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ONE SECTION

LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095

VOLUME 61 - NUMBER 26

Pit crew hopeful from Lexington trains with NASCAR combine program

NASCAR

Following a national talent search at universities across the country, NASCAR and Rev Racing invited 12 collegiate athletes to compete for roles as tire changers, carriers and jackmen at the fourth annual NASCAR Drive for Diversity National Pit Crew Combine in Concord, N.C., on Friday, May 24.

The annual event was held at the NASCAR Research and Development Center and featured athletes from colleges and universities across the nation with aspirations of a professional career in NASCAR. This year's competitors include football, soccer and baseball student-athletes.

Led by Phil Horton, Rev Racing director of athletic performance, the four-hour combine will test the athletes in a series of strength, agility and flexibility exercises to assess their fitness for a NASCAR pit crew. Additionally, each athlete will learn how to perform tasks required of over-the-wall crew members.

"We're excited to witness the impact this year's competitors bring to NASCAR and the overall pit crew de-

velopment program," said Jusan Hamilton, NASCAR director of racing operations and event management. "Each athlete possesses something special and has demonstrated the potential to work in a fast-paced, highly competitive environment. Rev Racing's recruiting efforts have identified some phenomenal athletes who can translate what they've accomplished in their respective sports to success on pit road. We look forward to training those selected to the program and positioning them for successful NASCAR careers."

Top performing athletes will earn a spot in the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Pit Crew Development program where they will spend six months training as pit crew members at Rev Racing, with hopes of one day pitting for a national series team.

Alvin Wilson, of Lexington, was one of twelve participants in the NASCAR Drive for Diversity National Pit Crew Combine held in Concord, N.C. Wilson, who played football at Alcorn State University (linebacker) was put through a series of strength, agility and flex-

ibility exercises to assess his fitness for a NASCAR pit crew.

During his time at Holmes County Central High School, Wilson led the state of Mississippi as a senior with 186 tackles while picking up five sacks during his senior year season. Additionally, Wilson was voted the District's Most Valuable Defensive Player and was selected to compete in the highly competitive Bernard Blackwell All-Star Game. Wilson's athletic ability prevailed in college as he helped Alcorn State finish runner-up in the HBCU National Football Championship.

The NASCAR Drive for Diversity Pit Crew Development Program bodes a 100-percent placement rate in one of the top NASCAR national series', The Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series, NASCAR Xfinity Series and/or NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series. However, only six of the twelve participants, announced later this summer, will be chosen to join a six-month development program with NASCAR and Rev Racing.

"We couldn't be prouder

of the journey both our pit crew development program and program graduates have taken from its inception," said Max Siegel, owner and CEO of Rev Racing. "With the expansion of our recruiting efforts across the country, the talent level rises, and our program continues to evolve and create more opportunities for advancement at a higher level. We're energized by the opportunity to work with these talented athletes and foresee a very impactful future on pit road for those selected to participate in our program."

Since the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Pit Crew Development Program began, more than 100 athletes have participated, and 65 graduates are now working in NASCAR. Thirty-five crew members have reached and competed in the sport's national series, including the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series™.

Program alums include Raphael Diaz, rear tire changer for Roush Fenway Racing, and Jordan Paige, now a jackman for Richard Childress Racing. Earlier this season, Breanna O'Leary and Brehanna Daniels became the first female graduates of the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Pit Crew Development Program to go over the wall in the DAYTONA 500. Both women participated in the 2016 pit crew combine and now pit regularly across the national series.

As part of the recruiting process, NASCAR and Rev Racing traveled to host student-athlete workouts at Alabama A&M University, Alcorn State University, Arizona State University, (Continued on page 7)

Lexington woman sentenced for theft of mail by a postal employee

Press Release

Jasmine Marshall, 29, of Lexington, was sentenced on Tuesday, June 18, by U.S. District Judge Carlton W. Reeves to 12 months' probation for theft of mail while she was a U.S. Postal Service employee, announced

U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst and Inspector in Charge Adrian Gonzalez with the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General. Marshall was also ordered to pay \$197 in restitution.

On May 3, 2018, Postal (Continued on page 3)



The Lexington location of Fred's (pictured above) was added to the list of store closures on June 21 by Memphis based Fred's Inc. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

Fred's Inc. to close county stores, pharmacies to remain open

Staff Report

Fred's, Inc. (NASDAQ: FRED) announced on Friday, June 21, it will close an additional 49 underperforming stores as part of an ongoing effort to optimize store footprint.

Both locations in Holmes County, Durant and Lexington, are set to close. No official closing date was listed on the company's website with the majority of other stores nationwide set to close on June 29.

Pharmacies will remain open at certain locations, including both county locations. Customers will still be able to fill their prescriptions, receive vaccinations, and purchase over the counter medications.

The Herald attempted to reach out to Durant Mayor Henry Robinson, Jr. and Lexington Mayor Robin McCrory for comment on the stores closings. More local responses in next week's paper. (Continued on page 2.)



Lexington native Alvin Wilson shares his experiences with an interviewer on the NASCAR Pit Crew program. (NASCAR/Getty Images)

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Sunday
P.M. T-Storms
91/71
Precip. Chance 40%



Monday
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Precip. Chance 20%



Tuesday
P.M. T-Storms
91/72
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Wednesday
Scattered T-Storms
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