



RED HAWK FISHING
The Red Hawks Fishing team held an intrasquad tournament, which was won by Nathan Dellinger, as they gear up for their first event — the B.A.S.S. North Carolina State team qualifier on Sept. 27-28 on the Roanoke River in Plymouth, N.C. Members of the school's first fishing team are pictured above from the left: Lane Bailey, Nathan Smith, Jeremy Dellinger, Nathan Dellinger, Austin Blair, Noah Wilson, Adam Seagle, Caleb Lonca, Spencer Black and Garrett Poovey. At the right, Red Hawk anglers Nathan Smith and Spencer Black of ACHS display a couple of nice catches during the com-



President Trump signs Tillis' economic relief bills into law

To assist farmers, veterans, more

President Trump signed four bipartisan bills co-sponsored by Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC) into law on August 23, 2019. The four bills provide economic relief for small businesses, family farmers, National Guard and Reservists, and veterans in need. They were:

- The Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019 - bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Senator Tillis to help family farms reorganize after falling on hard times.
- The Honoring American Veterans in Extreme Need (HAVEN) Act - bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Senator Tillis to protect the economic security and well-being of veterans and their families who rely on disability benefits and may be experiencing financial hardship.
- The Small Business Reorganization Act (SBRA) - bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by

Senator Tillis that streamlines existing bankruptcy procedures and provides new tools to improve a small business' ability to restructure.

- The National Guard and Reservist Debt Relief Extension Act of 2019 - bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Senator Tillis that will reauthorize relief for qualifying members of the National Guard and Reserves experiencing financial hardship.

"I'm proud to have these four bipartisan bills signed into law giving our small businesses, family farmers, national guard and reservists, and veterans the economic relief they need when falling on hard times," said Senator Tillis. "I want to thank President Trump for signing my bills into law and I look forward to working with the President and my colleagues to deliver more results for North Carolinians."

Western Piedmont Symphony's "Fall Pops" concert is Sept. 15

The Western Piedmont Symphony will perform "Fall Pops: Symphony Under the Sails" on Sunday, Sept. 15.

Fall Pops returns to the newly renovated Union Square in downtown Hickory! The Western Piedmont Symphony's Chamber Orchestra will play an outdoor pops concert under the direction of new Music Director & Conductor, Maestro Matthew Troy.

The prize-winning orchestra will perform FREE to the public, beginning at 7 p.m. Sunday, September 15th in downtown Hickory, Under the Sails. (Please note this concert was originally scheduled for 5 p.m. but has been moved to 7 p.m.) Invite your family & friends, bring your lawn chairs, visit the downtown establishments, and enjoy refreshments from local vendors.

This concert is free to the public courtesy of a sponsorship by the City of Hickory.

In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be held in Drendel Auditorium at the SALT Block.

The Western Piedmont Symphony, which is about to begin its 55th season, will perform under the direction of Maestro Matthew Thomas Troy. The orchestra draws talented and dedicated musicians from across North Carolina. These musicians have repeatedly won national acclaim, including two first place prizes in the American Prize national contest for the Professional Orchestra Division.

For more information about the Western Piedmont Symphony, call 828-324-8603, visit www.WPSymphony.org, or email info@WPSymphony.org.

★ HALL OF FAME: Five new members named

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selected as the female athlete of the year at Alexander.

In addition to her performances on the softball diamond, Bolick was also a leader for the Alexander Central Women's Basketball program during her four years as a Lady Cougar. She was an All-NWC performer in 1996 and was voted the Lady Cougars' Co-Most Valuable Player following her senior season.

After graduating from ACHS in 1996, Bolick signed a college scholarship to play softball for Coach Shena Hollar at Lenoir Rhyne College. While at LR, Bolick played on South Atlantic Conference Tourney title winning teams in 2000, 2001, and 2002. She was a member of the first Lenoir Rhyne Softball Team to participate in the NCAA Division II playoffs. She also earned All-Tournament Team honors in 2000 and was voted to the All-SAC Second Team in 2002.

Most recently, Bolick participated in the USSSA Women's Softball World Tournament. Her team placed fourth in the event and she was voted to the All-World Tournament Team with a batting average of .667 during the event.

Elaine currently resides in Hickory and is employed in the medical field. She has one daughter, Kami Bolick.

JEFF FOX
Jeff Fox is a 1987 graduate of Alexander Central High School. As a member of the Cougar baseball program, Fox was a leader for Coach Harold Odom's 1986 and 1987 teams.

Prior to his high school player career, he was a member of two Babe Ruth Baseball State Championship All-Star Teams for Alexander County. Fox played for the 12-year old state champs in 1981 and the 13-year old state winners in 1982. Fox earned All-Conference honors as a catcher following his junior and senior seasons at Alexander Central. In 1986, Fox was the starting catcher for an ACHS team which reached the state semi-finals. The following year, he was a captain for the Cougars and signed a college baseball scholarship to attend the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

While at UNCA, he was a four-year starter for the Bulldogs at catcher and in center field. At the time of his graduation in 1991, he was the school's career record holder for triples.

He returned to Taylorsville after college and served as a coach for the ACHS and Post 170

baseball teams. Fox served as a member of the United States Secret Service from 1994 until 2002. He left the Secret Service in 2002 and spent two years as a member of the US Air Marshals. He held a position with the CIA from 2003 until 2015 and has worked for the US Defense Department since 2015.

Through his travels with work, Fox has continued to play the sport he loves in numerous adult baseball divisions. At the age of 50, he continues to play baseball in the MSBL division. He has played on four national championship teams since 2008. His North Virginia Falcons Team won the national title in 2008 and 2009. Fox was voted the tournament MVP during the 2008 event. Most recently, he was a member of the 50-and-over national championship winners with the Boston Wolfpack in 2017 and 2018. This October, he plans to play in the 40-and-over and 50-and-over national championship events in Arizona.

Fox's current team has been selected to represent the United States in the World Masters Games set for Japan in 2021.

Fox and his wife, Kristina, currently reside in San Jose, California.

RICHARD GWALTNEY
Richard Gwaltney was a standout high school and college athlete before beginning a prestigious career as an Alexander County attorney after college.

A graduate of Taylorsville High School, Gwaltney did a little bit of everything during his play career as a Bear athlete. While at Taylorsville High, Gwaltney was a three-sport star. He was a leader and captain of the Bears football and basketball teams and an All-Conference performer in baseball.

After his high school career was complete, Gwaltney headed north to Boone to play for the ASU Mountaineers in two additional sports. As a member of the ASU Men's Soccer Team, Gwaltney was the school's leading scorer. He was also a productive member of the Mountaineer Tennis Team.

In addition to shining at numerous team sports, Gwaltney is known locally as one of the top golfers in the immediate area. He has played golf on the local, state, and national level and has earned numerous recognitions and awards for stellar play.

In 1998, Gwaltney was the North Carolina Senior Amateur Champion. Ten

years later, in 2008, he claimed the National Hall of Fame Super Senior Championship.

In team play, he represented North and South Carolina against Virginia and West Virginia in the Carolinas-Virginias Cup on two different occasions. In six events, Gwaltney compiled an individual record of four wins, one loss, and one tie.

Locally, he is recognized as one of the top performers in Brushy Mountain Golf Club history. He is a four-time winner of the Brushy Mountain Golf Club Championship.

Now retired from his law practice, Gwaltney continues to reside in Alexander County.

HAROLD ODOM, SR.
The late Coach Harold Odom, Sr., spent 14 seasons in the ACHS baseball dugout as the Head Baseball Coach for the Cougars. In his illustrious career as the Cougar skipper, Odom led the Cougars to a 231-90 record.

His Alexander Central teams earned 10 trips to the state playoffs and advanced to the NC state semifinals three times (1986, 1992, and 1993). The 1993 Cougars captured the Western NC title and advanced to the school's lone state finals appearance against the Trot Nixon and Wilmington New Hanover High School. New Hanover defeated the Cougars in the finals series.

Prior to his stellar baseball coaching career at ACHS, Odom served as a coach at Stony Point High School. He also coached basketball and women's softball during his tenure at Alexander Central.

In all, Odom coached high school baseball for 22 total seasons and earned 297 total wins with just 110 losses.

Coach Odom, who was born in Scotland County in 1937, and his wife, Linda, lived in Alexander County at the time of his death in 2011. The Odoms were the parents of three sons, Harold, Jr., Mark, and David.

A retired teacher in the Alexander County School System, Odom also served his community as an Alexander County Commissioner.

STAN THOMAS
Stan Thomas is known across Alexander County as one of the top all-around athletes in the county's history.

Thomas enjoyed a prolific athletic career at Alexander Central High School as a standout athlete in three sports...football, basketball, and baseball.

During his senior

campaign at ACHS in 1975-76, Thomas earned All-League honors in football, basketball, and baseball. In the spring of 1976, he was voted the NWC Baseball Player of the Year; the ACHS Team Most Valuable Player; and the WTLK Radio Most Valuable Player in baseball.

His talents earned him a chance to play collegiately following high school.

He played college baseball at Pfeiffer College and Lenoir Rhyne College, and was eventually drafted by the Chicago White Sox in the Major League Baseball amateur draft.

Despite his exploits as a three-sport high school star, Thomas may be known more for his local dominance on the golf course. As a member of Brushy Mountain Golf Club, Thomas has captured the club championship title a whopping nine times overall.

A lifelong resident of Taylorsville, Thomas is the fourth member of his family to be inducted into the Alexander Sports Hall of Fame. He joins his late father, Raeford, and late sister, Laura Laws, and his uncle the late Edwin Thomas in the prestigious hall.

Stan and his wife, Kathy, reside in Taylorsville. They have three children, Paul, Dale, Denise.

ABOUT THE NOMINATION PROCESS

Once a person is nominated, his or her nomination remains permanent and will receive selection consideration each year by the selection committee.

Nomination forms are found on the Education Foundation link on the Alexander County Schools' webpage (www.alexander.k12.nc.us) and are due by June 1 each year.

Alexander County Sports Hall of Fame Committee members include John Bruce (Chairman), Dennis Smart (Treasurer), Brigitte Rhyne (Secretary), Kay Wilson Hammer, Alvin Burke, Anna Ferguson, Mike Millsaps, Gene Price, Bobby White, and Larry Yoder.

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