

The Southern Skoolie: COUPLE TRANSFORMS BUS INTO RV

By Mary Beth Sallee

Her name is Jolene. And if the lyrics from Dolly Parton's infamous song is playing in your mind, you've hit the nail on the head.

But don't worry. She isn't trying to take your man.

Jolene is the name of a skoolie owned by Megan (Ladd) Cummins and her husband, Kevin. Skoolie is the modern-day term for a bus that has been transformed into an RV.

"We knew from the beginning we wanted to name our bus," said Megan, a native of Hart County. "We all, especially our daughter, are huge fans of Dolly Parton. As we were tossing around ideas for a name in the first few days after bringing her home, our daughter was wandering through the house singing 'Jolene.' She casually turned to us and said, 'Mama, this sounds like something you'll be singing soon about our bus because Daddy is going to be spending all his time with her instead of you.' We all immediately agreed it was perfect. We named her Jolene."

Old school buses have become a platform favorite for the imagination of those ready to hit the open road in their own self-

designed RV.

"We had been wanting a camper or RV for years," Megan said. "Our original dream was actually to remodel an old Airstream or some other type of vintage camper, but we quickly realized Airstreams – even old, unlivable ones – were way outside our base price range, and older campers cost more to remodel than they were worth."

Renovating a bus into an RV offers a way to be on the move but still maintain the relative comforts of home. And better yet, a school bus is a blank slate.

"Last summer, an acquaintance of mine turned an old school bus into a mobile bookstore," Megan said. "And as Kevin and I were looking at it, he said, 'If she can make a bookstore out of a bus, why couldn't we make an RV?' We immediately started scouring the internet and were surprised to find a large community of people doing just that."

As Megan and Kevin continued to research their options, they soon decided that a bus was the perfect choice for their family.




The Cummins family – parents Kevin and Megan, along with Caden and Molly Kate – purchased this school bus in August of last year and spent eight months renovating it into their own personal RV.

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