

In 2009-2010, the St. Francis Community Foundation continued to fulfill its mission of building philanthropy. The SFCCF Board has 20 members who are active as donors, doers, and door openers in St. Francis County.

Forrest City Athletic Hall of Fame

September 25, 2009

The Tenth Annual Forrest City Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony will honor nine new members. Honorees are chosen from three eras: Lincoln High School, Forrest City High School prior to 1970, and Forrest City High School after 1970.

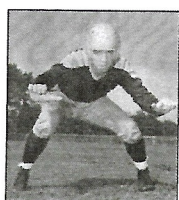
This year's honorees include Robert (Bob) Cope, Rick Richardson

and Eugene (Gene) Thompson from Forrest City High School prior to 1970; and Lawrence (Fox) Williams, James Neal and Clifton Bailey from Lincoln; and Jim Abel, Al Miller and Bruce Morgan from Forrest City High School after 1970.

The induction ceremony will be held September 25, 2009 at the

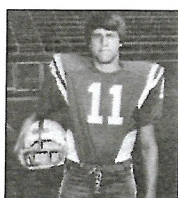
Forrest City Civic Center at 5:00 p.m. Tickets to the event are \$10 each and they can be purchased at Baxter & Associates and The Forrest City Area Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on the event or to place an order for tickets, please call 870-633-0780 extension 101.



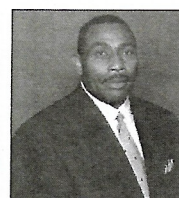
ROBERT L. (BOB) COPE was a 1941 graduate of FCHS. He was a guard in football and earned a football scholarship to the University of Arkansas.

After four years at Arkansas, Cope signed with the Green Bay Packers of the NFL. He played one season with Green Bay and returned to Arkansas to coach football at Truman High School. In 1953, he earned his CPA license and started an accounting business in Forrest City in 1956. Cope also served Forrest City as mayor from 1967 to 1974.



JIM ABEL is a 1977 graduate of Forrest City High School. He played wide receiver and safety in football and was named All-Conference and All-State. Jim kicked a 27 yard field

goal with 5 seconds left on the clock to beat Jonesboro in the 1975 Conference Championship game. He was also an excellent baseball player, earning All-Conference honors as a center fielder. Abel now makes his home in Jonesboro, where he is a developer and contractor.



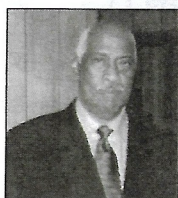
LAWRENCE "FOX" WILLIAMS graduated from Lincoln High School in 1963. He was an All-State running back in 1961, 62 and 63. He started his college career at Rust College in Mississippi

and transferred to Alabama A&M University where he made All-Conference in both his junior and senior years. Williams returned to Forrest City and coached at both Lincoln High School & Forrest City High School. From 1972 to 1988, he worked for Alabama A&M University and currently is owner and CEO of Fox P.A.R.C., Inc. in Huntsville, Alabama.



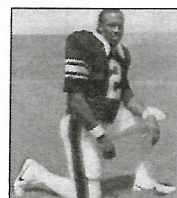
JAMES NEAL is a 1958 graduate of Lincoln High School. While at Lincoln he was an all around athlete, playing football, basketball and baseball.

He was a member of the State Champion Lincoln Tiger football teams of 1955 and 1956, where he played both halfback and quarterback. Neal is retired from General Motors and makes his home in Saginaw, Michigan.



CLIFTON BAILEY is a graduate of Lincoln High School where he played four years for the Tiger football team. After high school he went to AM&N College in Pine

Bluff and later enlisted in the Marine Corp. After serving with the Marines, he moved to Madison, Illinois and worked for Dow Chemical for 10 years. Bailey returned to Forrest City and started farming. He is now retired and lives in Forrest City.



BRUCE MORGAN is a 1980 graduate of Forrest City High School. His senior year he was voted the best offensive lineman in the AAAA East Conference. He was selected All-Conference, All-State and

was named to the Arkansas Super Team. Morgan earned a football scholarship to Arkansas State University. A knee injury cut short his career at ASU. Bruce worked in law enforcement for 12 years and is currently a firefighter for the Forrest City Fire Department. He also finds time to give back to the community by serving as a coach for youth football.

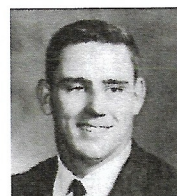


AL MILLER came to Forrest City in 1975 as the Mustang head football coach and immediately turned the football program around. The 1974 Stangs had won only 2 games and Miller took the same players and won the Conference Championship and finished runner-up in the State. He was named Arkansas Football Coach of the Year in 1975. His 1976 Mustangs also won the Conference Championship.

Miller grew up in Marked Tree, Arkansas, where he was a 4 sport letterman. He went on to Arkansas State University and became an outstanding track man. He set the ASU record in the 880 yard dash and was a member of the record-setting 440, 880 and mile relay teams in 1962. He now lives in Forrest City and runs an insurance agency.

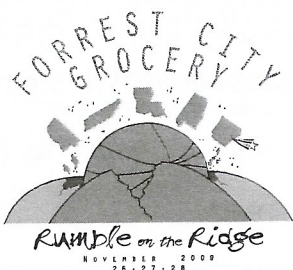


RICK RICHARDSON is a 1963 graduate of Forrest City High School. He played football, baseball and basketball, but he was known for his accomplishments in track. Richardson set the school record in the 880 yard run and in 1963 was named the FCHS Outstanding Athlete. He attended UCA in Conway, where he still holds the records for both the 1 mile and 2 mile runs set in 1966. After college, Richardson continued running in marathons, winning the Arkansas Marathon in 1970, The White Rock Marathon in Dallas, Texas in 1971, and the Oil Capital Marathon in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1974. He is a member of the Arkansas Road Racing Hall of Fame. he coached the Ozark High School Cross Country team for five years, winning 3 State Championships and finishing runners up the other two years. Richardson makes his home in Ozark, Arkansas.



EUGENE (GENE) THOMPSON is a 1965 graduate of Forrest City High School. He was both offensive and defensive lineman for the Mustangs and was named All-Conference and All-State in 1964. He earned a football scholarship to Arkansas State University, where he was a four year starter. After graduating from ASU with a degree in Mathematics and being designated a Distinguished Military Graduate, Eugene was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army. After serving as a US Army officer for twenty years, he retired in 1990 as a Major. Since that time he has served as an ordained and licensed Baptist minister. He is currently Minister of Education at the First Baptist Church in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

2009 Rumble on the Ridge



The premier Thanksgiving high school basketball tournament in America returns to the Mustang Arena November 26, 27 and 28th.

The Forrest City Grocery Classic Rumble on the Ridge will feature teams from Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The action begins Wednesday evening at 7:30 with a three-point shootout and a slam dunk competition. Games will kick off Thanksgiving Day at 3:30. There will be four games each day.

This years Rumble on the Ridge lineup includes Russellville High School from Alabama, Conway High School from Arkansas, Westside High School from Arkansas, East Pointsett High School from Arkansas, Forrest City High School from Arkansas, Liberty High School from Tennessee, St. Thomas More High School from Louisiana, and Cleveland East Side High School from Mississippi.

Three of the top-rated juniors in America will be here - Johnny O'Bryant, 6'8", from Cleveland East Side, Ky Madden, 6'4", from East Pointsett, and Hunter Mickelson, 6'10", from Westside.

More tournament information is available on the Rumble on the Ridge website at www.rumbleridge.com



The Lady Mustangs get a New Head Basketball Coach

Bobby Harris is the Forrest City Lady Mustangs' new head basketball coach. Harris has coached at Witts Springs, Sheridan, Henderson State University, DeQueen, El Dorado and Pulaski Academy. He is committed to building the Lady Mustangs as a state contender just like the boys under Coach Dwight Lofton have done.

Coach Harris' teams are know for their full court pressure defense and a fast paced offense. It isn't unusual for Coach Harris' teams to score in the 80's and 90's, which is rare in girls basketball.

Fans are urged to come to Mustang Arena this winter and support the Lady Mustangs and their new coach, Bobby Harris.