



## New Officers

Masonic Lodge 371 held its annual officer installation banquet last Friday at the lodge in Russellville. See story Page 8.

## FAME fundraiser

FAME Girls Ranch will hold its 'Tunes and Tees' benefit in September. See story Page 3.

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FranklinFreePress.net

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# Role Player

## Bonds hopes to serve as inspiration for new generation of students

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

As a rule, administrators in Russellville City Schools don't have coaching duties.

But there are exceptions to every rule. And when your newest administrator was a standout athlete at Russellville High School and the University of Mississippi as an offensive lineman, he becomes that exception.

Tony Bonds was recently hired as the new assistant principal at Russellville Middle School. In addition to his administrative duties, Bonds will coach offensive line for John Ritter's Golden

See 'BONDS,' Page 11



COURTESY PHOTO

RMS assistant principal Tony Bonds with his wife Jill and their children Elijah and Annalesa.



FILE PHOTO

'The Legend of Toyland' was an annual tradition at Northwest-Shoals for 30 years before making its Roxy Theatre debut in 2017. The beloved production will return this year from November 28-December 2.

# 'Toyland' dates set for 2018

Submitted

The dates have officially been set for this year's production of The Roxy's Legend of Toyland, and organizers are currently looking for sponsors to make this year's shows as successful as last year's.

The Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council will present The

See 'TOYLAND,' Page 7

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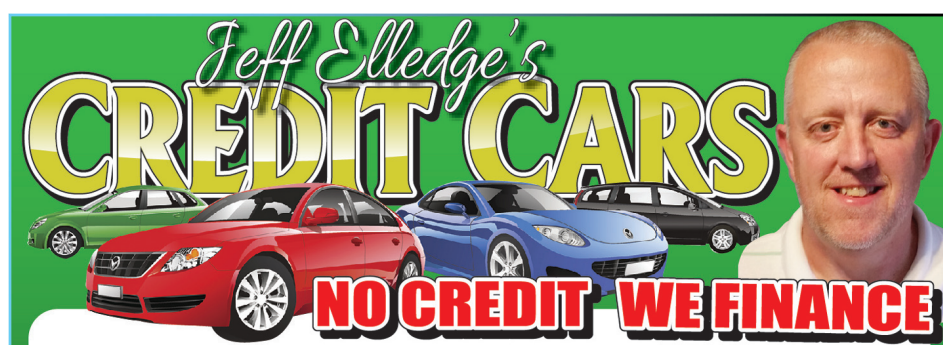
**Kathy Ann Horton**, Tuscumbia, age 60  
Died Sunday, July 15, 2018. Visitation will be held Wednesday, July 18, 2018 from noon-2 p.m. at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville, with funeral service to follow. Interment will be in East Franklin Cemetery.

**Thomas Edward Riley**, Russellville, age 77  
Died Thursday, July 12, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Ramsey King Cemetery with military honors.

**Donald Scogin**, Bear Creek, age 79  
Died Friday, July 13, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Red Bay City Cemetery.

**Dakota Brice Uptain**, Russellville, age 23  
Died Sunday, July 15, 2018. Visitation will be held Wednesday, July 18, 2018 from 5-8 p.m. at Pinkard Funeral Home. Funeral will be held Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 2 p.m. in the funeral home chapel. Interment will be in Tharptown Cemetery.

**Varnes H. Warhurst**, Russellville, age 89  
Died Thursday, July 12, 2018. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Bethsaida Cemetery.



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# FAME Girls Ranch plans 'Tunes and Tees' benefit for September 13 & 14

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The annual FAME Girls Ranch "Tunes and Tees" benefit is set for Thursday and Friday September 13-14.

It's the fifth annual fundraiser for the ranch, which is part of the Boys and Girls Ranches of Alabama, created by the Alabama Sheriff's Association as a program to provide homes for troubled children before they made the decision to break the law.

Through the past five decades, the ranches have been home for more than 5,000 children, providing a Christian family atmosphere for these boys and girls.

On Thursday, September 13, at the MANE Room, 310 North Pine Street, Florence, event organizers will host "A Band of Legends," followed by the annual golf tournament on Friday, September 14 at Twin Pines Country Club. This year's event was moved from October to September in hopes of having milder weather for the golf tournament.

Tables are available for "A Band of Legends," with eight seated at each table. Tickets are \$160 each, with \$100 of the cost tax-deductible, and are sold as 25 tables of eight. To reserve your table, contact FAME Girls Ranch at 256-331-3813, Cindy Hall at 256-710-3207 or email Cmhall1963@gmail.com.

**It's the fifth annual fundraiser for the ranch, which is part of the Boys and Girls Ranches of Alabama, created by the Alabama Sheriff's Association as a program to provide homes for troubled children before they made the decision to break the law. Through the past five decades, the ranches have been home for more than 5,000 children, providing a Christian family atmosphere for these boys and girls.**

Doors will open Thursday at 6 p.m., with meal service starting at 6:30 p.m. The buffet-style meal will be catered by the Red Clay Epicurean with wine selections by The Carriage Wine and Market.

"A Band of Legends" features Glen D. Hardin, James Burton, Norbert Putnam, Randy McCormick, Andy Childs, Milton Sledge, the Holliday Sisters, Jim Spake and Wes Sheffield.

The list of music legends was organized by Norbert and Sheryl Putnam. Putnam's musical career began at age 14 when he joined a neighborhood band. Five years later, he played bass on the first hit recording to come out of Muscle Shoals, Arthur Alexander's *You Better Move On*.

Putnam was part of Rick Hall's original Rythym Section until 1965, when he moved to Nashville and continued his career as a premier first-call musician.

Putnam has worked with Linda Ronstadt, Henry Mancini, the Monkeys, Dan Fogelberg, the Pointer Sisters and more.

In 1970, Putnam played bass on the first of what would be many recording sessions for his idol, Elvis Presley.

Putnam also saw success as a record producer, with his first hit the Joan Baez song *The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down*. He produced more than 70 albums including five for Jimmy Buffett, including the classic song *Margaritaville*.

Putnam's musical memoir, *Music Lessons Volume 1*, will be available for sale at the Thursday event for \$35. Books will be signed by Putnam, and 30 percent of sales will go to benefit the work at FAME.

The golf tournament will again be coordinated by Buzz McKinney. There are presenting level (\$7,500), gold level (\$2,500), silver level (\$1,500) and partnership level (\$500) sponsorships available for this year's tournament.

Hole sponsorships are also available for \$200/hole.

The Friday tournament is open to three-person teams in a scramble format. Cost is \$100/golfer and \$300/team and includes entry fee, golf cart, lunch, two mulligans per golfer, gift bag and a bag of range balls.

Lunch and registration is from 10:30 a.m.-noon with a 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start.

There will be a new vehicle hole-in-one prize, prizes for closest to pin and longest drives and door prizes.

Register at Twin Pines Country Club or on the web at famegirlsranchgolf-tournament@gmail.com, or call McKinney at 256-509-1111.

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# Honey Do: Keep it cool

The Alabama summer heat is upon us, and with it comes the costlier task of cooling the house. But there are some things to remember that may keep a little cool change in your pocket.

Get to know Mr. Thermostat. Don't get him hot and bothered by placing heat-producing appliances too close. A lamp or TV located near the thermostat can make him think the house is hotter than it actually is. He should be set around 72 degrees. Each degree higher will save you money on your power bill. Use portable fans or ceiling fans to create gentle air flow throughout the house.

In the kitchen, try to generate as little heat as possible. Do your cooking in the cooler part of the day. Use the microwave instead of the stove, if possible. You'll produce less heat and use less electricity.

Use exhaust fans to remove heat resulting from cooking, or take it outside to the grill. It's already hot out there.

Hot showers can also generate heat that will cause the A/C to kick on. Run an exhaust fan in the bathroom to remove the heat and humidity.

Outside, try to shield your central unit from direct sun, but don't restrict the air flow. Consider building a decorative fence around it, or plant some leafy shrubs to give it shade. Just be sure to keep them neatly trimmed away from the unit.

Of course, always keep the air return clean and unobstructed, and change the filter regularly.

Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



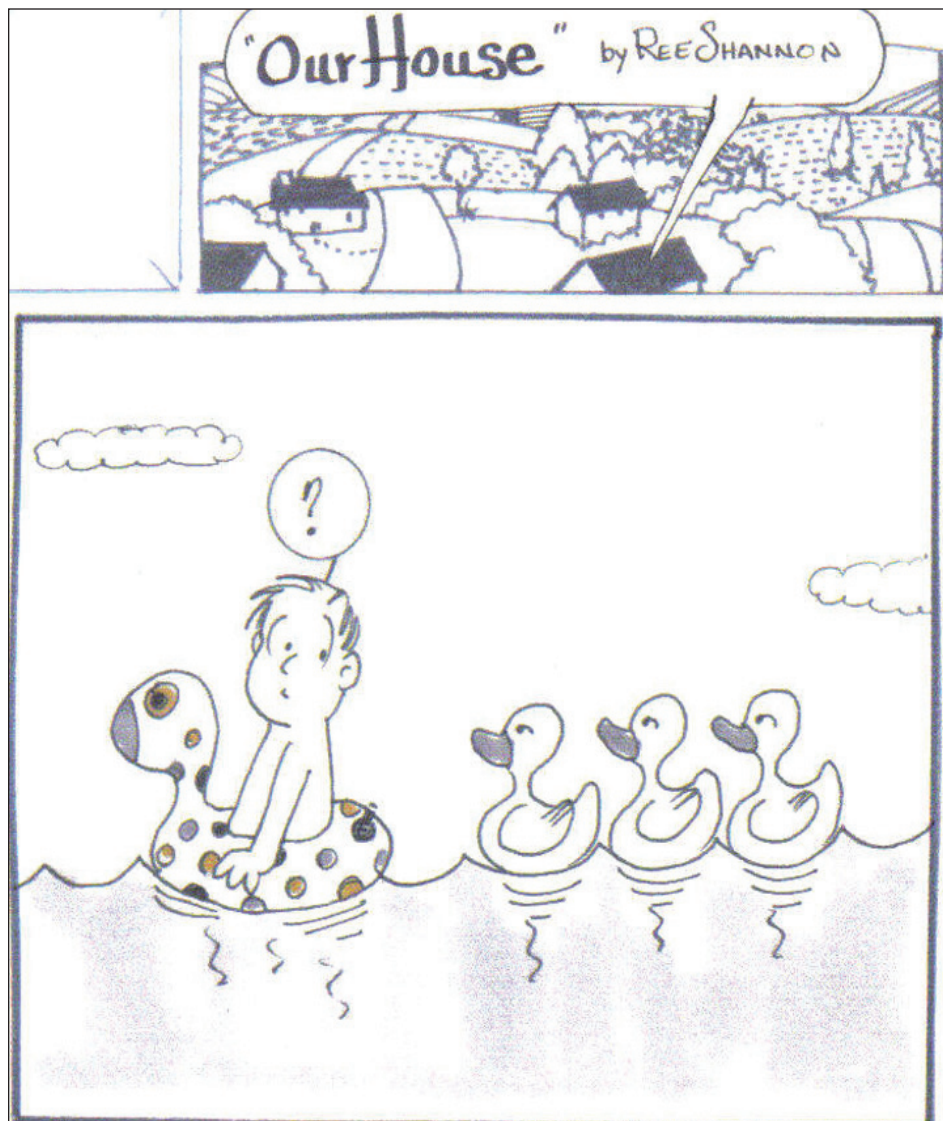
**Doug Green**



**Letters to the Editor**

We love to hear from you! Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoons, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at [franklinfreepress.net](http://franklinfreepress.net)!



## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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# Smartest way to pay for college

I spend a lot of time talking with students about big life decisions they'll face, and one of the most important is how to pay for college.

At a recent speaking event, I asked 100 students if they believed they could ever pay cash for college. Eighty-seven of them said no. Now, I know this isn't a scientific research project. But when I asked those same students why they said no, they told me college costs too much. They figured there would be no way to pay for college without taking out student loans.

For those of you who think the same way, it's time to think again. I want you to see there's simply no reason for a teen you care about to go into debt for college.

#### •Out-of-control debt is weighing students down

Here's a number to get you thinking about the student debt crisis in America: \$1.2 trillion. According to Debt.org, that's how much school debt Americans owe right now.

How did it get that high? The majority of young people in America have accepted the popular myth that student loans are just part of life. And it's not just the teens from my little survey who believe this. In 2017, Student Loan Hero reported that the average college student graduates with more than \$37,000 dollars in student loan debt.

As someone who once racked up \$25,000 in student loan debt myself, I can relate to people who borrowed to go to school or who still believe it's the only way. Here's some good news though. There's a much better way to pay for a college education.

#### •A better way

As I said before, most of the students I talked to were doubtful about cash-flowing college. But 13 of them agreed that it is, in fact, possible to go to

college debt-free. Let's talk about how more students are getting it done every year.

There's money available in many forms to help students go to college without loans. A 2015 study by NerdWallet revealed more than \$2 billion in grant and scholarship money goes unclaimed every year. All that cash could have put a big dent in the billions owed by so many students nationwide. What's stopping the teens in your life from claiming those dollars for themselves? There are literally thousands of college scholarships out there. All it takes is a little research and the willpower to apply.

#### •Finding college scholarships and financial aid

The internet is an awesome resource for scholarship hunting. There are tons of great websites, like MyScholly.com, that help students find money for school. However, these resources are only helpful if they're used. Here's my advice for students to get the most out of their search for college dollars.

In middle school, students should spend about 30 minutes a day searching for, and applying to get, scholarships. By the time they reach high school, students should spend about an hour each day doing the same. During the summer, high school students should treat the search for scholarship dollars like a part-time job and plan to put in four hours a day. I know students who did this, and they ended up with more than enough money to pay for school and graduate completely debt-free!

And here's one more thing to keep in mind

See 'COLLEGE,' Page 5



**Anthony O'Neal**





## Insurance after diagnosis

Dear Dave,  
I started looking at life insurance policies after my wife and I had our daughter. During the screening process, I found out I had testicular cancer. I went through treatments, and the doctors have officially declared me to be in remission. Still, I can't find a life insurance company that will work with me. I have a small policy through my employer that is equal to double my salary. Do you have any suggestions for finding additional coverage?

Nate

Dear Nate,  
It's great news you're in remission. I'm really happy for you, buddy. I know your wife is thrilled, too. I would advise conducting a search of every "guaranteed issue" company and policy out there. The term 'guaranteed issue' means they don't do a medical check. The problem is these policies generally run 10 to 20 times more per thousand than those where you qualify medically. So, you're not going to get a lot during this time.

Check at work, and see if you can buy more and add it to the coverage they already provide. Some employers provide a double-up option if you're willing to pay for the additional coverage. If you can, and the price is reasonable, do it. If you have a mortgage, call the mortgage company and get mortgage life insurance. It's gimmick insurance—and something I don't normally recommend—but many times you can get it without medical clearance.

Once you get past that three-to-five-year window where many insurance companies will work with you again, try to find a good, level term

life insurance policy with coverage that's 10 to 12 times your income, and drop all this other stuff. In the meantime, pick up anything else you can find—even if it's those little \$10,000 policies banks sometimes attach to your checking account for \$20. Pile up those little odds and ends until you get as much coverage as you can within reason.

God bless you and your family!

Dave

## Allow them to earn it

Dear Dave,  
Our daughter just turned 10 years old. Is now the right time to start giving her an allowance and start teaching her about money?

Danielle

Dear Danielle,  
I'm glad you're going to teach your daughter about money. But in my mind, there's never a time for an allowance. I believe that kind of thinking and using words like "allowance" are some of the best ways to instill an attitude of entitlement in a child. I don't think you want your daughter growing up with the idea she deserves money simply because she's alive.

My advice is to develop a method by which she can earn commissions. Write down a daily or weekly list of jobs around the house that are age-appropriate that she will be responsible for doing. Then, at the end of the week, she gets paid for jobs she completed—and she doesn't get paid for the ones she didn't do. The idea is to teach her that work creates money, and teach a healthy work ethic at the same time.

Of course, there are some things a child should be expected to do without financial reward. Everyone needs to pitch in and do certain things to help when they're part of a family. And once you've taught her about the importance and rewards of work, make sure to teach her about the three uses for money—saving, spending, and giving!

Dave

\*Follow Dave on the worldwide web at [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com) and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

## 'COLLEGE,' from page 4

When it comes to paying for college—the FAFSA. I know, it sounds weird, but it stands for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students have to fill it out every year they go to college. It's not just used to determine eligibility for student loans. It's also used to determine eligibility for grants, scholarships and work-study programs. The earlier applicants complete the FAFSA, the better. Students can begin the process as early as October 1 (for the following school year), though they will need to come back after January to update their income tax information.

Remember, debt is not necessary to get a college degree. There are ways to pay for college without taking student loans and being in debt for 10 years after graduation. Yes, it takes some research and hard work, but cash-flowing college is possible!

Anthony O'Neal is the national best-selling author of Graduate Survival Guide: 5 Mistakes You Can't Afford to Make in College. You can follow Anthony on Twitter and Instagram @AnthonyO'Neal and online at [anthony-oneal.com](http://anthony-oneal.com) or [facebook.com/aoneal](http://facebook.com/aoneal).

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# What's Happening


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EVENTS OF INTEREST • FAMILY REUNIONS • PLAYS • CHURCH GATHERINGS • EDUCATIONAL • CLUB MEETINGS


 **R**ussellville Masonic Lodge 371 will be selling Boston butts during the Watermelon Festival weekend. Butts are \$30 and may be pre-ordered by calling 256-810-1970. Pick-up will be Saturday, August 18 from 8-10 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge on Coffee Street.


 **T**he Russellville Farmers Market is now open! Weekly schedule from now through October is Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 6 a.m.-noon. Manager is Greg Stanford. Located behind the A.W. Todd Centre. Produce: Tomatoes, onions, squash, peppers, cucumbers, rattlesnake beans.


 **A**ttention all young ladies of Colbert, Franklin and Lauderdale counties entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grades in the Fall of 2018!!! The Distinguished Young Women Scholarship Program will be held Saturday, August 4 at Norton Auditorium on the campus of The University of North Alabama. Young ladies entering the 12th grade will have the opportunity to compete for cash scholarships as well as many other scholarships to colleges and universities. Also, each county winner will have the opportunity to represent her county at the state program in Montgomery in January of 2019. Young ladies entering the 10th and 11th grades have the opportunity to be "DYW Little Sisters." For more information, contact Susan Hargett at 256-710-9239 or Katernia Cole-Coffey at 256-332-8880, or check information on our Facebook page at Distinguished Young Women of Northwest Alabama, or email dshargett@aol.com. Other information and sign-up is available at [www.DistinguishedYW.org](http://www.DistinguishedYW.org).


 **I**t's that time again! We are in need of sponsors for children going back to school who need help getting their school supplies. These children have one or both parents in jail or prison. These are innocent children who have done nothing wrong but are certainly affected because of their parents' wrongdoing. If you or your organization would like to sponsor one or more of these children, or if you would like more information, call Debbie Dixon at 256-443-1297 or write to her at P.O. Box 2234, Florence, AL 35630. Sponsoring entails buying three gifts for each child sponsored. (Tax ID# 27-2001582).


 **B**ethlehem Missionary Baptist Church will host Summer Revival July 15-20 with services starting Sunday at 2 p.m. and Monday-Friday at 7 p.m. Evangelist is Bro. Glenn Bridgemon. Pastor Bro. Frank Chaney and congregation invite you!


 **R**egistration for the 2018-19 school year at Russellville Middle School will be held according to the following schedule: Eighth grade from 8-11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 24; Seventh grade from 1-4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24; and sixth grade from 8-11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 25. Students must come during their designated time frame only. For more info, call RMS at 256-331-2120.


 **M**y Father's House (104 East Lawrence Street, Russellville) will hold Vacation Bible School July 25-27 at 6 p.m. each night. If you need a ride, please call 256-460-1376.

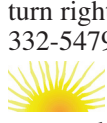
 **T**he Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833 will meet Thursday, August 2 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Recreation Center on Ash Avenue. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For info, call 256-324-2317. Everyone is welcome!

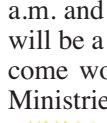
 **R**ockwood Baptist Church will have VBS on Saturday, August 4 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The church is located on Highway 36 in Russellville. We will have classes for kindergarten through seventh grade. There will be water inflatables for play time, so bring a towel and join in the fun!


 **T**he next meeting for American Legion Post 64 will be Thursday, August 9 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

 **T**he Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre in downtown Russellville on Saturday, August 11 at 7 p.m. General admission seating. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. Call 256-335-4356. The KGB will be the featured act at a show sponsored by the Franklin County Arts Council at the Roxy on the second Saturday of each month.

 **M**ountain Valley Hee Haw features live music every Friday and Saturday night. Show time is 6 p.m. Karaoke at 7 p.m. on Thursday nights. Free admission. No alcohol or drugs. From Russellville, take 243 to Hwy. 79, turn right, go 1/4 mile, third building on left. For more information, please call 256-332-5479 or 256-810-4840.

 **N**ew Life Ministries invites you to join them for Sunday School at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings and for worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. On the first Sunday of each month, there will be a fellowship lunch after morning services. You and your family are invited to come worship and fellowship with the Lord of Hosts and his children. New Life Ministries is located on Hwy. 24 west toward Red Bay, right behind Tompkins Feed.

 **T**OPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) weight loss support group meets each Monday evening at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Recreation Center. Weigh-ins begin at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to drop in for a free meeting visit. Call 256-446-5962 or 256-412-2855 for more information.

 **V**illage Square Apartments in Russellville host George's Country Boys each Monday night from 6-8 p.m. for some Gospel and Country singing. Come join in the fun!



## 'TOYLAND,' from page 1

Roxy's Legend of Toyland on November 28–December 2 at the Historic Roxy Theatre in downtown Russellville, with 14 shows planned for this year.

The beloved production, which is the creation of Russellville resident and longtime Northwest-Shoals Community College music instructor Lanny McAlister, has brought the magic and excitement of Christmas to area residents for years. After running for many years at NW-SCC, the production was revived last year with an amazing response from the community. More than 7,800 people attended the shows, and extra performances were added just to meet demand.

"We were so pleased with how well the show was received and by how many people said they enjoyed it as much as they did when they were younger," McAlister said. "From the response we had last year, we are confident this will be a holiday staple in this area for many years."

McAlister said ticket sales help organizers produce the show, but they are in need of sponsors to be able to continue providing the production to groups from the area's schools.

**More than 7,800 people attended last year's shows at The Roxy, and extra performances were added just to meet demand.**

**"We were so pleased with how well the show was received and by how many people said they enjoyed it as much as they did when they were younger," McAlister said. "From the response we had last year, we are confident this will be a holiday staple in this area for many years."**

"The school performances are some of our favorites, because these kids are truly experiencing and living out that Christmas magic through this production," he said. "They have such a great time and engage with the cast, and you can just see the joy on their faces. And for many of these children, this might be their only chance to get to see this production. We really want to make sure we are able to continue providing this fun and memorable experience for them."

Susie Hovater Malone, president of the Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council, said there are six different sponsorship levels starting at \$25. The higher the sponsorship level, the more exposure a business or organization will receive during the performances. Sponsors are needed by August 1 to ensure full benefits of sponsorship, which will be income tax deductible.

"Our community was so supportive of this production last year, and we hope to see even more support this year," Malone said. "This has already proven to be a must-see event, and sponsorship of the event will certainly be advantageous for those who choose to support it."

For more information about becoming a sponsor of The Roxy's Legend of Toyland, contact Malone at 256-332-3175 or hmalone@bellsouth.net.

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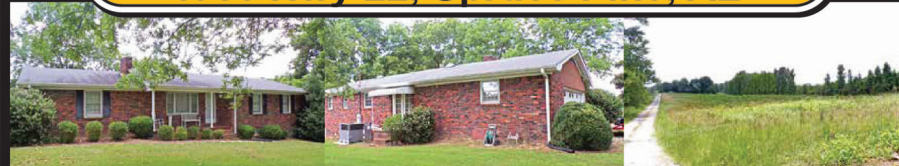
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This Ranch Style house sits back off the road on a small hill overlooking the property. Mature shade trees surround the 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. The house has 2 levels. the ground level has 3 bedrooms and 1 bath, Kitchen, Laundry, Living and dining area and a 2 car garage. The basement could be used as an apartment with a kitchen, sleeping area, bathroom and outside entrance. Behind the home is a 18'x24' shop & two 12'x24' side sheds. Shop has concrete floors with gravel in the side sheds. The property is partially fenced w/net wire fencing. Pasture has a pond and a shed for shade and shelter. Great pasture for cattle, horses, sheep or goats. Beautiful farm with privacy... 30 acres of country living, just minutes from Russellville.

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# Lodge 371 holds officer installation banquet

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The photos lining the wall of Russellville Masonic Lodge 371's lodge room are a Who's Who of prominent Franklin County residents who have served as Worshipful Master since the lodge began in 1870.

Past and present elected officials, businessmen, educators and civil servants have served in the position, and Scotty Hovater will lead Lodge 371 for the coming year.

The lodge held its officer installation banquet Friday, July 13 at the lodge in downtown Russellville.

Other officers for the coming year include Wiley Bean (Marshal), Heath Isom (Senior Deacon), J.O. Taylor (Senior Steward and District Lecturer Group Two District Four), Milford "Mousey" Brown (Chaplain), Randy Mansell (Junior Deacon and Worshipful Master of Littleville Lodge 881), Terrell

Hatton (Treasurer), Will Bragwell (Junior Warden) and Michael Fish (Senior Warden).

Van Tidwell, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master for the State of Alabama, attended last Friday's lodge meeting to help install the new officers. Lodge officers are elected annually.

**"We want to invite all members to come join us at our meetings," Hovater said. "Masons are founded on the idea of taking a good man and making a better man out of him, and I believe that. We're always entertaining the idea of new members and would love to see some of our inactive members get involved again."**

Lodge 371 has several fund raisers through the year, including sales of Boston butt and hams, that support the many scholarships presented to Franklin County and Russellville students. The lodge is active in the Franklin County Relay for Life as well.

Hovater said Lodge 371 meets the first and third

Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at its downtown Russellville location. The Order of the Eastern Star 256, which includes wives, widows, daughters, mothers and sisters of Masons, meets the second and fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m.

"We want to invite all members to come join us at our meetings," Hovater said. "In the coming year, we want to continue our presence in the community and be a little more proactive. If you're interested in membership, remember, 'To be one, ask one.'

"Masons are founded on the idea of taking a good man and making a better man out of him, and I believe that. We're always entertaining the idea of new members and would love to see some of our inactive members get involved again."

Bean, who has previously served as Worshipful Master and now has Chaplain duties, is one of the lodge's senior members, at age 90.

"He's still here every time the doors open," Hovater said. "If he's not here, he's sick."



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

The 2018-19 officers of Russellville Masonic Lodge 371 are pictured above: Front row, from left - Wiley Bean, Heath Isom, J.O. Taylor, Milford "Mousey" Brown, Randy Mansell, Terrell Hatton, Will Bragwell; Back row, from left - Michael Fish, Scotty Hovater, Van Tidwell (State officer).





#### COURTESY PHOTOS

BELOW, RIGHT: Olivia Vincent, a third-grader from Russellville Elementary, is the winner of the Cultura Garden Club "Woodsy Owl: Lend a Hand, Care for the Land" poster contest. Olivia's poster also won first place for third grade at the state level, first place for third grade at the Deep South level and first place for third grade at the National Garden Club. Her poster will be featured on the website [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org). Pictured with Olivia is Cultura club member Patricia Cox.

ABOVE, LEFT: These second-grade students from West Elementary are winners from the Cultura Garden Club "Smokey Bear: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires" poster contest. Pictured left to right are Maria Vela (second place), Naveah Parks (first place) and Juana Miguel Martin (third place). Naveah's poster also won first place for second grade at the state level and first place for second grade at the Deep South level.

ABOVE, RIGHT: These first-grade students from West Elementary are winners from the Cultura Garden Club "Smokey Bear: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires" poster contest. Pictured left to right are Jenieli Tomas (third place), Felix Garcia (first place) and Asher Campbell (second place). Felix's poster also won first place for first grade at the state level.



**Send your guest columns, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com). For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!**

## City school board approves personnel moves

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Personnel moves highlighted a short meeting of the Russellville City Board of Education Monday afternoon.

Madalan Benford was hired as a teacher at West Elementary School, and Col. Norman Lier was hired as supplemental part-time assistant principal at Russellville Middle School.

Other personnel moves included:

- Transfers: Tiffany Warhurst from counselor at RHS to assistant principal at Russellville Elementary School; Stacy Rackley from teacher at RHS to teacher at RMS; Jess Smith, from teacher at RMS to teacher at RHS; and Vickie Sutton from SPE aide at WES to PE aide at WES.

- Athletic consultant: Bryant Bonds to be a pro consult for the RHS football team. Maximum payment shall not exceed \$1,380 and will be paid for by the Football Booster Club.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Board of Education will be Thursday, July 26, at 8 a.m., with work session Monday, July 23 at 3:30 p.m.

## Commission renews contract with Animal Control

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission approved the renewal of a contract with the Marion/Winston County Animal Control Shelter to euthanize stray dogs and cats from Franklin County.

The three-year contract was approved at the commission's regular meeting on July 16. Franklin County Animal Control officials are responsible for transporting the animals to Hamilton, where they will be euthanized at a cost of \$10/large dog and \$5/cat, puppy, small dog and kitten.

In other action, the commission:

- Approved the letting of bids for a hauling contract to haul household garbage from the Franklin County Landfill to a transfer station. Bids are due by Thursday, August 9.

- Rescinded the hiring of Gwen Foster as a corrections officer/dispatcher with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. Hunter Godsey was hired as a full time corrections officer/dispatcher, and Amy Patterson was promoted to sergeant from corrections officer/dispatcher.

- Approved a contract between Franklin County and the State of Alabama for work on the industrial access road at the Mike Green Industrial Complex to access the Road Gear facility under

construction.

- Approved the letting of bids for a tailgate chip spreader for the Franklin County Highway Department.

- Approved the purchase of three generators for the Franklin County Highway Department to keep operations uninterrupted in cases of severe weather. EMA director Jody Hitt was given authority to sign contracts once the bids are approved. There is \$17,400 approved for these generators through a federal grant, with Franklin County to contribute \$4,350 and \$13,050 of federal funds.

The generators will be used in the Highway Department office, shop and gas building.



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Yard Sale this Friday & Saturday, July 20-21. 7 am-until. A.B. Hester subdivision going past Frosty Inn south. Clothes (men's, women's boys, girls), entertainment center, TV, jewelry, tool box, Fossil bags, tools, pellet gun, lots more items!

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**YARD SALES/ ESTATE SALES**

items, furniture, home décor, women's, boys and girls clothing, Tupperware, plus new merchandise from home based business.

Yard Sale this Saturday, July 21 on Hwy. 48, 1 mile east by Deb's Hair Shop. 8am-4pm. Lots of miscellaneous stuff!

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## Local establishment falls short of satisfactory rating

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The lone Franklin County establishment that received a health rating during the week of July 2-July 6 had a score below the "satisfactory compliance" range.

Health ratings are required to be prominently posted in all food/lodging establishments. Scores are graded by the Alabama Department of Public Health inspectors on a 100-point scale.

Establishments with scores of 85 to 100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are

routinely inspected. Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again in 60 days, and those scoring between 60 and 69 will have another follow-up within 48 hours. Any establishment scoring below 60 will be immediately closed.

Areas of inspection by ADPH include management and personnel; food storage, preparation and service; equipment; utensils; linen cleanliness; plumbing and waste; poisonous or toxic material storage; and an inspection of the physical facility or property.

The lone Franklin County business inspected

during the week was La Cabana, 10047 Hwy. 75, Russellville, which scored a 78. Violations included reach-in cooler holding various foods (beans, tamales, rice, beef) at 56-66 degrees; employee food and drink on active prep table; and large container of cleaner in three-compartment sink without label.

On the one inspection done in Colbert County from July 2-6, Mike's Meat Market, 1012 Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals, scored a 97.

Updated ratings are available at [www.food-scores.state.al.us](http://www.food-scores.state.al.us) and may be viewed by city or county.



# Southwood residents enjoy pet-friendly program

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Pres

Last Wednesday morning at Southwood Gardens was a time to spotlight some of the complex's four-legged residents, namely Punkin, Ellie and Hope.

Several Southwood residents and their dogs gathered at the complex's activities center to enjoy a morning of fellowship. Included among the guests was Punkin, owned by Brenda Mather, Ellie and her owner Debra Moore, and Hope and her owner Faye Pritchett.

Nell Colglazier, activities director for Southwood Gardens, said residents enjoy a variety of different programs during the year, including weekly Bingo games, holiday meals, arts and crafts, movies and several programs sponsored by area home health agencies. Southwood Gardens' activities center is open to residents daily and offers computers with Internet, games and puzzles or just a place to socialize and relax.

**"It's a great way for residents to meet their neighbors and get to know each other," Colglazier said of the complex's activities center.**

"It's a great way for residents to meet their neighbors and get to know each other," Colglazier said.

Southwood Gardens is a 50-unit apartment complex for residents 62 and older. Rent is based on income minus deductions for all medical expenses.

"We're conveniently located near Walmart, Foodland, banks and restaurants, so residents don't have to cross the highway to do their shopping," Colglazier said.

And obviously, Southwood Gardens is a pet-friendly complex.

For more information on Southwood Gardens, located on Cross Avenue in Russellville, call 256-332-9027.



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

**EVERY DOG HAS ITS DAY** - Pictured above are Ellie with Debra Moore, Hope with Faye Pritchett and Punkin' with Brenda Mather.

## 'BONDS', from page 1

Tiger varsity football team.

"It was important for Russellville City Schools for Tony to come back and important for our community to have an administrator and the type of role model he is for our students," said RCS superintendent of education Heath Grimes.

A 2001 RHS graduate, Bonds majored in Criminal Justice with a minor in Political Science at Ole Miss while attending on a full athletic scholarship.

Although teaching wasn't his original calling, Bonds sought out coaching opportunities while he worked in the banking industry. His first coaching position was helping at St. George's School in Collierville, TN. After he and his wife Jill moved back to Russellville, Bonds served on the RHS staff under head coach Doug Goodwin. Both programs made appearances in their respective state finals with Bonds as part of the staff.

When his family moved to Huntsville, Bonds took a job with Regions Bank. But after a conversation with one of his former Golden Tiger coaches, Michael Jackson, who was the head coach at Buckhorn High School at the time, Bonds began his teaching career at Buckhorn.

"I really enjoyed coaching but also really enjoyed banking as well," Bonds said. "I wasn't ready for a long time to dive into education wholeheartedly. When we moved to Huntsville, it gave me a good opportunity to substitute-teach and see if I was interested in taking that role as a teacher."

Most recently, Bonds taught and coached at Henry County High School in Paris, TN. His position at RMS will be his first administrative post. Bonds' wife will teach pre-AP English at Russellville High School.

After he returned to school to earn his masters in Education from Bethel University, Bonds also earned his instructional leadership certification, opening the door for an administrative position.

As the only Russellville administrator to coach, Bonds realizes he has a legacy to uphold.

"I'll work hard to handle the demands of my

assistant principal's job at the middle school and the demands of coaching football," Bonds said. "I don't want one to fail because I put too much pressure on the other. I want to work very hard to make this opportunity successful for someone else down the line."

As for coming home to Russellville, Bonds said he wasn't actively looking to come back at first.

"When this opportunity presented itself, at first I wasn't too keen on it. The more I talked with Mr. Grimes and Coach Ritter, though, the more interested I became," Bonds said. "When my wife came down and toured the schools and met with Mr. Grimes and the administrative team, that sealed the deal."

"We felt like it was a good move for us. There were a lot of tears shed about this decision, a lot of laughs and a lot of smiles about it, too. It's a decision we put in the hands of God and prayed about, and it all worked out well."

When he described the type of role model he wants to be for his students, Bonds recalled his role model as he grew up in Russellville.

"Colin Sears was the man. I wanted to run like him, walk like him, play like him. I even wanted to go to Auburn," Bonds recalled. "Watching the way he led himself made me want to be like him. I still think a lot about him."

"For me, to have the chance for some young man to look at me and say, 'Here's a guy from here who made it,' that's a big responsibility. We've had so many great athletes from Russellville who haven't made it for one reason or another. I hope to light a fire under some guys and inspire all kids—white, Black and Hispanic—in our system, and to be an inspiration and hopefully see them reach out for their dreams and succeed."

Grimes said he saw that drive in Bonds the first time they met.

"It was very evident the first time I interviewed him," Grimes said. "He feels like he owes this community for the support they poured into his life, and he feels the same way about the kids we have

in our schools."

At 6'4" and a playing weight at Ole Miss of 308 pounds, Bonds is an imposing figure. He realizes his physical presence can be an asset as an educator and administrator.

"As a teacher, I didn't have a lot of classroom issues because of my physical size," Bonds said. "It deters a lot of people from wanting to act up. The biggest thing about me is, I'm a kid at heart, but there's a time and place for work and a time and place to play a little. Having an assistant principal my size I hope will help out, and I hope that presence won't be used very much. But if it does, it does."

As part of the RHS program during a time when it was respected statewide for its on-field success, Bonds wants to see the program return to those days.

"We want to see guys move back and their kids be part of a program we can get back to the dominant state it was in in the early 2000s when people were afraid to play Russellville," Bonds said. "We can change the mindset of what Russellville is. We're primed for it. We have a lot of great kids. I believe they're very hungry, and we're seeing them grow right now, and I honestly can't wait to get on the field and work with them."

"We're going to shock some people. We may take some licks, but we'll shock some folks along the way."

As he sat in the Orlando airport last week on his way home from a mission trip in Jamaica, Bonds reflected on the young children in the orphanages his mission team visited.

"When you see their plight, you're very appreciative of what we've been blessed with," Bonds said. "People always say the kids are blessed by us, but the fact of the matter is these kids bless us and we learn a lot from them. They show you how to handle life's hard knocks, turn the other cheek and be happy with what you have in life."

The Bonds family (Tony, Jill, Elijah and Annalesa) now make their home in Russellville.



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## Davis ready to cap off strong summer with All-Star event

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

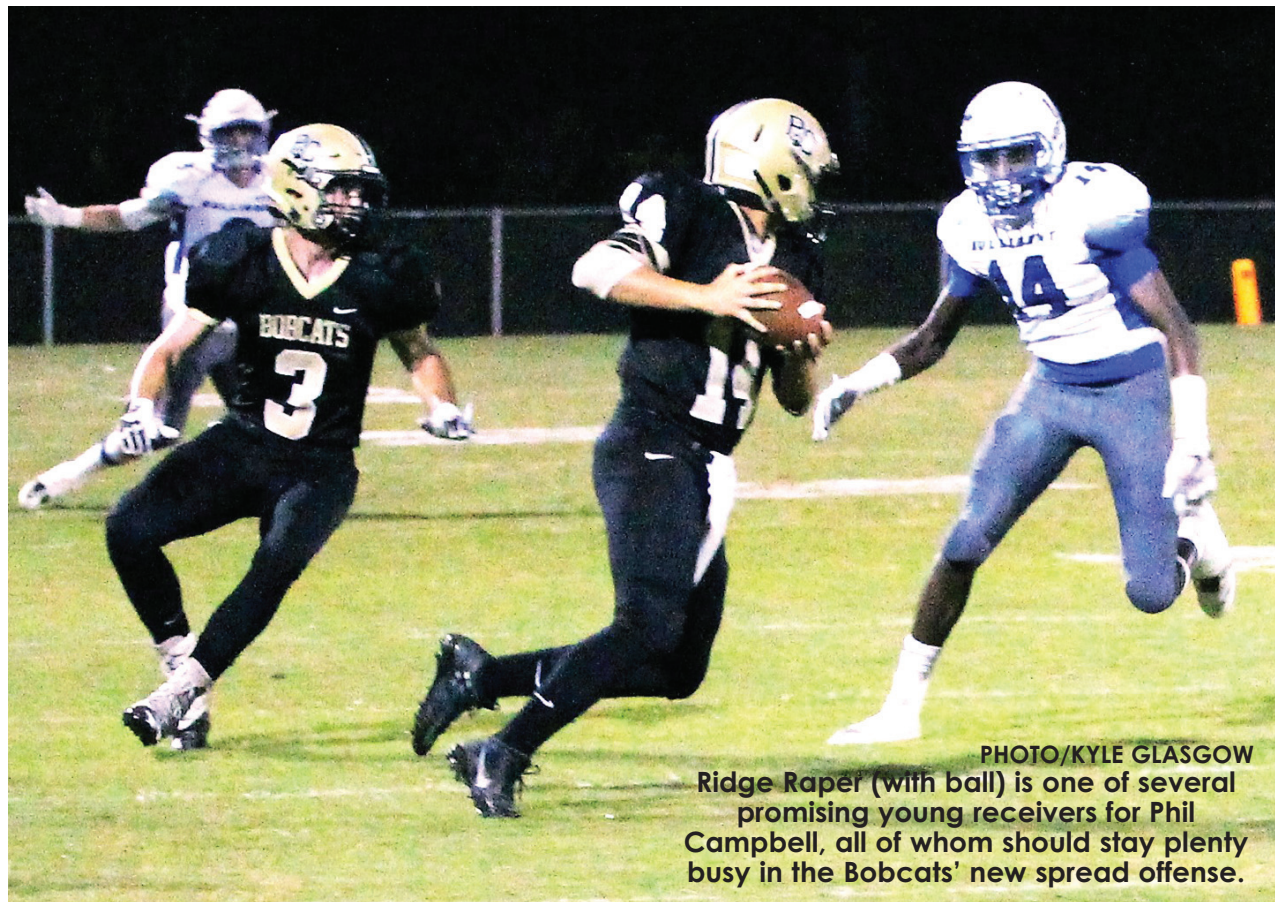
It's not uncommon for a few tears to be shed at a high school prom. Teenage drama and whatnot. But when Abby Davis walked into her junior prom at Phil Campbell in April and started to well up, it was for an entirely different reason.

Davis had just arrived on the scene when she received a message from a local sports writer hoping to interview her about being selected to play in this year's North-South All-Star Basketball Game at the 22nd annual AHSAA Summer Conference in Montgomery. It was the first she had heard of the news.

"I hadn't even got the letter yet," Davis recalled last week. "I found out as soon as I was walking into prom. I almost cried. I started tearing up."

See 'DAVIS,' Page 18

# Men at Work



PHOTO/KYLE GLASGOW  
Ridge Raper (with ball) is one of several promising young receivers for Phil Campbell, all of whom should stay plenty busy in the Bobcats' new spread offense.

## A full-scale rebuild is underway at Phil Campbell, where Kevin Barnwell plans on turning Bobcat football into a winner

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

It's been 17 long years since the Phil Campbell football program last produced a team with a winning record. During that span, the Bobcats have had more seasons (five) with either one or zero wins than they've had playoff berths (four). Their last postseason win was a 20-12 victory over Hokes Bluff in November of 2000; the vast majority of players on the current roster hadn't even been born yet.

That's the magnitude of the challenge facing first-year head coach Kevin Barnwell as he attempts to turn Phil Campbell football into a winner again.

"We have to be the change," said Barnwell, a 1989 graduate of Hackleburg High School who spent 12 years teaching and coaching at Russellville before taking over the Bobcat program in March. "A lot of people want things to improve as far our football program goes, and these kids need to be the ones to step up and make those changes. They're the ones who have to be here

every day on a consistent, day-to-day basis, laying it on the line and improving for Friday night."

"We have to be the change," said Barnwell, a Hackleburg alum who spent 12 years at Russellville before taking over the Bobcat program in March. "A lot of people want things to improve as far our football program goes, and these kids need to be the ones to step up and make those changes. They're the ones who have to be here every day on a consistent, day-to-day basis, laying it on the line...."

Barnwell's head coaching debut (August 31 at home against rival Red Bay, a team Phil Campbell has lost to 12 straight times since a 21-20 win in 2005) is still more than six weeks out, but the rebuilding effort is well underway—both figuratively and literally. In the four months he's been on the job, Barnwell has enlisted some of the more ardent Bobcat supporters to help with projects such as sanding the field, cleaning the field house, installing new equipment and mirrors in the weight room, renovating the coach's office, painting a few

See 'WORK,' Page 14



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

After leading the Lady Bobcats to their first Northwest Regional title in February, Davis (left) will suit up this week for the North squad at All-Star Week in Montgomery.



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### 'WORK' from page 13

buildings and addressing flooding issues at Parrish Field, Phil Campbell's home stadium.

"There's been a few people in the community who have really helped out a lot," Barnwell said. "We're trying to do a few upgrades and clean up around the facility. We want it to be a source of pride. We've got a long way to go, but we're making progress."

"It takes a lot of people to do something like this. It's not a one-man show, by any means. One of the pleasant things about taking this job has been seeing so many people willing to help out."

As hard as Barnwell and his makeshift crews have been working, he expects his players—many of whom aren't yet old enough to drive—to work even harder. And he makes no apologies for his demanding style.

"I'm a coach who's gonna care every day and gonna try to get better every day," Barnwell said, "and these kids have been very receptive to being coached and being pushed. I told them after our first OTA that if they're expecting anything else or they can't deal with that, they better get used to it. We're trying to get better and trying to take them to a different level. It's not about me. It's about them, about us pushing them to be successful."

"With our younger guys, we've seen a lot of dedication, guys showing up and working hard. I guess they'd be the first to tell you that I push them a little bit, but they're responding well to coaching. I told one of them the other day, 'Listen to the message, not the tone.'"

**"I'm a coach who's gonna care every day and gonna try to get better every day," Barnwell said, "and these kids have been very receptive to being coached and being pushed. I told them after our first OTA that if they're expecting anything else or they can't deal with that, they better get used to it. We're trying to get better and trying to take them to a different level. It's not about me. It's about them, about us pushing them to be successful."**

The message, at its crux, is simple: Nothing less than maximum commitment, discipline, effort, toughness and pride will suffice if this rebuilding effort is to be successful. Yes, the Bobcats enter the 2018 season on a nine-game losing streak. Yes, they're going to rely heavily on young players with precious little experience under the Friday-night lights. But Barnwell is not interested in a lengthy grace period, despite all that youth.

"I looked out there yesterday during a set, and left to right we had a ninth-grader, a tenth-grader, a ninth-grader at running back, a tenth-grader at quarterback, a ninth-grader at tight end, and our Z [receiver] was a ninth-grader," Barnwell said last Wednesday. "It was legitimately a jayvee team, but we can't use that as an excuse. The time is now. We have to get it done now."

On that note, here's a position-by-position breakdown of where the Bobcats stand with fall camp set to kick off on August 6.

#### Quarterbacks

**Position coaches: Kevin Barnwell, Jordan Benford**

Sophomore Luke Barnwell (Kevin's oldest son) will be at the controls of Phil Campbell's new no-huddle spread offense. Barnwell took his lumps at times last year while starting all ten games for Russellville as an undersized freshman at the 5A level, but he also demonstrated a strong, accurate arm and the moxie to be an effective leader. Against East Limestone, for instance, in a critical late-season game on the road, Barnwell was lights-out on third down, making several clutch throws and completing 6-of-9 attempts for 82 yards, one touchdown and five first-down conversions in a 17-13 win.

The Golden Tigers won only two other games, but Kevin Barnwell believes Luke (who completed a solid 60 percent of his passes on the season for 1,314 yards and 10 touchdowns with 10 interceptions) will reap great benefits from the trial-by-fire experience of his freshman season.

"It helped him develop some toughness and learn how to compete, more than anything," Kevin said. "One thing he'll do, he'll go out there and compete. The offense I'm running is new to him. Everything is new to him, so he's learning to read progressions with everything we do."

"I probably stay on him more than I do anyone else, but he's gotta learn the whole playbook and know what everyone's doing. He's gotta know the concepts of what we're running and what we're trying to accomplish. It needs to be second nature, him knowing where his open receiver is gonna be."

Former Russellville coach Mark Heaton raved about the headiness Barnwell showed as a young quarterback, a trait that Kevin plans to make the most of at some point down the road.

"When he gets comfortable with the system, I would love for him to get to the point where he can audible at the line of scrimmage and check us into another play based on coverage," Barnwell said. "I'd love to be able to do that this season, but that's really a junior- and senior-level thing to do. We're not asking that of him right now. We're just asking him to know the playbook."

Speaking of that playbook, it figures to look familiar to anyone who watched Russellville's offense in the days of Perry Swindall and Doug Goodwin.

"It's a cross between what Coach Swindall ran and what Coach Goodwin



## 'WORK,' from page 14

ran," said Barnwell, who joined Swindall's staff at Russellville in 2004 and later coached quarterbacks under Goodwin. "With Coach Swindall, he had fewer inside runs. We'll do some inside runs, but a lot of the stuff we're doing is pretty much what Coach Swindall was doing. With our roll-out game, we're doing some of the stuff Coach Heaton did."

"It's the Tony Franklin offense. The goal is to try and spread it out and get the ball in space to guys who can make plays."

The spread offense Barnwell plans on running is largely predicated on the quick passing game with a lot of short, horizontal throws, but don't be surprised to see the Bobcats air it out down the field on a regular basis.

"You've gotta be able to throw the deep ball and stretch the field vertically," Barnwell said. "Then that will open up the quick passing game. Hopefully we can throw deep at least eight times a game, just to give the defense something to think about. Even if we go 0-for-8, we want to make the defense be able to cover those vertical routes."

Asked if Phil Campbell would look to play at a fast pace on offense, Barnwell smiled.

"It'll be as fast-paced as our kids can tolerate," he said.

### Running Backs

**Position coaches: Kevin Barnwell, Jordan Benford**

The straight hand-off probably won't be a staple of the Bobcats' offense, but when they do look to run the ball they'll likely give it to sophomore Austen Baker.

"He's gonna be a good player," Barnwell said of Baker, who has been sidelined this summer with an elbow injury.

Freshman Blaine Goodson is also in the backfield mix, and rugged junior Imer Ordonez provides a physical, between-the-tackles presence after rushing for 119 yards and two touchdowns last season on 39 carries.

### Receivers

**Position coaches: Lucas Gilbert, Jonathan Raper**

This version of the spread often features four receivers—an X (split end), a Y (tight end), a Z (flanker) and an H (fullback or inside receiver in the four-wide look)—and Barnwell sees great potential in a promising group that goes eight or nine deep. Junior Ben Williams, who caught 10 passes for 124 yards and two touchdowns last season, will rotate between X and Z. He's been out all summer after breaking his collarbone in the spring game in May, but Williams is ahead of the game from a mental standpoint.

"He's a really bright guy," Barnwell said. "He knows every route. He's actually learned the concepts of what we're doing, and during our seven-on-seven he goes with us and tells the players the routes. He helps me a lot. He'll be over on one side of the field, and one of our coaches will be on the other side."

"He'll be a big piece of the puzzle. He's got a good attitude, he works hard, and he plays hard. He never wants to come out, and he never complains. He's a great team guy."

Phil Campbell's leading returning receiver is sophomore Ridge Raper, who caught 19 passes for 157 yards and a touchdown last season. He'll spend a lot of time at the H-receiver spot, among others.

**"You've gotta be able to throw the deep ball and stretch the field vertically," Barnwell said. "Then that will open up the quick passing game. Hopefully we can throw deep at least eight times a game, just to give the defense something to think about. Even if we go 0-for-8, we want to make the defense be able to cover those vertical routes."**

"Ridge is a sure-handed guy. In seven-on-seven, he's come up with some big catches," Barnwell said. "He's gonna be a guy we lean heavily on and ask a lot from. We'll use him at multiple spots, and he'll play on both sides of the ball. He's gonna play some quarterback, play some receiver, maybe even play some tight end. He understands the game so well, and he can play a lot of positions."

Senior Seth Baker figures to see significant snaps at the X-receiver spot.

"He works really hard," Barnwell said of Baker. "I push those seniors, because I want them to be our leaders. Seth's been really receptive, and he's got a very good attitude."

Fellow seniors Trent Gonzales, Ty Leindecker and Nate Owens are also expected to contribute at receiver. There's plenty of young blood, too, starting with freshman Andrew Green, an East Franklin product.

"He's got a good attitude and a really bright future, once he learns the system and has confidence in his abilities," Barnwell said of Green. "We really think he's gonna be a great player before he graduates. He's got the skill set. It's there. He's growing, and he's gonna be a really tall kid. He's gonna be a good one if he stays with it."

Barnwell feels the same way about John Randle Herring, another freshman poised to make an immediate impact.

"He's another guy with a really bright future," Barnwell said. "He's gonna be

See 'WORK,' page 16

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## 'WORK,' from page 15

a player. He plays hard, and he wants to play. We're gonna count on him a good bit. We're trying to let him play defensive end, and he's really good over there. But through watching our seven-on-seven stuff, he's gonna have to play some offense, too. He's played some H and some Y for us, and he even played some Z. He played it all day yesterday [at a seven-on-seven] and played it well."

Speedy sophomore Trey Leindecker (Ty's younger brother) could be yet another playmaker at the receiver position.

"He's gonna be a special type of player at some point in time, if he'll stick with it and do the things we ask him to do," Barnwell said of Trey. "We're working on trying to teach all these guys how to eat and take care of their bodies, how to lift and have proper nutrition. Trey's a fast guy, and he's gonna be a guy who helps us on both sides of the ball."

"We don't have a lot of linemen. We will try to do some downhill stuff, but we're gonna have to use a lot of receivers and try and spread people out."

### Offensive Line

**Position coaches: Darby Allison, Montre McCulloch (volunteer coach in the spring)**

A lack of experience and depth up front is something the Bobcats are working hard to address.

"We're trying to get our kids up front to play with an edge," Barnwell said, "with toughness, to be more man than the other team."

There is experience on the interior of the line, where veteran guards Kaleb Solis (a junior) and Dakota Mansell (a senior Barnwell says the team is counting on for "physicality") both return. They'll play alongside sophomore center Eli Smith, a Russellville transfer.

"He's doing a good job of working on getting stronger," Barnwell said of Smith. "He's pulling double-duty as far as workouts go, doing two a day. He's really worked to improve his strength, and he's come a long way. He knows the game, and he understands what we're trying to accomplish up front at the center position."

Logan Hill, a senior who did not play last season, is holding down one tackle spot, with promising sophomore Johnson Lee at the other.

"He's gonna be a good player if he stays with it," Barnwell said of Lee. "We're counting on him a good bit. He's a stronger kid."

Senior Joseph Reynolds and sophomores Justus Stancil and Kendrick Baker are also in the mix for playing time up front.

Barnwell will call plays for the Bobcats, but he doesn't necessarily see that as a permanent arrangement. He mentioned his desire to see assistant coaches like Gilbert, Raper and Benford eventually assume at least some of the play-calling duties.

"They're still working to learn my terminology and some of the things I want to do," Barnwell said last week. "Hopefully, at some point, I'd like to see them progress to where they actually call the plays and I can be more of a manager of the overall program, instead of me calling the offensive plays. We're almost there. They've been really receptive."

"Everything we talk about, they write it down. They're learning it so they can teach the kids. I'm the one who's pushing the kids a little bit, and they come back and explain everything."



Kevin Barnwell

### Phil Campbell Bobcats 2018 Varsity Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
8/24	OPEN
8/31	vs. RED BAY
9/7	at Lexington*
9/14	at Clements*
9/21	vs. VINA
9/28	at Phillips
10/5	vs. WESTMINSTER*
10/12	vs. LAUDERDALE CO.*
10/19	at East Lawrence*
10/26	vs. COLBERT HEIGHTS*
11/1	at Hackleburg

\*-Class 3A, Region 8 opponent  
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### Defensive Line

**Position coaches: David Palmer, Trevor Allison**

Barnwell said he expects the Bobcats to alternate between using three and four down linemen, but they will base out of a four-man front. Either

way, they plan to lean heavily—pun intended—on massive senior Dustin Orrick in the middle of the line.

"He's gonna help us a lot if he stays with it," Barnwell said. "They call him Cornbread. Dustin is 6'7 and probably somewhere between 350 and 400 pounds. He's gonna play nose guard for us, and once we get him where he can go both ways he'll play on the offensive line, too."

Joining Orrick up front will be sophomore defensive tackle Jeremiah Malone, who could also see snaps on the offensive line. Senior Logan Hill and freshman John Randle Herring will handle the end spots, with junior Eli Jackson working in at both defensive end and linebacker.

### Linebackers

**Position coaches: Jonathan Raper, Jordan Benford**

Senior Dakota Mansell, the team's leading returning tackler, brings experience to the middle of the defense after making 42 stops a year ago. Sophomore Isaiah Oliver, a new arrival from East Franklin, also figures into the mix at linebacker, as does senior Ty Leindecker. Promising freshman Boone Swinney projects as the starter at Sam linebacker and, according to Barnwell, just needs a little seasoning to become a steady playmaker.

"He's gonna be a good player before he graduates," Barnwell said of Swinney. "Once he learns his angles, as far as how to take the correct angle when you're making a tackle, he's gonna be good. That's just something you have to work on and be taught."

Sophomores Justin Jewell and Daniel Potts (another East Franklin product) offer depth at linebacker.

### Defensive Backs

**Position coach: Lucas Gilbert**

Sophomores Ridge Raper and Austen Baker project as the starting safeties, with Jewell and freshman Austin Douthit also expected to contribute. Junior Ben Williams and freshman Blaine Goodson will see time at corner, along with newcomer Rowdy Elliott, a sophomore who has caught Barnwell's eye.

"Playing corner, there's a lot of responsibility that goes with that, but he's coming along really well," Barnwell said of Elliott. "He works hard, and he's eager to learn."

Barnwell, who said he plans to intensify the team's conditioning work toward the end of this month as fall camp approaches, raved about the job Phil Campbell alum Jordan Benford has been doing as the team's strength coach.

"He's done a great job with that. I can't say enough about how much he's helped us in the weight room," Barnwell said, adding that Brian Scott has been working with Benford as another strength coach. "The kids have really bought into the strength program. We're not where we want to be, by any means, but we have gotten a little bit stronger."

Barnwell's arrival coincides with Phil Campbell's transition from Class 2A to 3A following the latest round of reclassification and realignment by the AHSAA. The Bobcats will compete in a seven-team region along with Clements, Colbert Heights, East Lawrence, Lauderdale County, Lexington and Westminster Christian.

"Colbert Heights, Coach [Taylor] Leathers does a great job there," Barnwell said. "They're gonna be pretty good year in and year out as long as he's there. Westminster, I don't know a lot about them, but I did see some film of them from last year, and they looked pretty good. You have new coaches at

See 'WORK,' page 17

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## 'WORK', from page 16

East Lawrence and Clements, and I think those guys are gonna do a good job. Lauderdale County is gonna be Lauderdale County—a very good, hard-nosed, hit-you-in-the-mouth type of team. Lexington is always traditionally the same type of team as Lauderdale County.  
"It's definitely a tough region."

### Class 3A, Region 8 Alignment for 2018-19

Team	2017 Record	Playoffs
Clements Colts•	4-6	DNQ
Colbert Heights Wildcats•	11-2	Quarterfinals
East Lawrence Eagles•	0-10	DNQ
Lauderdale County Tigers•	6-5	First Round
Lexington Golden Bears•	3-7	DNQ
Phil Campbell Bobcats#	1-9	DNQ
Westminster Christian Wildcats*	6-5	First Round

•-Remained in Class 3A, Region 8  
#-Reclassified from Class 2A  
\*-Reclassified from Class 4A

Phil Campbell kept long-standing rivals Red Bay, Phillips and Hackleburg on the non-region schedule, adding a game with Vina (at home on September 21). In addition to Red Bay and Vina, the Bobcats will also host region opponents Westminster Christian, Lauderdale County and Colbert Heights this season. They will travel to face Lexington, Clements, Phillips, East Lawrence and Hackleburg.

"It's a challenging schedule," Barnwell said, "but we feel like it's manageable as long as we continue to work on ourselves and do the things we need to do."

As far as Barnwell is concerned, Phil Campbell's to-do list starts with developing a keen competitive spirit that doesn't falter when the going gets tough—as it's bound to do with such a young team at the outset of a major rebuilding process.

"We're gonna take it one game at a time, of course," Barnwell said. "Against every team in the region, we're gonna have to bring it, week in and week out. That's why we're pushing our guys so hard and teaching them to compete on every single play. We want our guys to buy into the idea that you don't compete based on the situation; you compete on *that* play, the one that's about to happen. If you do that, at the end of the game everything sort of works itself out. There are too many ups and downs if you're competing based on the situation you're in and not just competing as hard as you can on every play."

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"There are too many ups and downs if you're competing based on the situation you're in and not just competing as hard as you can on every play."

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### 'DAVIS,' from page 13

Davis's emotional reaction was understandable. For years she had watched as players she knew and competed against were selected to join the state's other top rising seniors in the North-South game, and she had long dreamed of one day receiving the honor herself.

"Ever since I moved up to play varsity ball, I've always wanted to do it," Davis said. "I saw [former Red Bay standouts] Allie Kennedy and Darby Madden and [former Lauderdale County star] Allie Craig [Cruce] getting to play in it, and it motivated me so much."

Davis's dream will become a reality Wednesday night in Montgomery when she suits up as one of 15 players for the North squad at the Dunn-Oliver Acadome on the campus of Alabama State University. The girls All-Star game is scheduled to tip off at 6 p.m., with the boys to follow at 7:30.

Davis, a 5'11 forward who earned second-team All-State honors in Class 2A last season after leading the Lady Bobcats to their first Final Four berth in 31 years, said she's thrilled to raise the profile of Phil Campbell girls basketball even further with her All-Star selection.

"That's really awesome," said Davis, who averaged a team-best 13.8 points per game as a junior and has already scored 1,334 points in her varsity career. "It just gets our school out there for people to see. First we went to the Final Four, and now this. It's pretty awesome."

Craig Thomas, Phil Campbell's fifth-year head coach, said his program has already felt the ripple effects from Davis's All-Star achievement.

"We got invited to several camps this summer because her name was in that North-South All-Star Game," said Thomas, who will be in attendance at the Acadome Wednesday night. "Having her down there caught the eye of a lot of college coaches."

Davis has been turning heads with her performance on the court for quite a while now. A three-time first-team All-County selection by the *Free Press*, she already has a scholarship offer on the table from Snead State. She's also drawing interest from Faulkner University and plans to take a look at West Alabama.

"We'll just have to wait and see how all that works out," Davis said last Wednesday while traveling home from Kentucky, where her Alabama Southern Starz AAU team had just finished winning its bracket in a showcase tournament.

In the meantime, Davis still has plenty of business to attend to before her high school career winds down. For starters, there's this week's All-Star

Game, which offers tremendous exposure and an opportunity to measure herself against the state's best.

"It'll be good for her," said Thomas, who has coached Davis for the entirety of her varsity career at PCHS. "It'll help her continue to mature. Abby, over this summer, has really matured. You can see it in our workouts and everything we've been doing. Playing in a game like this will help her a lot. The more competition you face, the better you get."

Davis is no stranger to elite competition. She's played travel ball with the Southern Starz since the summer before her ninth-grade year, and several of her AAU teammates (including Pisgah guard Annie Hughes, an Auburn commit, and Hartselle guard Moriah Taylor, who has an offer from Jacksonville State) will also be suiting up for the North squad in Montgomery this week.

"Everybody on the whole team is a great ball player," Davis. "That helps a lot, just gaining the knowledge that some of these other players have. It shows me how much competition there really is out there."

**"It's gonna be very upsetting, just to know I'm not gonna be able to put that Phil Campbell jersey on again after this year," Davis said. "That's why we're all shooting to win state. That's all I've wanted to do since my eighth-grade year. Might as well wrap up your last year with a state championship if you haven't done it in between."**

Speaking of competition, the North-South game isn't entirely about exposure. They do plan on keeping score, after all, and Davis has every intention of helping her squad come out on top.

"Yes, it's very important," she said of winning the game, "but I'm a very competitive person. Everything I do, I wanna win, even if it's just a card game we're playing at night or whatever."

That competitive spirit is what drives Davis as she approaches the finish line at Phil Campbell. She yearns to help the Lady Bobcats take the next step after a season in which they won 26 games, their first county title since 1998, their first area championship since 1993 and their first-ever Northwest Regional championship in Hanceville before falling to Samson in the state semifinals.

The clock is ticking it, and Davis hears it loud and clear.

"It's gonna be very upsetting, just to know I'm not gonna be able to put that Phil Campbell jersey on again after this year," she said. "That's why we're all shooting to win state. That's all I've wanted to do since my eighth-grade year. Might as well wrap up your last year with a state championship if you haven't done it in between."

"We lost a few good girls, but everybody is shooting not just to make it to the Final Four but to win state. That's what we all want to do. We want to win every tournament we play in. We want to win county back-to-back, area back-to-back, and get back to Birmingham again. We want to finish strong."

If this summer has been any indication, Phil Campbell's girls are poised to handle their jump to Class 3A just fine. The Lady Bobcats took down Class 4A powerhouse Deshler in June at a UNA camp, where they also posted impressive wins over Class 7A programs Grissom and Huntsville. They knocked off Class 5A Fairview at a play date at Wallace-Hanceville, where they hope to return next February to pursue another regional championship.

"It all went really good this summer," Davis said. "We had some really big wins. We had some *great* wins."

Asked if she thought Phil Campbell would be able to hang in Class 3A, Davis didn't hesitate.

"We think we will be able to," she said.

Thomas agrees, particularly if Davis continues to ascend. The Lady

See 'DAVIS,' page 19

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## 'DAVIS' from page 18

Bobcats must overcome the loss of three starters (Darby Elliott, Chloe Roberson and Dakota Elliott) from last year's 26-6 team, but Davis leads a strong group of returners that also includes junior guard Kallie Allen (the reigning *Free Press* Player of the Year) and sophomore guard Caitlyn Mills (who earned Newcomer of the Year honors from the *Free Press* as a freshman last season).

Davis scored in double-figures 24 times in 32 games for Phil Campbell last season, topping the 20-point mark on six occasions. She also pulled down a team-high 6.9 rebounds per game, knocked down a career-high 16 threes, ranked third on the team in assists, and made her presence known defensively with 48 steals and 40 blocked shots. Still, Thomas believes Davis's final year in a Phil Campbell uniform could be her best.

"Yes it can," he said. "Like I said, Abby has matured over the summer a lot. She's playing well right now. I'm hoping she keeps continually getting better and better. She's a really young senior, age-wise. She really ought to be an 11th-grader, as far as that goes."

"Just watching her as a coach, Abby is just now starting to mature a little bit. This should be her best year, just because she's a little older."

Competing with and against some of the top prep post players in the Southeast has led Davis to the conclusion that her collegiate future may lie a little further away from the basket. [On the North roster alone, five players stand at least 6'1.]

"We just played a *really* big team," Davis said last Wednesday as she traveled home from her tournament with the Starz, for whom she typically plays either the three or four spot. "It shows me that I have to work on my guard game, because I'm not big enough to play down low."

At the next level, maybe not. For now, though? Thomas is not planning a position change for his most experienced player.

"I'll primarily leave her in the post. She's the tallest kid I've got, and she's a rebounding machine," Thomas said of Davis, who is just two seasons removed from averaging a double-double with 15.2 points and 10.2 boards per game as a sophomore in 2016-17. "We can't afford to go from getting 40 rebounds a game to getting 30 just by moving her. Being a small school, we need her in the post, but she can play the guard spot. She dribbles well enough and shoots well enough to play the guard spot."



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

**FINAL COUNTDOWN** - With 1,334 points scored at the varsity level, Davis is closing in on her career goal of 1,500. She's also aiming to lead Phil Campbell back to Birmingham for a second straight season.

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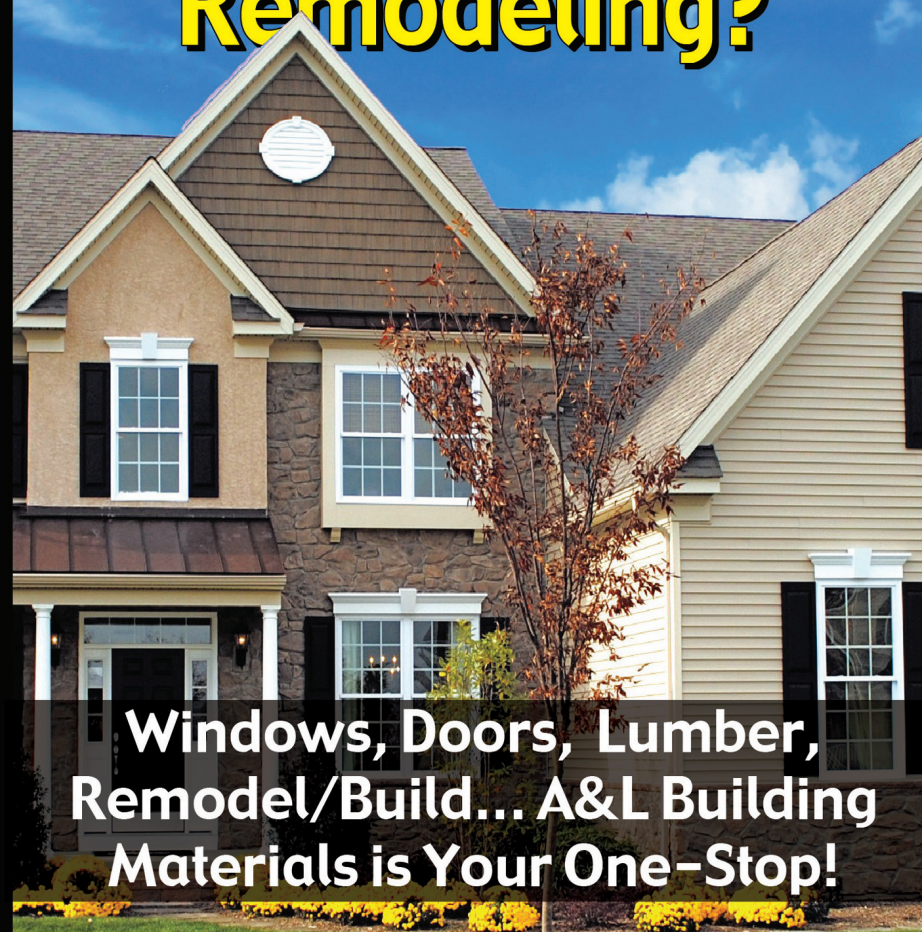
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