elementary School Auditorium; "Youth and Teens Health Fair," February 18th from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Carver Middle School; "Heritage Museum," February 25 at 10:00 a.m., Collins High School Gymnasium; "Heritage Parade," February 25 at 12:00 p.m. and "Battle of the Bands" at 3:00 p.m. Call Elanie Barnes at (601) 765-8706 for more information.

February 7
Free diabetes awareness meeting will be held Tuesday starting at 4:00 p.m. at the Wayne General Hospital Classroom. For more information contact Kay Jones, diabetes educator at Wayne General Hospital at 601-735-7146.

Wayne County Mississippi Homemaker Volunteers "MHV" invites you to join. MHV is for adults of all ages. Our next MHV Council meeting is Tuesday, February 7, 10:00 am at the MSU-ES Wayne County Office. We do educational programs, service projects and much more. Call Lanette Crocker at 601-735-2243 or email l.crocker@msstate.edu for more details about joining one of our MHV Clubs. Membership dues are only \$6 per year.

February 10
Hills Chapel MB Church, Louin, will be having our pastors "13th pastoral anniversary at 7:00 p.m." The guest speaker will be Pastor Dwight Robinson along with Dwight Robinson and Truth. The pastoral anniversary will be Sunday, February 26th at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Narada Buxton and an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m. with guest speaker Apostle Everett Heidelberg and First Lady and Prophetess Lou Ann Heidelberg.

February 11
The Jones County Soil and Water Conservation Districts currently has hardwood trees, fruit trees and shrubs for sale. We will be distributing trees beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the USDA Service Center located at 3536 Highway 15 North. Prices range from \$2.00 to \$8.00. Cash or money order only. All proceeds going toward funding for our Information and Education programs. There will be no limit on the number of trees you can get. Trees will be distributed while supplies last, so come early to get a better selection. For more information, contact the Jones County SWCD office at 425-4622 extension 3.

Gospel sing beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Sanford Community Center, located at 663 Old Highway 49, Sanford. Featured guest will be "Heavens Jubilee," "Generations," and "Faithway Singers." Admission is free; a love offering will be accepted. For information call 601-765-6485.

February 12
Free Concert featuring 60-plus member Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra at Highland Baptist Church at 6:00 p.m. Doors open at 5:15 p.m.

Pleasant Grove Moss MB Church, Laurel invites you to our Annual Choir Day at 2:00 p.m. WE are asking for choirs, soloist, and even praise dancers to come worship with us.

February 14
Laurel Community Blood Drive will be held from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Cameron Center, 711 North 10th Avenue. United Blood Services will not be at the Cameron Center on the routine second blood drive of the month on February 28. Join us at the Jones County Junior College blood drive. Call 601-264-0743 for more information about the JCJC blood drive. Donate with United Blood Services February 1-14 and you will receive a \$25 Darden restaurant gift card through points in our online rewards store. The gift card can be redeemed at any Darden restaurant, which includes Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Red Lobster and more. Spread the love by donating blood.

February 16
Bethlehem MB Church of Shubuta will be having our Annual Women's Conference on February 16-18. The theme is "Empowered to Help Me." The Thursday and Friday night service will start at 7:30 p.m. and the Saturday morning service from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be dynamic speaker for each service.

February 18
The Jasper County Adult Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Bay Springs & Vicinity will host our 15th Annual Beauty & Beau Pageant Saturday, February 18, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. The pageant will be held at the Jones County Junior College Building on Highway 15 North of Bay Springs. If you would like to participate in this pageant please contact the following committee members: President Linda Ellis Brown @ (601) 789-5058, Chair Phyllis Norris @ (601) 789-5471, Co-Chair Addie Burks Gammage @ (601) 789-5564 or Dyann Mizell @ (601) 729-8231. More information will be made available later.

Jones County Junior College will have men's soccer tryouts at noon on Prospective players should report at that time to the Thoms Physical Education Building on campus to register. Players are asked to dress appropriately for tryouts and bring indoor shoes in case of inclement weather. Shower facilities will be available. Players also must bring proof of a physical in the past year. For more information, contact JCJC head coach Brendan Connolly at 601-477-4131 or by email at brenndan.connolly@jcjc.edu

Springhill MB Church, Ellisville, invites you to our Prayer Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Reverend Kevin Woodard will be the speaker for this occasion. Please contact the church office at 601-477-8463 to sign up for this prayer breakfast. This prayer breakfast is open to the general public.

February 19
You are cordially invited to worship with the Mission Society of Christian Valley MB Church program: "Ladies in Red", at 3:00 p.m. The speaker for this event will be our very own Pastor James E. McLaurin. For more information call 601-428-7837.

February 24
Jones County Junior College will hold walk-on football tryouts on Feb. 24 and March 3 at Bobcat Stadium/Sim Cooley Field. Registration will be from 9:30-10 a.m. on each day. Participation fee is \$10, cash or check only. Interested players must be a high school senior or a college student with remaining junior college eligibility. Participants must bring cleats and a copy of your current physical. For more information, contact 601-477-1158.

February 25
"Brian Free & Assurance" will be in concert at Trinity Baptist Church, Laurel, Hwy 15 N in the Shady Grove Community at 6:00 p.m. A love offering will be received. Nursery provided.

February 28
The Wayne County Master Gardener's will be holding our annual training from February 28th - April 4th every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Through this program, individuals are trained and certified in consumer horticulture and related areas. In exchange for being a certified Master Gardener you will be responsible for completing 40 hours of educational training completed through this training; individuals are required to return 40 hours of volunteer service within one year of their training. The registration fee is \$90.00 that covers all curricula that will be provided along with association dues to the Wayne County Master Gardener's and the Mississippi Master Gardener State Association. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Sibley at the MSU Extension Service Wayne County Office at 601-735-2243.

Miscellaneous
On the last Tuesday of each month, Covington County Hospital hosts a cancer support group at 5:30 p.m. in the hospital's classroom. For more information, or call 601-765-6711.

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BAB355

Mississippi Home of Your Own Homebuyer Workshop set for Laurel

Submitted
Mississippi Home of Your Own (HOYO) will sponsor a free, one-day homebuyer education workshop Thursday, Feb. 9, for any residents in Jones and surrounding counties interested in buying a home.

The workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Laurel Housing Authority at 50 Brown Circle in Laurel. The workshop is co-sponsored by the City of Laurel Housing Authority and BancorpSouth. Light refreshments will be provided.

In its 20th year of service to Mississippi families, HOYO is an award-winning program of The University of Southern Mississippi Institute for Disability Studies. HOYO empowers people with and without disabilities to reach their individual dreams of owning and maintaining their own homes. Since 1997, HOYO has assisted more than 677 families in 65 Mississippi counties in becoming homeowners.

Forgivable deferred loans based upon need are currently available to eligible borrowers with disabilities in designated areas of the state through HOYO. More information about these grants will be available at the workshop.

HOYO focuses on creating a support system that identifies potential homebuyers, analyzes their housing needs and financial capacity and prepares them for homeownership. Applicants of the HOYO program must attend homebuyer education seminars to be considered for financial assistance in purchasing a home.

For more information or to pre-register for the free homebuyer education seminar, call Heather Steele at the Institute for Disability Studies at 601.266.4097.

Library to host Dr. Patricia Tibbs book signing

Submitted
Dr. Patricia Tibbs will be holding a book signing/sale of her inspirational book "Cords," at the Jones County Library, located in downtown Laurel, on Thursday, February 9, between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. "Cords" is a powerful reflection on Dr. Tibbs' life experiences. She is the daughter of a Hungarian and Ugandan parents and has lived in Europe, Africa, and North America. This book chronicles how she drew from three separate cultures and wove her own distinctive identity while reflecting on the true meaning of family, individuality, and community. "Cords" inspires readers to resist the limitations placed on us by society and embrace our differences in order to build a better community for everyone.



Dr. Patricia Tibbs

Dr. Tibbs lives in Jones County with her husband, Patrick, and their children. She is a well-known and beloved pediatrician and frequently lectures on teen health and women's wellness. Her aspiration is to empower women to lead well-balanced lives with strong relationships, family lives, and careers through the grace of God.

Copies of Dr. Tibbs' current work will be available for purchase during the event for \$10.99.

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GENERAL

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Sofa and loveseat, \$75 for the pair. Kenmore washer and dryer in good condition, \$200 for the pair. Located in Ellisville. Call 601-422-8675.

Slim down in 24 days the healthy way. Call for more information. Working out is not a must...but it is a plus. Hattiesburg area. Call Lindsey. 901-846-6296.

Board Your Pet Tornado Relief. Only \$10.00. Any size, small, medium, large. No matter the size. Many families have been displaced after this tornado. We here at Canine Country want to give you one less thing to worry about. Bring us your pets and we will board them for only \$10 per day. We offer: Spacious indoor and outdoor runs, professional dog trainers and handlers, 5 acres fenced with 2.5 acre pond, certified dog groomers. Over 50 years experience. Canine Country Club. 306 Cox Avenue, Hattiesburg, 601-268-1999. www.caninecountryclub.yolasite.com

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Butterbeans, Gulf Shrimp, Hot boiled peanuts and much much more! 605 Cross Street, Laurel. 601-399-4877.

Pool table, as is. Good condition. \$200.00 non negotiable. Hattiesburg, near FGH, please text, 601-408-0556.

People with Disabilities Take Part in Study- Compensation. The University of Southern Mississippi is currently conducting a study examining mental health-related outcomes in individuals with various physical disabilities. Participants will be asked to answer questions about different aspects of their disabilities, beliefs, and mental and physical health. Accessibility software and equipment will be provided so that individuals with various forms of physical disabilities can use our laptop computers. Participants needing an American Sign Language Interpreter will be provided one by study staff. Financial compensation in the form of \$45 Amazon gift cards will be provided. Participation in the study will take place at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. For more information about this study, or if you are interested in participating, please contact us at 214-236-6106 or usm.disability.study@gmail.com

ATTORNEYS

Divorce, personal injury, custody, DUI, adoption, will disputes, Worker's Comp, wrongful termination, land & property disputes. Call Sam Creel 601-498-8968.

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Farm Barns. 40x30x16-\$9500. 30x30x10-\$7500. Metal roof and sides. Price includes labor. 601-296-0550.

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LAND

24 acres in Runnells town. Lots of mature timber and wildlife. Unbelievable hunting!! May subdivide. Call Shawn with Southern Coastal Realty at 601-408-3570.

Covington County +/- 74 Acres. Located 4 miles from downtown Seminary off hwy 590 on the corner of Shirley Sanford Road and Johnny Sanford Road. This property would

be perfect for a home-site with plenty of recreational opportunities. Property consist of mature pine plantation, gorgeous hardwoods, and a stream that flows throughout the property Great for hunting. \$244,200. For more details, Contact Marc 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties, LLC. Or visit our website walleyproperties.com for maps and more information of this listing.

Jones County +/- 123 Acres. Located 5 miles from downtown Ellisville off of Hwy. 29 South on Pecan Grove Road. This Property has endless opportunities! From hunting, fishing, building a home/farm, or just for an investment. Property contains mature pine plantation and a fully stocked pond that would be great to build a home/camp next too. \$455,100. For more details, Contact Marc 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties, LLC. Or visit our website walleyproperties.com for maps and more information of this listing.

Continued on ... Page 6

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Waterfront lot +/-1acre, Gautier, Ms. \$54,900. 228-497-2787, 228-218-0774.

LLC. Please visit walleyproperties.com for maps of this listing.

+/- 60 Acres Located on Holliman Road just West of Richton, this tract consists of +/- 55 acres in 2 year old pine plantation and +/- 5 acres in hardwoods. Has several great house sites. Also has signs of gravel on property. Power and water available. Asking \$150,000. Call Rob McCraw 601-498-9143. See more at mfmland.com

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+/- 219 Acres priced to Sell Quick! Located on just outside of Topton, AL, and one hour from Mobile, AL. Has road frontage on CR 19 along with power and water available. Has great secluded House/Camp Site sitting underneath beautiful mature longleaf pines and hardwoods. Dark and Rich Waters of Bilbo Creek runs through the property with Hardwoods make for great wildlife habitat. Has Lake. Has several cleared areas that will make large and plentiful food plots. Has some young pine and some thickets for deer to bed in. This tract truly has it all! Don't miss this one of a kind Hunting/Recreational Tract. Reduced \$306,600. Call McCraw Forest Management 800-526-3961. See more at mfmland.com

Jasper County 35 +/- Acres This tract is located 7 miles northwest of Heidelberg, MS on County Road 14 and offers an abundance of wildlife that is sure to satisfy any hunters needs. The property was planted with Loblolly Pines in the winter of 2016. The property will be sprayed for release in the summer of 2016. This property is offered at \$52,500. Call Marc 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties LLC or visit walleyproperties.com for maps of this listing.

+/- 60 Acres Located on Holliman Road just West of Richton, this tract consists of +/- 55 acres in 2 year old pine plantation and +/- 5 acres in hardwoods. Has several great house sites. Also has signs of gravel on property. Power and water available. Asking \$150,000. Call McCraw Forest Management 601-408-0615. See more at mfmland.com

Stringer, MS: This excellent 92 acre parcel is located in the heart of Stringer School District. The property consist of various merchantable timber types with multiple home sites. With an abundance of wildlife the property could also be used as a hunting retreat. The property can be divided. Priced to sell at \$207,000. Contact Marc 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties, LLC.

Jones County +/- 57 Acres: Must see! Located in South Jones County on Rainey Road. 10 Miles from Hattiesburg and Laurel right off the Sanford Road Exit on I-59. This property would be perfect for a home-site or mini-farm with plenty of recreational opportunities. Price: \$153,500. For more details, Contact Marc 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties, LLC. Or visit our website walleyproperties.com for maps and more information of this listing.

20 acre farm/ranch in Janice, Ms. With custom built home, wrap around porch, Pond, horse stalls, fenced and cross fenced, huge shop. Bordered on two sides by National Forest lands. Lots of wildlife call Shawn, Southern Coastal Realty, LLC 601-408-3570.

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South Jones County +/- 130 acres. Located on the Leaf River. 9 miles North of Hattiesburg on Church St. between I-59 and Hwy. 11. Great hunting/fishing opportunity, over a 1/2 mile of river frontage, big sand bar, food plots, mature hardwood bottoms, young pine plantation. \$305,500. For more information on this outdoorsman paradise, contact Marc 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties, LLC.

Jones County +/- 35 Acres with 1850 sqft home. Great Location!! Located in Southeast Jones County on Old Progress Road just minutes from Hattiesburg. This property consist of a 3br/2ba house along with shop. Timber has recently been harvested and chemical has been sprayed for replanting. \$230,000. Contact Marc 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties,

+/- 46 Acres We have just made this 46 acres available separately from the total of 83 acres. Located on 5 miles South of Ellisville, MS with road frontage on both Augusta Road and Kitchens Loop. Clear Creek running through the property. Several great lake sites. Merchantable Mixed pine/hwd timber and good road system. Food plots in place for the abundance of wildlife and hunting. Great Site index for timber investment. Several Great House Sites. Power and water available. This place is beautiful! \$125,000. Call McCraw Forest Management 601-408-0615. See more at mfmland.com

Jones County +/- 30 Acres Located just minutes from the Howard Technology Park, I-59/Hwy 590/Hwy 11, and Ellisville. This property has paved road frontage on Dacetown Road and has a 10 yr. old pine plantation. \$89,500. Contact Marc 601-670-5429 at Walley Properties, LLC. Please visit walleyproperties.com for maps of this listing.

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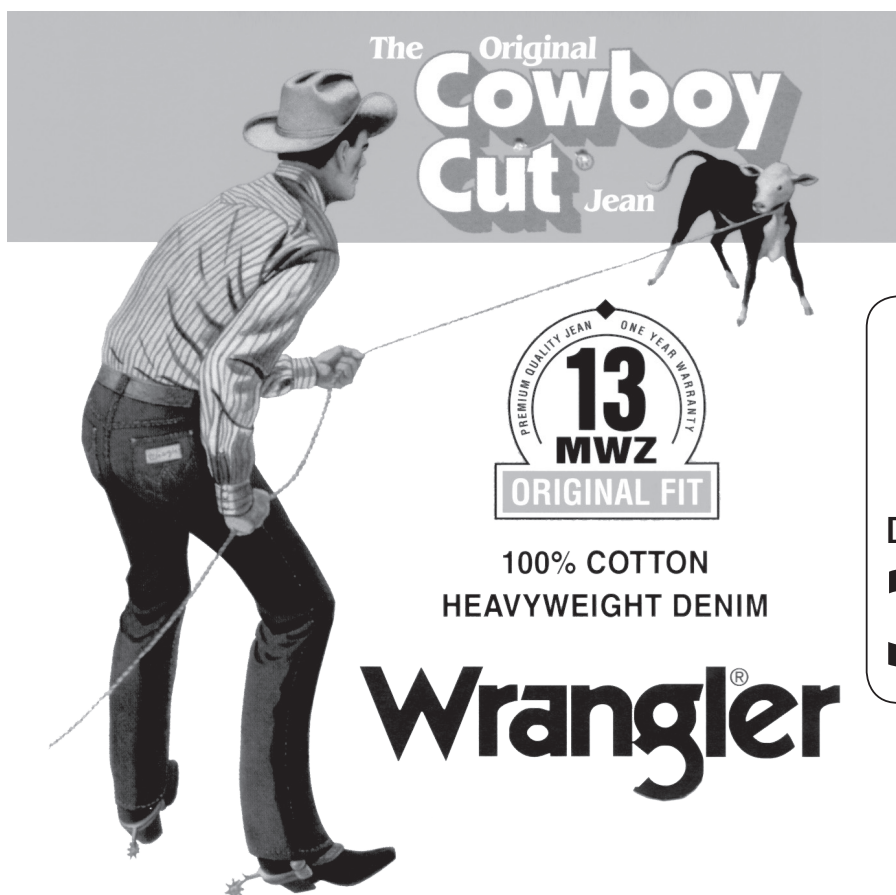
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Route Salesman needed. Ambitious, hard working route salesman needed at a family owned propane company with growth potential. Herring Gas Company, Inc., is looking for a well organized individual with good communication skills to manage a customer base in the Lumberton, Carnes, Purvis, Poplarville and Baxterville areas. This challenging job will involve not only propane gas delivery but also maintaining and growing an established truck route. Applicants must have or be able to obtain a Class B CDL with X endorsement. Any experience in running routes and collections is a plus. Mail or e-mail resume and references to: Mail: Troy Marcukaitis, Herring Gas Company, P.O. Box 544, Purvis, MS 39475. E-Mail: purvis@herringgas.com A company built on service since 1946. Herring Gas Company, Inc.

Customer Service position available. Job requirements: *Prior cus-

tomers service experience *Excellent communication skills *Ability to handle customers needs and complaints effectively. Email resume to: Jobs39119@gmail.com.

Immediate Opening for dental assistant. At least 5 years experience of chairside experience. Great salary, benefits, bonuses. Send resume to: Tillery Dental, PO Box 4367, Laurel, MS 39440 Attention: Ali

Help Wanted: Local commercial construction company is seeking an experienced equipment operator with minor mechanical/equipment maintenance skills. Carpentry experience a plus. Must have Class A CDL, no hazmat required. Work will consist of moving equipment as necessary, operating backhoes, trackhoes, dozers, forklifts, etc., general maintenance on equipment (oil change, hose/filter replacement, etc.) and general construction labor. This position involves not only working with equipment but also working on the construction site. Salary DOE, email resume to beverlyc@ljsmrrall.com.

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Need Affordable Health Coverage? Open enrollment for 2017: November 1, 2016-January 31, 2017. Free quote. Free help enrolling in the Marketplace. Navigating through the marketplace yourself can be very confusing. January 15th is the deadline for a February 1st start date. January 31st is the deadline for a March start date. Your payments

could be as low as \$0.00 a month. If you do not sign up for health insurance, the penalty can be deducted out of your Tax Refund! Low monthly payments, low deductibles and co-pays. Miller Insurance Solutions. Call or text Becky: 601-466-4634, 601-466-2074.

FIREWOOD

1/2 cord firewood, \$60. Delivered in the Laurel area, \$90. Call 601-577-1898.

GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale Saturday, Feb. 4th, at 59 Harris Estate Road. Go Hwy 84 West, turn right at red light on 28 North go to West Jones sign, turn right, go to 59 Harris Estate Rd, turn left at the end of road. Large sale. 8am til 3pm.

McCullum Yard sale, Feb. 3 & 4, Hwy. 11 South. Clothes, shoes, tools, furniture, etc. Nothing priced over \$3 & there will be a give away table with purchase.

Flea Sale: Saturday, February 4th. 8:00-3:00. 1583 Augusta Road, Ellisville. Huge Sale: Everything must go. No reasonable offer refused. Collectables, WWII water bags, sickle handles, accent chairs, bench, plus size & kids clothes, kids furniture, dishes, dolls, mirrors, lamps, bed frames, tools, queen mattress & springs, decorations, rummage items, too much to list.

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cians Guild. Used pianos for sale. B.M.E. USM. 601-729-2823

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2005 16x80 3br/2ba, partially furnished, washer/dryer. \$20,000 obo. 601-381-1688.

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Repo, single wide, Clayton, 16x80, 3+2, call 601-310-9262.

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Wholesalemobilehomecenter.com has new, used, and repo singlewides and doublewides. Lowest prices in the state. Check us out on the web or call 601-296-7960.

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Contact: Ray Ardis, Hattiesburg Home Center, 601-261-6005.

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New 28x80 4br/2ba w/family room. \$59,900.00. Delivered, set-up, ac, skirted. Call 601-447-4538 or 601-726-9210, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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Cute Starter Home, 24x52, 3 bed/2 bth Double Wide, vinyl siding, shingle roof, ready to live in. Zone 2. Price \$15,500 as is! Call 601 520 0710.

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14x62, 2BR, newly remodeled, private lot, South Jones School bus-route, 601-319-1718.

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2br/1ba house, large lot, stove/fridge, c/h/a, 415 Triplett Street, Sandersville. \$500 deposit, \$600 rent. Call 601-433-9158.

North Laurel: 2809 Carter Ave. 2 Bed, 1 Bath. \$400.00 deposit. \$575 Month. 601-319-2938

Completely remodeled, great location, 3br/2ba, central ac Sharon Community. 20x30 roll-up door cement floored outside building included. 2 children max. no pets. 1yr. lease. \$900/mth, \$800/deposit. 601-428-7545, 601-319-9960.

3br/1ba central h/a, carport, ceiling fans, fridge, stove, large lot. 1224 Dawn Drive, Ellisville, South Jones School District. \$500 deposit, \$750 rent. 601-433-9158.

House for Rent Duplex, 3 BR or 2 BR w/ Study, 2 Bath. All electric, with electric appliances furnished, Comcast cable available. 3 miles outside Laurel off Hwy 11 N, NEJ/EJE school district, No smoking and No Pets, Maximum of 4 Persons. Rent \$825/mth w/\$500 deposit. Call Stacy 601-426-3477 or 601-580-5106

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Drive in Waynesboro. \$700/mth rent + utilities. 601-824-7172.

North Laurel: 2809 Carter Ave. 2 Bed, 1 Bath. \$400.00 deposit. \$575 Month. 601-319-2938

Rent to Own. N. Laurel, 535 Flow-ers Drive. 3BR/2BA., \$650 month. Call for down payment. 601-319-2938.

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Continued on ... Page 10



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2016 Toyota Prius at Toyota of Hattiesburg. (855) 221-8310. See more at Cars601.com.

2009 BMW X5, 79,500 miles, one owner, excellent condition, all BMW scheduled maintenance. \$16,900. 601-498-3014.

1996 Jaguar XJ Series Sedan \$6,995 at Harris Hankins in Bay Springs. Call 844-329-7227 or text A6MI to 27414. See Cars601.com for more.

2005 Ford Taurus \$3,000 at Ryan Chevrolet. (855) 534-3769. See more at Cars601.com

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2013 Hyundai Elantra. \$16,500 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia. Call 844-319-5854 or text 4EXT to 27414. See more at Cars601.com.

2012 Ford Focus \$8,950 at Paul Garner Motors. (844) 452-4569. See more at Cars601.com.

2007 Nissan Altima. \$4,500 at Vara Auto Sales, call 601-335-3972. See more at Cars601.com.

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2005 Chevrolet Malibu \$5,600 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia, (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

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2016 Toyota Corolla at Toyota of Hattiesburg. (855) 221-8310. See more at Cars601.com.

2010 Ford Fusion. \$3,800 at Vara Auto Sales, call 601-335-3972. See more at Cars601.com.

2015 Ford Fiesta \$12,295 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia. Call 844-319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

2009 Toyota Sienna \$10,995 at Hattiesburg Cars. Call our Local toll free number 855-242-0775. See more at Cars601.com

2006 Chevrolet Impala \$4,695 at Harris Hankins in Bay Springs. Call 844-329-7227 or text A6MI to 27414. See Cars601.com for more.

2016 Toyota Camry at Toyota of Hattiesburg. (855) 221-8310. See more at Cars601.com.

2015 Chevrolet Cruze. \$13,500 at Ryan Chevrolet. (855) 534-3769. See more at Cars601.com

2016 Ford Mustang at Woolwine Ford in Collins, (844) 332-1854. See more at Cars601.com.

2008 Maserati GranTurismo \$42,900 Southeastern Auto Brokers, (844) 312-8785. See more at Cars601.com

2010 Chevrolet Impala. \$7,950 at Paul Garner Motors. (844) 452-4569. See more at Cars601.com.

2016 Toyota Avalon at Toyota of Hattiesburg. (855) 221-8310. See more at Cars601.com.

2011 Ford Fusion \$8,995 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia. Call 844-319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

2010 Hyundai Accent. \$8,950 at Paul Garner Motors (844) 452-4569. See more at Cars601.com.

2011 Ford Taurus \$5,900 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia. (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

2014 Ford Focus \$9,963 Mack Grubbs Hyundai, (844) 373-0806. See more at Cars601.com.

1996 Cadillac DeVille \$5,900 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia. Call 844-319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

2010 Ford Fusion. \$3,800 at Vara Auto Sales, call 601-335-3972. See more at Cars601.com.

2008 Buick Enclave. \$9,963. Mack Grubbs Hyundai, (844) 373-0806. See more at Cars601.com.

2015 Nissan Altima at Southeastern Auto Sales, Laurel. Call 601-649-4746. See more at Cars601.com.

2014 Ford Focus. \$11,995 at Laurel Ford, Lincoln, Kia. (844) 319-5854. See more at Cars601.com.

Continued on ... Page 11

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Mayor Johnny Magee, center, is joined by, L-R, Sarah Barrett, Faye Jackson, Cynthia Arrington, Ruth Wheaton-Hare, and Mary F. Jones for the signing of the Red Dress Day proclamation. Photo/Linda Cranford

Friday is National Red Dress Day in Laurel

By Linda Cranford

Mayor Johnny Magee signed a proclamation Monday morning, January 30, declaring Friday, February 3, as National Red Dress Day in Laurel, and encouraged all citizens to educate themselves about the risk factors of heart disease in women, the seriousness of the impact of heart disease on women and their families, and the importance of women taking actions to protect their heart health.

Joining Mayor Magee for the proclamation signing were Faye Jackson, her mother, Mary F. Jones, and members of the Golden Star Chapter #26 Order of the Eastern Star, Cynthia Arrington, Ruth Wheaton-Hare, and Sarah Barrett-Grand Matron of the State of Mississippi Queen Anne Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star.

Red Dress Day is a program which was begun in 2001 when seventy leading experts in women's health sought to develop a national action plan to reduce the toll of heart disease on American women. The first Friday in February of each year has been designated as Red Dress Day by The Heart Truth, which is the national campaign for awareness of women's heart health sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Jackson said that in 2007, she spoke at a Red Dress Day in Jackson about losing her daughter Kaila Porter to heart disease in 2006 at the age of 23. In 2008, she decided to organize a Red Dress Day here in Laurel. She thanked Mayor Magee for continuing to support the cause.

The proclamation states, "Heart disease is the number one killer of women, causing one in every four deaths among women. Women's risk of heart disease begins to increase between ages forty and sixty. Women historically, have failed to make the connection between risk factors such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol, and their personal risk of developing heart disease. Research reveals that most women underestimate their personal risk and do not fully understand the devastating impact that heart disease has on one's life and family. Red Dress Day is designed to get attention, to convey the seriousness of heart disease, and to change the perception that heart disease is only a man's issue."

The Red Dress Day luncheon will be held on Friday, February 3, from 10 a.m. until noon, at the Golden Star Chapter #26 OES and Masonic Loyal Lodge #73 located at 148 Buchanan Street, across from the old Charity Hospital.

"There will be several folks there to give their testimonies in dealing with heart disease," said Jackson. "Everyone is invited to attend."

Ulmer to play for Meridian



Casey Ulmer, NEJ Soccer standout, signed today to play soccer for the Meridian Eagles. Pictured are (far left) Tracy Ulmer, Casey's mom; (far right) Ruth Mattos, Casey's grandmother; (rear, l-r) Justin Ulmer, Casey's brother; Cooper D. Pope, NEJ Supervising Principal; Keith Braddock, NEJ Athletic Director; Matt Reid, NEJ Soccer Coach; Casey Stroo, NEJ Soccer Coach. Photo/submitted

Rogers signs with Meridian



Flanked by her grandfather and father, Northeast Jones softball standout Hayleigh Rogers signed today to play softball with the Lady Eagles of Meridian Community College next year. Hayleigh (seated center) is pictured with her grandfather Wayne Rogers (seated left); her father Jason Rogers (seated right); (rear, standing l-r) Bart Carter, Hayleigh's travel ball coach; Cooper D. Pope, NEJ Supervising Principal; Keith Braddock, NEJ Athletic Director; Melanie Cavanaugh, NEJ Head Softball Coach; Nancy Brashier, NEJ Assistant Softball Coach. Photo/submitted

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Nora Davis Magnet School kindergarten students celebrate 100th Day of School



The kindergarten students at Nora Davis Magnet School recently celebrated the 100th Day of School. Students participated in a variety of activities planned around the number 100 and even dressed as if they were 100 years old.

Pictured from Kalea Thigpen's kindergarten class are (seated L-R) Ellasia Ross, ZaRyah Armstrong, Swa'Mya Washington, Ozzy Williams, Alicia Dozier, (standing L-R) Christopher Mapp, Gabby Cooper, Kylene McCarty, Keethan Brown, Klaire Pearson, Christian Shelby and Camari Clark. *Photos/submitted*



Pictured from Jessica Russell's kindergarten class are (front L-R) Giselle Ramirez, Addisyn Shelby, Sunshine Cox, Genesis Griffin, Timyiah Lindsey, Liyah Barnett, Ava Johnston, Ivan Cisneros, (back L-R) Aldridge Walters, Day'Lon Lee, Jaylen Lawrence, Lawson Schipke, Jie Stewart, Robert Bonner, Laila Webb, Aubree Beilly, Kiersten Williams and Austin Dozer.



Pictured from Marlene Jackson's kindergarten class are (seated L-R) Ryi'Myrakle Halton, Amariah Keys, Trinity Brown, Bailey Hall, Sage Ball, (standing L-R) Rayden Moody, Bryson Carpenter, Cade Whitlock, Makynzi Hicks, Jaycen McKinney and Shikyre Revette.

EJE Junior Beta Club helps tornado victims



The East Jones Elementary Junior Beta Club recently donated snacks and gift cards to the William Carey University soccer team in honor of Abby Baravik after a tornado struck the campus. Baravik is the daughter of EJE teacher Brandi Brooks. She is also a former EJE Junior Beta member but now plays soccer for the WCU Lady Crusaders. EJE Junior Betas live by the Beta motto of "Let us lead by serving others." Standing from left: Beta Sponsor Brandi Brooks, Jacob Scott, Haleigh Pitts and Alivia Knight. Kneeling: Logan Miller and Kaylee Sullins. *Photo/submitted*

EJE students help Laurel Lions Club with "Thankful for Sight" cause



EJE Student Council members helped the Laurel Lions Club raise money for area children who are in need of eyeglasses. This "Thankful for Sight" schoolwide cause was held during the week of Thanksgiving and allowed students to pay \$1 to wear their sunglasses for the day. *Photo/submitted*

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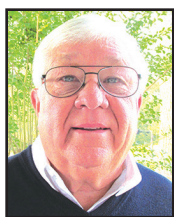
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Sideline View: Super Bowl LI features Mississippi players

By Dale McKee



Super Bowl LI will have a little Mississippi flavor. New England has six players with connections to Mississippi. Raleigh native and former Ole Miss Rebel Woody Hamilton is on the New England practice team. Former Ole Miss running back Brandon Bolden, whose grandfather, Frank Pitts, played in two Super Bowls with the Kansas City Chiefs, is valuable as a special teams player as well as a ball carrier for the Patriots. LaGarrette Blount is a former East Mississippi Community College running back. Defensive back Malcolm Butler of Hinds Community College was the star of Super Bowl XLIX. Former Madison Central High School kicker Stephen Gostkowski will be appearing in his fourth Super Bowl for the Patriots. Pro football Hall of Famer Jackie Slater's son Matthew is the special teams captain.

The Patriots have two former college coaches from Mississippi in Joe Judge and Chad O'Shea. Judge played at Mississippi State (2000-04) and also coached under Sylvester Croom for three years before joining the Patriots in 2012 as an assistant special teams coach. O'Shea worked under Jeff Bower at USM as special teams coach and recruiting coordinator from 2000-2002. O'Shea had been in the NFL for 13 years before arriving in New England in 2008.

The Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots will kick off at 5:30 p.m. this Sunday on the Fox network.

My Favorite Super Bowls

In my flashbacks of my favorite dozen Super Bowls, I have some favorite moments. Super Bowl I, as I remember, was similar to a college game with all the balloons and marching bands. My favorite AFL team at the time was the Kansas City Chiefs, but the Packers' Max McGee burned the Chiefs to the tune of a 35-10 win.

Super Bowl III was another bust for me since I grew up a Johnny Unitas fan. Unitas quarterbacked for the Baltimore Colts, but New York Jets quarterback Joe Namath stole

the day in a 16-7 win.

I got a little revenge in Super IV when the Chiefs whipped the Minnesota Vikings, 23-7. I still see Otis Taylor breaking away for a long TD after catching a short pass from Len Dawson.

The Baltimore Colts went back to Super Bow V, a contest that in many folks' estimation was lousy. It was even called the Blunder Bowl. Jim O'Brien's field goal on the final play and John Mackey's 75-yard TD catch are etched in my memory in the 16-13 win over the Cowboys.

Super Bowl XIII was a nail biter as the Steelers beat the Cowboys, 35-31.

Super Bowl XXV, another nail biter, was a classic. The Buffalo Bills lost when Scott Norwood missed a field goal on the game's final play to give the New York Giants a 20-19 win.

Super Bowl XXXIII was another thriller. John Elway did a helicopter spin and dove into the end zone leading Denver over Green Bay 31-24.

Kurt Warner and Steve McNair's battle in Atlanta in Super XXXIV had fans on the edge of their seats. The St. Louis Rams stopped the Tennessee Titans on the game's final play to take the 23-16 win.

Saints Win!

My favorite might have been Super Bowl XLIV. The Saints went marching in to the tune of a 31-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts. The Saints' onside kick call to begin the second half and Tracy Porter's pick of Peyton Manning were memorable. The best might have been seeing Drew Brees holding his little boy while celebrating.

Both of the Giants' wins over New England were heart-stopping games. The New Yorkers won, 17-14, in Super Bowl XLII and again 21-17 in XLVI, 21-17. David Tyree (Super Bowl XLII) and Mario Manningham (Super Bowl XLVI) both turned the games around with their spectacular catches.

Finally, Malcolm Butler's interception helped New England stop Seattle 28-24 in Super Bowl XLIX. Last year, Super Bowl 50 was not a great show, but in the end Peyton Manning went out a winner.

Contact Dale at ddmckee18@yahoo.com

Tornadoes to play in MS/AL All-Star game

By Lacy Walters Slay
Public Information Officer, Laurel School District

Laurel High School basketball standouts Troymain Crosby and Tamirra Haskin were recently selected to play in the Mississippi-Alabama All-Star games. The basketball games will be played on March 17 in Montgomery, Alabama.

Troymain Crosby was a member of the 2016 5-A State Championship winning Golden Tornado Basketball Team. In 2016, he was selected to play in the Mississippi North/South All-Star Basketball Game where he was named most valuable

player and he was recently selected as a South Central Regional Medical Center Sports Medicine Scholar Athlete. He is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, is a Superintendent's List Scholar and was recently named Mr. LHS. Troymain will attend Alcorn State University on a basketball scholarship where he will study sports medicine.

Tamirra Haskin has received numerous awards for her skills on the court including being named Clarion Ledger Top Performer of the Week and State Girl of the Week. She was selected most valuable player for Region 5-5A, was named to the All-District Team and was named East Central Community College Tournament MVP. Haskin is a member of the Beta Club, Interact and Student Council. She is a Superintendent's Scholar, Mississippi Scholar and is dual enrolled at Jones County Junior College. Tamirra plans to attend college on a basketball scholarship and study physical therapy.



Troymain Crosby and Tamirra Haskins Photo/submitted

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Sylva-Bay hires Underwood as new head football coach

By Heath Walley

Sylva-Bay Academy wasted no time in replacing outgoing and long-time head football coach Chad Odom. Odom announced his departure from the school in mid-December 2016. Just over a month later, Sylva-Bay announced the hire of Terry Underwood Monday morning. Underwood, from the Seminary/Collins, Miss. area, comes to Sylva-Bay with a wealth of coaching experience. His most recent stint in coaching was at Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg, where he served as defensive coordinator. He also was an assistant at Presbyterian Christian School and Hattiesburg High, and he coached in the junior college ranks as well. Underwood made his way to East Central Community College in Decatur as an assistant in 1995 under then-coach Willie Coats. He later became head coach at ECCC in 1998 and was named as the ECCC athletics director in 2001. He remained at ECCC as head football coach and AD until 2007.

"I have been an assistant now for ten years, and I was ready to be a head coach again," Underwood explained while reminiscing about his last experience as a head coach at ECCC. "I've worked under great people. I worked under Nevil Barr at Oak Grove, worked under Joey Hawkins at PCS, and just had a lot of fun. It went back to that role that I was ready to be a head coach again. I figure I've got eight to ten years left in this profession as long as I stay healthy. I was looking for a place like Sylva-Bay where I could go finish out and try to build a quality program, quality young people and quality coaches."

Underwood will be assisted by Tony Ainsworth and Wayne Rogers. Sylva-Bay

Headmaster Mike Sumlin said the school went through a near month-long overall interviewing process before finally coming to a conclusion on Underwood as the head football coach at SBA. He explained between ten and twelve candidates were interviewed for the job, and that number was whittled down from approximately forty that applied for the position. Sumlin feels the school made a quality decision with Underwood.

"We made contact with coach Underwood, and we had the opportunity to bring him in and talk with him. I had the opportunity to work with him a few years ago at PCS (Presbyterian Christian School)," he said. "I really like Terry a lot. I felt like at the end he was the right fit for Sylva-Bay moving forward. Knowing how well he can coach with coach (Wayne) Rogers and coach (Tony) Ainsworth is just exciting for me. It is exciting for the school to be able to hire somebody of the quality of coach Underwood."

Sumlin is enthusiastic about bringing a coach to Sylva-Bay that has as much experience as Underwood does, and his experience at the private school level was a big plus as well.

"He's got as much (experience) as anybody out there, and he has coached on the private school level. That was one of the things I looked for . . . somebody that has had some experience in the private schools, because we operate maybe a little different than some of our public schools," he said.

Sumlin also mentioned that the Underwood, along with his staff of Ainsworth and Rogers, most likely have over a hundred years combined experience in coaching,



From left: assistant coach Tony Ainsworth, head coach Terry Underwood, assistant coach Wayne Rogers Photos submitted

which bodes well for the football future at Sylva-Bay.

"We have a very experienced staff. I'm not sure exactly how many they've got together, but I heard one of them mention that it's over a hundred years experience between the three of them," Sumlin said. "We feel really confident about our staff and what they'll be able to bring for these kids and what they'll be able to do for them, and what they'll do to represent Sylva-Bay going forward."

Underwood had a short meeting with his new team Monday and is ready to get to

work with what he feels are "excited" kids that are involved with a well-rounded, football school.

"I think the kids want to do well. With just the meeting I had with them today, I can see some excitement in their faces," he explained. "I know it's got to be built from the ground up, and I know Sylva-Bay has had some good years. We want to get back to doing that again and doing that consistently. I have the energy. I'm excited for it, and I know our coaches are excited for it. I think we can have some exiting times in the future here at Sylva-Bay."

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