

Barnette reports for Air Force basic training June 24

ELIZABETH STEWART
lib.kmherald@gmail.com

"I'm nervous and excited," says Zoe Barnette, 18, on her appointment by 10th District United States Congressman Patrick McHenry to the United States Air Force Academy.

The Kings Mountain High School graduating senior was recognized on Awards Day as recipient of a four-year scholarship worth \$400,000.

"I really was planning to attend Wingate University or North Carolina Central University and study political science in preparation for a law degree," said Zoe. An Air Force recruiter helped her change her career plans.

The Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado is unique in its dual

role as an Air Force installation and a university. The 10th Air Base Wing provides logistical, medical, fire response, security, civil engineering, family care and medical support across the 18,000 acre installation for a community of approximately 25,000.

Once the personable and statuesque (5 ft. 10 inches tall) Barnette made the decision to apply for the scholarship it took 10 months before the appointment by the Congressman. Medical screening, fitness exams, interviews, background checks, references, and immunizations are all a part of the lengthy application process.

Zoe's parents, LaVondra and Charles McClain, support her in her desire to be a Second Lieutenant

in the United States Air Force once she graduates after four years of training at the facility. Zoe is an only child but her parents will be able to visit her on Labor Day and once she completes basic training there will be more time for visits.

"I report for basic training on June 24," said Zoe, who has been told to pack "basic stuff" including toiletries and her glasses.

She's sure the training will be tough but this All A student this year has run both cross country and field and was basketball manager for three years. She has also been active in the National Honor Society, the National Tech Honor Society and the Beta Club, among extracurricular activities. She is also

active in Kingdom Living Ministries in Gastonia. Her classwork this year has included English, Comparative Government, and CTE courses.

Barnette has been told that Cadets at the USAF Academy are told that life at the academy takes dedication, sacrifice, stamina, strong self discipline, and excellent time management skills. However, the rewards include longtime friendships, honor, personal development, pride and a career as an officer in the world's most proficient air, space, and cyberspace force.

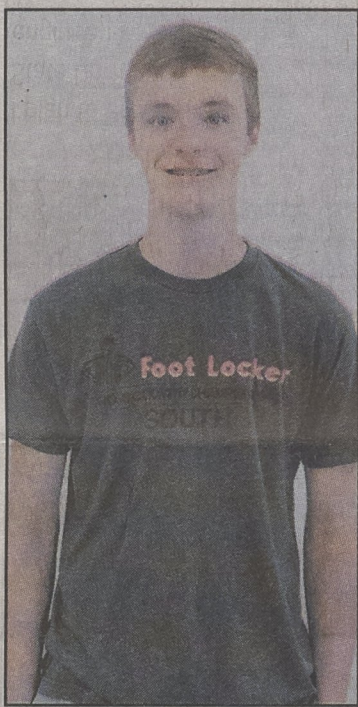
Says Zoe, "I'm ready to go, physically and mentally prepared, nervous but very excited and God-willing make my folks and friends proud."



ZOE BARNETTE

Sidewalk Survey

What are your plans after high school graduation?



COLLIN FOSTER

I plan to enroll at North Carolina State University and major in engineering.



TYLER BATCHLER

I will be a student at UNC in Charlotte and will major in Chemistry.



KIRBY HULLENDER

I will be going to Gaston College for two years and then transferring to North Carolina State University.



TRENT PLOEGER

I will be a student at North Carolina State University and major in engineering.



MACKENZIE SMITH

I will be going to Clemson University and major in animal and veterinary sciences. My vacation plans this summer include a cruise and a trip to the Big Apple New York City.

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Tebin McDowell, Market President, Cleveland County



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