



Pd. Pol. Adv. By: Eddie Britton, 4771 Hwy 524, Russellville, AL 35653

PRSR7 STD US POSTAGE
PAID Franklin Free Press
113 Washington Ave. NW
Russellville, AL 35653

Candidates for District 7 share vision with voters

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

In order to better inform voters in House District Seven, which encompasses eastern Franklin County, the *Free Press* submitted questions to the two candidates, Democrat Ken Brackins and Republican Poncey Robertson.

This is a review of their answers about issues important to the people of House District Seven: *FFP: Please tell us about yourself, your family and your reasons for seeking elected office:*

Robertson: "I was born and raised in Blount County, Alabama. After receiving an honorable discharge from the United States Air Force in 1990, I worked as a youth minister and in local law enforcement in Arkansas. In 1994 I moved back to Alabama, where I served at the Decatur

Police Department for more than 24 years. I retired from Decatur PD as a lieutenant in May of 2018.

"I am married to my lovely wife of 14 years, Kristi. I have two sons named Jacob and Daniel and two granddaughters, Olivia and Blakely Mae.

"I am running for office because I believe our state succeeds when it adheres to conservative principles that keep taxes low and government out of the way. Our area has seen some gains in the way of new jobs and wage growth, but I believe we can do better, and I want to be a part of our community's future success."

Brackins: "I was born in 1958 and raised in rural Lawrence County. I graduated from Speake High School in 1976 with a basketball



Brackins



Robertson

See 'CANDIDATES,' Page 12

Johnny Mack MORROW STATE SENATE

Pd. Pol. by Morrow for Senate, 1895 Hwy. 28, Red Bay, 35692

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The front of this building at 127 North Jackson Avenue collapsed last Wednesday.

Collapsed building now city property

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As he opened an emergency meeting of the Russellville City Council late last Thursday afternoon, mayor David Grissom said a prayer of thanks to God for watching over Wayne Miller and his grandson when Miller's North Jackson Avenue building collapsed last Wednesday afternoon.

Miller, who was working on renovations on the building Wednesday and had his young grandson with him, was able to escape injury when the front of the building suddenly collapsed.

Twenty-four hours later, Miller signed a deed transferring ownership of the property at 127 North Jackson Avenue to the City of Russellville, effective immediately. The property, which was in the name of Miller's church, New Beginnings Worship Center, Inc., now becomes the legal responsibility of the

See 'BUILDING,' Page 10

Dr. Larry Stutts

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Patricia Elizabeth Castro Bonilla, Russellville, age 23
Died Sunday, October 21, 2018. Funeral mass held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church. Akins Funeral Home assisted the family.

Thomas James Campbell, Phil Campbell, age 60
Died Monday, October 22, 2018. A memorial service was to be held at a later date. Akins Funeral Home assisted the family.

Glenda Matthews Duncan, Phil Campbell, age 63
Died Thursday, October 25, 2018. Funeral held at Blue Springs Baptist Church. Interment in Blue Springs Cemetery. Akins Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Kenneth James Parker, Tuscumbia, age 45
Died Thursday, October 25, 2018. Funeral will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment will be in Butler Cemetery at Mt. Joy in Phil Campbell.

William Jason Rollins, Phil Campbell, age 39
Died Sunday, October 27, 2018. Funeral held at Lawler Chapel Church in Phil Campbell. Interment in Liberty Hill Cemetery. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.

Support Your Local Democratic Candidates Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018 in the General Election!

State Senator District 6:
Johnny Mack Morrow

State Representative District 18:
Eddie Britton

FC Board of Education, District No. 5
Ralph Winchester

State Representative District 7:
Kenneth A. Brackins

Franklin County Coroner
Elzie F. Malone

Unopposed Democratic Candidates:

Franklin County Circuit Judge
Terry Dempsey

Franklin County Circuit Clerk
Anita Morgan Scott

Franklin County Sheriff
Shannon Oliver

Franklin County District Judge
Paula Bohannon McDowell

FC Board of Education, District No. 1
Ralton Baker

Paid political advertising by Franklin County Democratic Party, Washington Ave, Russellville, AL 35653



FRANKLIN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



cases, but following these steps will lead you to financial peace!

Dave

The key is serving

Dear Dave,
I just accepted my first job in sales. In your mind, what is the key to becoming an excellent salesperson?

Bobbie

Retirement or debt?

Dear Dave,
Do you think I should lower the amount I'm contributing to my 401(k) so I can pay off my house and my truck?

Jamie

Dear Jamie,
If you're following my plan, the first thing you should do is set aside a beginner emergency fund of \$1,000. That's Baby Step 1. Next comes Baby Step 2, which means paying off all your debt except for your car. This would include your car. During this time, you should temporarily stop any kind of investing and retirement contributions.

Once your mortgage is the only debt you have left, it's on to Baby Step 3. This means you start saving money and growing your beginner emergency fund into a fully funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses.

When that's done, you can attack Baby Step 4—investing 15 percent of your pre-tax income for retirement. In your case, that would mean re-starting the contributions to your 401(k).

The rest of the plan goes like this. Baby Step 5 is putting money into your kids' college funds, if you have kids, while Baby Step 6 is putting everything you can scrape together towards paying off the house early. After that comes the real fun. Baby Step 7 is the point where you build wealth and give like crazy.

It may take a little time in some

Dear Bobbie,
The key to becoming a great salesperson can be summed up in one simple word—serving. I'm not talking about being subservient. I'm talking about always giving 110 percent towards ensuring customers and potential customers are served well. It's all about being proactive.

Serving means you believe in what you represent, and you're excited about what you have to offer. It means you're determined to give people a great experience. If an issue happens to arise, you'll take care of it quickly and completely. You'll do this in a way that will make them forget it ever happened.

Really, serving is an attitude. You can pressure people if you want, but that's going to lead to a dull and frustrating life of one-shot deals. But if you *serve people well*, you'll have clients for life, and they'll send their friends and associates your way.

Make helping people your first order of business, Bobbie. If you do that, you'll never have to worry about money!

Dave

**Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 14 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

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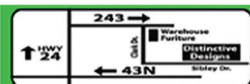
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Honey Do: Halloween

IT'S HALLOWEEN!! As children and accompanying adults make the rounds through the neighborhood or the local "trunk-or-treat," it's very important to "see and be seen."

All kids love flashlights, and there is no better addition to any costume. Small flashlights can be carried easily or may even be attached to costumes with a velcro strap around the wrist or clipped to a belt.

Choose one that is cheap but gives off a good light. Also, make sure the flashlight has a 'flame retardant' label.

Always trick-or-treat at homes you know or at locally sponsored events. Adults should always inspect treats before the kids eat them.

Consider incorporating glow sticks or reflective stickers and tape into the costume. These really add to a

child being visible in the late evening hours. Bags or plastic pumpkins that are reflective are a great idea.

Masks should fit the face well. Consider using make-up or face paint instead.

Always trick-or-treat at homes you know or at locally sponsored events. Adults should always inspect treats before the kids eat them.

It's a really good idea to take your child's picture with your phone before going out. Take one with the mask and one without it, just in case someone gets misplaced.

I hope everyone has a boo-tiful Halloween! 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.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at franklinfreepress.net!



FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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Correction Policy

The *Franklin Free Press* strives for excellence and accuracy, and we will be pleased to correct any error in our newspaper. To request a correction or clarification, call or e-mail our office.

Letters to the editor

The *Franklin Free Press* is published by hometown people, for hometown people. We urge contributions of all kinds, including guest columns, picture submissions, cartoons or letters to the editor. Send any letters to our office via U.S. Postal Service or e-mail, and we will gladly publish them. Letters must be signed and contain the hometown and phone number of the author. The *Franklin Free Press* reserves the right to edit letters for style, length and content.

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Community support is crucial

To our Russellville community:

I just want to take a moment to offer my sincere thanks for the efforts being made to truly support our students on the field, off the field, in the classroom, on the stage and in all the activities and academic opportunities they pursue. Our community has always been supportive, but there's just something special about the pride that's been shown these past several months.

And I'm here to tell you...it's definitely making a difference.

As a community member, you might not think you have much of an influence on the local schools or the students there, but I have personally seen the ways our community makes an impact. When we have excited fans in the stands on Friday nights cheering for our team, our band and our cheerleaders, you can see how much it means to these students for their hard work and dedication to be validated.

When members of local businesses take time to come into our career technical classrooms to share real-life experiences and knowledge, you can see how much it means to these students to know people in the community want them to succeed. When you support a student's fundraiser for their team or organization, they know they have people in their corner.

When positive news about our students' achievements is shared on social media, our students see that and are encouraged to keep up the good work. And recently there was an amazing show of pride and support through our homecoming activities!

We had a huge attendance for our homecoming parade; there was so much spirit displayed at the community-wide bonfire and pep rally; our alumni

who returned for reunions were able to have a great time reminiscing; and that special Golden Tiger Pride seemed to be felt wherever you went.

When our students see all these things and have the support of the community behind them, it shows. They know that what they're doing and what they're achieving and what they're learning is being seen. They know there's a certain level of pride that comes with the tradition of excellence our teachers and administrators strive to instill in them. They feel that pride out in the community, and they strive to live up to it.

Personally seeing these things taking place at our schools and in our classrooms and on the field is an amazing thing to be a part of.

I have seen schools that don't have the kind of community pride we have here in Russellville, and you can just tell that's the spark that's missing.

So thank you, all of you, for being a great support system for our teachers and students, for cheering them on, for celebrating their victories, for helping them see the lessons in the losses, for supporting them in a myriad of ways, for showing that Golden Tiger Spirit and for helping us here at RCS cultivate well-rounded students who can turn around and take pride in their community the way their community takes pride in them.

As always, it's GREAT to be a Golden Tiger!

Heath Grimes
Superintendent
Russellville City Schools



Heath Grimes
RCS Sup't

Four statewide amendments on Nov. 6 ballot

Local voters to decide on 30-year extension of one-cent sales tax

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When Alabama voters head to the polls on Tuesday, November 6, in addition to state and local races, they will decide the fate of four statewide amendments.

Additionally, Franklin County voters will decide on a local amendment that deals with an issue quite familiar to them.

Franklin County Proposed Amendment Number One would continue the one-cent sales tax already in effect in Franklin County for two years to 30 years. That one-cent sales tax, which generates approximately \$2 million annually, is divided to allot 25 percent to the Franklin County Commission for "costs associated with construction, maintenance and repair of roads and bridges in Franklin County, not to include use for salaries, personnel costs, or the purchase or lease of new equipment," and 75 percent to the two public school districts in the county, Franklin County Schools and Russellville City Schools, proportionately by student enrollment.

Voters in Franklin County approved the measure in the June 2018 primary for an additional two years. The November 6 amendment would extend the tax for 30 years, which school officials say would allow them to use the tax revenue as leverage for capital building projects.

"I want to thank the people of Franklin County for renewing this tax in June. The importance of this tax to the Franklin County School system is immeasurable," said Franklin County superintendent of education Greg Hamilton. "With the tax renewed for 30 years, that will allow us to have a revenue stream to look at future capital projects.

"I want to reiterate, this is not a new tax. It's only a proposed extension of the tax that has been in place since 2010."

As far as the statewide amendments go,

Amendment Number One deals with the issue of the Ten Commandments being displayed in Alabama. Presently, the state constitution doesn't address the Ten Commandments, but Amendment One would provide that a person is free to worship God as he or she chooses and that a person's religious beliefs will have no bearing on his or her civil or political rights.

Additionally, Amendment One would allow the display of the Ten Commandments on public property, so long as the display meets constitutional requirements (for example, being displayed with historical or educational items). Additionally, the amendment provides that no public funds shall be used to defend this amendment in court.

Voters in Franklin County approved the [one-cent sales tax] in the June 2018 primary for an additional two years. The November 6 amendment would extend the tax for 30 years, which school officials say would allow them to use the tax revenue as leverage for capital building projects.

Voting 'YES' would be supporting the addition of these items in the Alabama Constitution, and a 'NO' vote would be in support of no such language relating to the Ten Commandments being in the Alabama Constitution.

Amendment Two addresses the issue of whether the Alabama Constitution should address the rights of unborn life or the rights of unborn children, as well as the issue of whether state funds may be used to fund abortions. A 'YES' vote for Amendment Two states you believe it should be public policy to support legal protections for unborn children and that our state constitution does not protect the right to have an abortion or to require the funding of an abortion.

A 'NO' vote means you support no such language in the Alabama Constitution related to rights of the unborn or abortion funding.

Amendment Three deals with how members of

the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama are selected. Currently, the board is composed of 16 people, with three from the Congressional District that includes the Tuscaloosa campus, two from each of the other six Congressional Districts and the governor and state superintendent of education.

There is speculation that Alabama will lose a Congressional District in 2020, down to six, which would reduce the number of board members to 14.

A "YES" vote for Amendment Three would mean you support keeping the method board members are chosen now, and future changes in Congressional Districts would not impact board selection. Also, the state superintendent of education would no longer have an automatic seat on the board, and trustees may now serve beyond their 70th birthday.

A 'NO' vote means that future changes to Alabama's Congressional Districts will impact the number on the Board of Trustees, the state superintendent of education will remain a member, and trustees may not serve on the board after their 70th birthday.

Finally, Amendment Four deals with how a vacancy in either the Alabama House of Representatives or Senate is filled.

A 'YES' vote for Amendment Four means you support the proposal that if a vacancy occurs after October 1 in the year preceding the general election term for that seat, it will remain vacant until the next general election and the governor will no longer schedule a special election to fill the seat.

A 'NO' vote means you support the existing policy that requires the governor to schedule a special election any time a vacancy occurs in the state legislature.

Sample ballots for the November 6 election are available at the security check-in as you enter the Franklin County Courthouse.

Contested races scarce within Franklin County

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As a result of fewer candidates qualifying to seek elected office, Franklin County voters will see a number of unopposed local races when they go to the polls Tuesday, November 6.

In fact, there are only two contested in-county races. They include Franklin County Board of Education District Five, where Democratic nominee Ralph Winchester faces independent qualifier Kacey Hester Johnston, and Franklin County Coroner, where Democratic incumbent Elzie Malone faces Republican challenger Charles Adcox.

Unopposed local races include Franklin County Board of Education, District One (Democrat Ralton Baker), Franklin County District Judge (Democrat Paula Malone), Franklin County Circuit Clerk (Democrat Anita Morgan Scott), Franklin County Probate Judge (Republican incumbent Barry Moore), Franklin County Circuit Judge (Democratic incumbent Terry Dempsey) and Franklin County Sheriff (Democratic incumbent Shannon Oliver).

The House District 18 race features Democratic nominee Eddie Britton and Republican nominee

Jamie Kiel, although that district goes beyond Franklin County.

In the House District 7 race, which includes eastern Franklin County, Republican Poncey Robertson faces Democratic nominee Ken Brackins.

In Senate District Six, Republican incumbent Larry Stutts is matched up against Democratic nominee Johnny Mack Morrow.

There are only two contested in-county races: Franklin County Board of Education District Five, where Democratic nominee Ralph Winchester faces independent qualifier Kacey Hester Johnston; and Franklin County Coroner, where Democratic incumbent Elzie Malone faces Republican challenger Charles Adcox.

Franklin voters will also decide on a local amendment that would extend the one-cent sales tax that benefits public education (75 percent) and local bridge and road repairs and maintenance (25 percent) for a 30-year period. The measure was on the June 5 ballot and passed for a two-year renewal.

Contested federal and state races include:

•Lieutenant Governor (Will Boyd, Democrat, and

Will Ainsworth, Republican)

•United States Representative Fourth Congressional District (Robert Aderholt, Republican incumbent, and Lee Auman, Democrat)

•Attorney General (Joseph Siegelman, Democrat, and Steve Marshall, Republican incumbent)

•Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court (Bob Vance, Jr., Democrat, and Tom Parker, Republican)

•Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Place No. 4 (Donna Wesson Smalley, Democrat, and Jay Mitchell, Republican)

•Secretary of State (Heather Milam, Democrat, and John Merrill, Republican incumbent)

•State Auditor (Miranda Karrine Joseph, Democrat, and Jim Zeigler, Republican incumbent)

•Public Service Commission Place No. 1 (Cara McClure, Democrat, and Jeremy H. Oden, Republican incumbent)

•Public Service Commission Place No. 2 (Kari Powell, Democrat, and Republican incumbent Chris Beeker, Jr.)

Polls across Alabama will be open on Tuesday, November 6, from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

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What's Happening

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

Russellville Masonic Lodge 371 is selling Thanksgiving hams. Hams are \$30 and may be pre-ordered by calling 256-810-1970. Pickup will be Wednesday, November 21 from 8-10 a.m. at the Lodge on Coffee Street.

Belgreen Baptist Church will host Trunk or Treat this Wednesday, October 31 from 6-7:30 p.m. The church is located on Hwy. 24 West in Belgreen. Everyone is welcome.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833, will meet Thursday, November 1 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center on Ash Avenue. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For more info, call 256-324-2317. Everyone welcome.

The Shoals Area Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will meet in the Sheffield Room at Park Place (501 N. Montgomery Avenue in Sheffield) this Thursday, November 1 at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Sam Waddell will share his personal healing testimony, plus accounts of healing as a missionary. We believe that God heals spiritually, physically and emotionally. All are welcome.

There will be a bean supper and auction for pastor Tim Smith at Heritage Fellowship Church (11691 Hwy. 43 South in Russellville) this Saturday, November 3, starting at 5 p.m. Funds raised will be used to help with medical expenses for Pastor Smith, who was recently diagnosed with a liver disease. Plates will be \$7 and will include beans, cornbread, coleslaw, slice of onion, dessert and drink. Call 256-366-1146 for more information or to purchase advance tickets!

The November meeting will be the annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner sponsored by American Legion Post 64. The dinner will be Thursday, November 8 at 6:30 p.m. at North Highlands Church of Christ on North Jackson Avenue. All veterans and their families are invited to attend. So we have an idea of how many will attend, please call Grant Atkins at 256-627-2866 or Harry Upton at 256-331-4924.

The Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts in Red Bay announces its first production of the 2018-2019 season, "The Clock Struck Twelve," by James Reach and directed by Georgia Jeffreys. It will be presented on November 8-10, 2018 at 7 p.m. each night and on November 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 each and are on sale now at Community Spirit Bank's Weatherford Centre (303 4th Avenue South, Red Bay, AL 35582). You may go by or call 256-356-9829 from 2-4 p.m. weekdays to purchase or reserve your tickets. For group sales you may also call Beth Hammock at 256-356-9286.

On Saturday, November 10, the first annual Adult Prom (theme: A Night to Remember) will be held at the A.W. Todd Center (201 Washington Avenue SW, Russellville, AL 35653) starting at 7 p.m. This is a formal event. There will be three DJs, a photographer, a red carpet and plenty of fun! Tickets cost \$30 for singles and \$50 for couples. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society and will also be used to help children in the community. For more information or to purchase tickets, call event organizer Tammy West at 256-668-7649.

The Tharptown Volunteer Fire Department will host a gospel concert with Jeff and Sheri Easter on Saturday, November 10 at 6 p.m. at the RHS Auditorium. Jeff Sanford from Decatur will be the opening performer. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5-12 years old. Children under 5 will be admitted free. Please come out and join the Tharptown VFD for this special event.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guest Billy Droze at the Roxy Theatre in Russellville on Saturday, November 10 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.

The annual Veterans Day Parade, sponsored by American Legion Post 64, will be Sunday, November 11 at 2 p.m. It will leave the area by Big Star and travel north up Jackson Avenue through downtown, turn left, and return to the Todd Centre on Washington Ave. All veterans are invited to participate. Meet at the A.W. Todd Centre at 1:30 p.m. to get a ride in a military vehicle or classic car.

The Pebble Community Center (100 County Road 3423, Haleyville, AL 35565) will host a gospel singing featuring Primitive Quartet and Heaven's Mountain Band on Friday, November 16 at 7 p.m. Master of Ceremony will be Jerry Edgil of WBTG Radio. Tickets will cost \$10 at the door. (Children under 12 get in free.) Concessions available to benefit the Community Center. For more information, please call 205-486-3026 or 256-436-0015, or go online to PebbleCommunityCenter.com.

Antioch C.M.E. Church's Outreach Community Ministry will host a FREE chicken stew meal for the community on Saturday, November 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Canteen in downtown Russellville. Please come enjoy a bowl and be blessed! Call 256-874-4105 for more information.

Holly Day will be December 1 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the A.W. Todd Centre. Admission is \$5.00 and includes a slice of pizza and canned drink, cookie decorating, games, entertainment and a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus!

Franklin County Christmas parades will be held according to the following schedule (all begin at 6 p.m.): Red Bay, December 3; Vina, December 4; Russellville, December 6; Phil Campbell, December 13.

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“I DON’T TRUST LARRY STUTTS ANYMORE...”

“Larry Stutts is not only a State Senator. He was my doctor for 20 years. I had a mammogram. It showed small dots of cancer in my right breast. A biopsy confirmed it.

*“I scheduled a mastectomy. It was a very scary time for me. Then Dr. Stutts sent me this card in the mail saying he had looked at my mammogram and it was **NORMAL**. No cancer!*

“But that was wrong. I went ahead and had the mastectomy. It was cancer. How could he send me a card saying everything was normal? Did he even look at the mammogram?

*“Now, after going all through all of that, don’t you think your doctor of 20 years would call or do something? Dr. Larry Stutts **NEVER** followed up and **NEVER** contacted me.*

“I don’t trust Larry Stutts anymore. I don’t trust him as a doctor, and I sure don’t trust him as a State Senator....”



**-- Beth Rhea,
Russellville, AL**

“I am proud to have kept my advertising dollars local through this campaign. From designing my ads to printing my campaign materials, my campaign partnered with local businesses. If we are going to promote local people and job growth, it’s important to keep our business local whenever possible. I ask for your support on Tuesday, November 6th” ~ Eddie Britton



Britton
HOUSE DISTRICT 18

BrittonForAlabama.com

Pd. Pol. Adv. By: Eddie Britton, 4771 Hwy 524, Russellville, AL 35663

NAMC offering tours as part of celebration week

Submitted to the FFP

It’s been nearly eight years in the making, but North Alabama Medical Center is set to open to patients on December 6. The long-awaited opening will be marked with a week-long celebration, November 3-11.

“There’s an air of excitement throughout the entire Shoals community surrounding the opening of the new hospital,” said Russell Pigg, Chief Executive Officer at ECM Hospital/North Alabama Medical Center. “It’s a moment many of us have been waiting for, for quite some time. We want the public to be part of this exciting time in the Shoals, so we’re hosting several events in November. I encourage people to take part in a hospital tour. The tour will take people to areas of the hospital they’ll never be able to go again, like the hybrid cardiovascular operating room and a labor and delivery room. The technology is truly amazing.

“Our tour guides have been trained and are equipped with some really neat facts and figures about North Alabama Medical Center.”

Expectant patients can tour the new facility on Saturday, November 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. On this tour, expectant parents can tour Women’s and Children’s Services at North Alabama Medical Center before the opening of the hospital. To register, visit www.ecmhospital.com by October 22.

On Monday, November 5 and Wednesday, November 7, seniors are invited for 9 a.m. tours of the OASIS Emergency Department and OASIS Unit at NAMC. To RSVP, call 256-768-9320 by October 22.

At 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 7, ministry leaders from area churches will take a tour of NAMC before the hospital opens. The tour will end in a special time of prayer for the physicians, nurses, staff and healing at NAMC. Registration for this tour is closed.

The public is invited to the ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the opening of NAMC at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 10. No registration is required.

Public tours will be available on Saturday, November 10 and Sunday November 11 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., giving the public access to parts of the hospital that will never be open to the public again. Each tour will last approximately 45 minutes. To register, visit www.ecmhospital.com.

Toyland tickets on sale

Submitted to the FFP

RUSSELLVILLE – Even though it’s just starting to feel like fall in Alabama, the Christmas season will be here in the blink of an eye, which is why the time is now to get tickets for the highly popular holiday event that sold out almost every performance last year.

The Roxy’s Legend of Toyland will take place November 28–December 2 at the Historic Roxy Theatre in downtown Russellville. Tickets are available to purchase online at Eventbrite.com. Tickets are also currently on sale at Russellville Florist & Gifts and will be available to purchase each Sunday in November from 1-3 p.m. at the Roxy Theatre box office and before each performance if any tickets are still available.

Organizers expect their year’s event to be even more highly attended after how well the production was received last year.

“This production is a time-honored tradition in this area,” assistant director Hillary Hall said. “Many people have fond memories of watching, and even being part of, Toyland when it was at Northwest-Shoals Community College for many years. Now that the Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council has revived the production, it’s something the whole family can enjoy as we introduce a whole new generation to the holiday magic this show offers.”

Lanny McAlister, director and creator of The Legend of Toyland, said that in addition to the traditional segments that have been beloved for years, they will be offering two new segments this year.

“One of the new segments will be *Beauty and the Beast*, and it’s already become a favorite of mine since we’ve been rehearsing it,” he said. “The other segment takes you to the African savanna, where the circle of life that will be on display will be sure to captivate our audiences.”

For event updates, follow The Roxy’s Legend of Toyland on Facebook.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who provided food, friendship, comfort and support after the recent passing of my daughter, May King. I love you all.

Louise Baker



welcomes
Courtney Bowen, M.D.

to their
Medical
Practice



Undergraduate Degree:
Auburn University,
Auburn, AL

Medical Degree:
University of Alabama
School of Medicine,
Birmingham, AL

Residency:
UAB Huntsville,
Family Medicine
Residency Program,
Huntsville, AL

All of Our Physicians
are Currently...

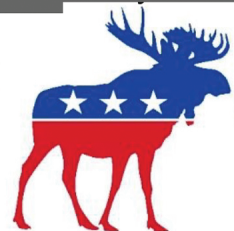
Welcoming
~~Accepting~~
New
Patients

Dr. Bowen grew up in Central Alabama. She and her husband, Corey, are excited to be making their home in the Shoals. Dr. Bowen specializes in Family Medicine and is welcoming new patients.

To schedule an appointment call
(256) 383-4447, ext. 124
www.MedShoals.com



DO THE WRITE THING!

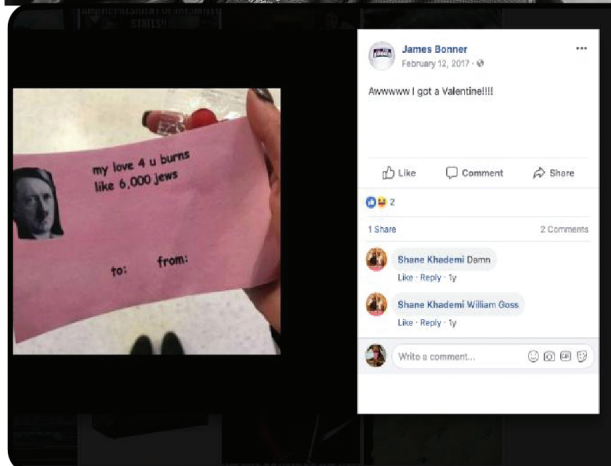


As a kid I picked cotton for a dollar a day. I figure that being a state senator can't be much harder than that. So other than my promise to "Do whatever I can and no more" and I promise to work for a dollar a day and promise you get your money's worth. Not counting Sundays.

17,000 of you in senate 6 - more or less- were disenfranchised in the last

election. You voted for me and had your vote nullified by a not very smart Terry Lathan who fell for an internet scam and fell victim to the Drummond cartel who made hundreds of fake complaints and motions to protect their political investments.

This can't be fixed in the PSC. I has to be fixed in the legislature. Which is why I am asking you to do the WRITE thing.



Paid for By
NOTJO BONNER-TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018
Jeremy H. Oden Campaign - PO Box 9, Eva, AL 35621

FAKE NEWS!!!

First and foremost I want to apologize. Apologize to the voters in Senate Six for letting you down in 2010. If I had done more, worked a little harder, been a little more outgoing and a bit less egocentric

– perhaps I would have been seated in Montgomery and been able to bring some more benefits to the people of Fayette, Marion and Franklin Counties. Perhaps but we will never know.

I do know that I also owe an apology to the people who urged me to run again in 2014 and I declined .. it wasn't in me. My heart wasn't in it. Literally.

I am Jim Bonner, and I approve this

I owe an apology for comments for referring to our governor as "Gay Ivey", and the president of our PSC as "old cigarette lip" in the recent election. Sometimes things just pop out.

But I owe NO APOLOGY for being the first to register and the first to vote for Donald Trump in 2016 at the Republican national convention, nor to apologize for representing Alabama at the 2012 Republican National Convention.

Neither do I have to apologize for the "egregious" comments that the corrupt Terry Lathan, bought by Drummond company, to the ALGOP leadership who censured me and threw your votes for lower utility bills into the file 13 got from a cloned Facebook page.

Both of these are violations of all we hold dear in our democracy.

There must be rules, and if the referee doesn't obey the rules where do we turn?

Changes have to be made if the people are to take back their government.

That's why I am asking you to accept my apology and **DO THE WRITE THING.**

Write in my name in Senate 6, send to Montgomery a man who believes in

Jobs for our rural counties. The city to the north has representation, you don't.

It only takes a moment to vote your conscience and write in the name of a good Republican.

Much has been said of the things done to me by my opponent in the PSC race but one thing you can take to the bank. The comments were not taken from my Facebook page. The narrative was taken from a FAKE Facebook page created by my opponent

Suffice it to say that, if you record every comment made for the last eight years and cut and paste it to tell a story, you can tell any story you like. My lawyers are presently working to personalize the litigation

I remain a Republican and hope that one day the corrupt leadership will be removed and that I will be able to caucus with good Republicans. But until that time, should I win, I will caucus with the Bull Moose Party of one until the Republican ship rights itself.

Do the WRITE thing!

If you find yourself unable to vote for a Democrat for Senate 6. or if an ObGyn doctor who represents only one city in the north of the

write in box and make a mark identifiable as the Jim Bonner who represented you in Cleveland for Donald J Trump

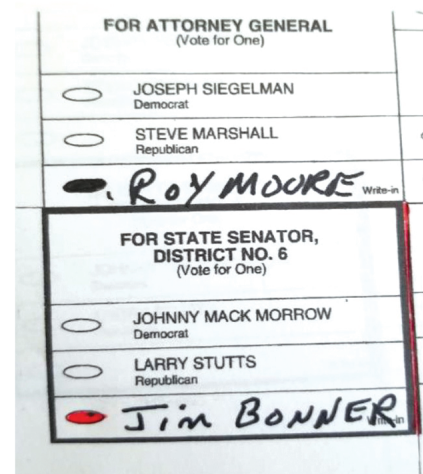
Don't confuse me with discredited Republicans who promised to work for nothing. I'm cheap - not free.

Things that concern me are a Democrat trying to move from the house to the senate. A gerrymandered senate district that likely is in violation of the civil rights act and that certainly disenfranchised all of Marion, Franklin and Fayette county..

And don't forget the free state of Winston!

I am asking as a favor, to yourself...

double down. Write in my name or the name of a qualified person to represent you in Senate 6.



Christmas Open house!

Fri., Nov. 2 9-5 • Sat., Nov. 3 9-5 • Sun., Nov 4 1-5

RUSSELLVILLE
florist & gifts

All
Christmas
Items 20% Off!

New Mark Roberts,
Byers Choice Carolers!
Decor, Gifts, Custom Wreaths
& Arrangements



Come
Enjoy Light
Refreshments



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'BUILDING,' from page 1

City of Russellville, after the city council voted unanimously to accept the gift of the property to the city.

The building was already in the crosshairs of the city, as building inspector Bill Fuller had declared the building unsafe and in need of repair. Miller was working on those required repairs when the front of the structure collapsed last Wednesday afternoon.

The building was originally known as the D.L. Daily Building. New Beginnings Worship Center held church services at the location until a few months ago, Miller said. The building also previously housed the church youth center, the Eagles Nest, Miller said.

With no insurance on the property and insufficient church assets to make the repairs, Miller said deeding the building to the city was the logical choice. He spent much of last Thursday working with Grissom and city attorney Danny McDowell to handle the necessary paperwork.

The council held its emergency meeting late Thursday to receive an update on the building and to approve its transfer to the city.

The building was inspected last Thursday by structural engineer Richard Edmonds, P.E., with the firm of White, Lynn, Collins and Associates, P.C., of Florence.

"He indicated that everything behind the pilaster wall is structurally sound, but from there out to the front has to be replaced," Grissom said. "So with no funding and no insurance to do those repairs, Mr. Miller decided to deed the property to the city. This gives us a head start to move forward quicker. A lot of positive things are going on downtown, and we want to clean it up and move forward as soon as possible."

According to Grissom, Edmonds' initial inspection of the building indicates that repair, rather than demolition, may be the most affordable option. Grissom stressed that it was only a preliminary inspection and city officials would not make a decision about the building's future right away.

What will begin immediately, though, is the cleanup of debris from the front of the property. Street Department manager Shannon Wilson said his department was set to begin the cleanup process to clear the sidewalk Friday morning.

Grissom said the engineer determined that the building's pilaster wall is what prevented it from collapsing in its entirety. A pilaster is a vertical wall

protrusion in classic architecture that gives the appearance of a supporting column.

"He indicated that everything behind the pilaster wall is structurally sound, but from there out to the front has to be replaced," Grissom said. "So with no funding and no insurance to do those repairs, Mr. Miller decided to deed the property to the city.

"This gives us a head start to move forward quicker. A lot of positive things are going on downtown, and we want to clean it up and move forward as soon as possible."

Grissom said there are several options available for the property, including repair or demolition. And the issue of whether the city will retain the property long-term or sell it has not yet been determined.

While cleanup will begin immediately, McDowell stressed the property remains a potential danger.

"It's still a dangerous situation down there as we speak," McDowell said. "That's one reason we wanted to speed up this process, to start doing what needs to be done to make it safe to the public."

In addition to transferring the Jackson Avenue building to the city, New Beginnings Worship Center also deeded property located at 217 Lawrence Street to the city. That property formerly housed a building that was condemned and razed by the city.

"The city has done a remarkable job," Miller said. "Everyone has been so kind and nice to us. I can't express how we've been treated and the concern everyone had for me and my grandson. Your employees are doing a great job."

Councilman David Palmer, who also serves as Franklin County Engineer, said he was pleased to see a quick resolution of the issue, but he wants to make sure city officials have a signed statement from the structural engineer with his recommendations as to what should be done.

One issue that must be determined is, in the event the city razes the building and sells the property, whether the subsequent owner would be eligible for the various tax credits available for improvements made within the city's historical district.

A requirement for those tax credits is that the renovations must protect the historical integrity of the structure.

"We took the information the engineer gave us to get to this point today. There are a lot of options as we move forward," Grissom said.

On Tuesday, November 6th, Johnny Mack Morrow is The RIGHT choice for State Senate District Six:

My Pledge:

- To support a vote on a state lottery.
- To work with everyone, regardless of political affiliation, for the progress of Alabama & District Six.
- To work to create more living wage jobs!
- To continue to protect Alabama's Public Schools & RSA!



Johnny Mack Morrow,
ALFA - endorsed &
Alabama Education Association - endorsed
candidate. (And many others)

**Johnny Mack
MORROW
for State Senate**

'CANDIDATES,' from page 1

scholarship to Northwest Alabama State Jr. College. I am a graduate of UNA with a master's degree in psychology from Alabama A&M. I'm continuing my education at the Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology in Huntsville.

"My first employment was as an outpatient therapist at the Northwest Alabama Mental Health Consortium. In addition, I provided psychological services for the Alabama Department of Corrections at the Hamilton Aging & Infirmed Facility. For the past 30 years I've been a psychology professor at Northwest-Shoals Community College.

"At this stage of my life, I'm healthy, energetic, able to retire from teaching and ready to represent the citizens of District Seven, where I was born, raised, educated and continue to live and teach. I can think of no better, more meaningful way to continue contributing to this area that I call home than to be your voice in Montgomery."

FFP: What is the MOST pressing issue facing voters in House District Seven, and why?

Brackins: "Economic development, along with improving our school and health systems, both mental and physical, are the keys to addressing and resolving our citizens' needs. With my diverse interests, communication skills, positive outlook and knowledge of our needs, I respectfully suggest I'm the person who can provide the leadership required to successfully address those needs, as well as others."

Robertson: "I love Alabama and our region, but we are not without our challenges. I want to hit the ground running as the next State House Representative from District Seven by fighting for our fair share of resources that improve our roads and rebuild our aging infrastructure. Additionally, I want to work with our business community to better understand what they need from Montgomery to help them create better jobs for our residents with higher wages."

FFP: With just the eastern portion of Franklin County in House District Seven, many Franklin County residents feel as though they are an afterthought when it comes to representation. What assurances can you give Franklin County residents that they will be adequately represented in Montgomery by you in House District Seven?

Robertson: "I have lived in our community for more than 24 years, and I am emotionally invested in its success—from Phil Campbell to Decatur and everywhere in between. I pledge to be as accessible as I can to everyone and remain in contact with local leaders in Franklin County to make sure I am doing all I can to represent their interests in Montgomery and communicate their concerns on the House floor."

Brackins: "While I was born, raised and continue to live in Lawrence County, I've worked most of my life in Franklin County, many days from early morning to late at night. I know the people. It's my second home. I can assure you I will be accessible to you and I will listen, always with respect and concern, to your questions, concerns and opinions. I won't be representing the lobbyists or a particular political party. I believe in compromise. Rest assured, I will never forget who I represent."

FFP: Is the Alabama Accountability Act an effective piece of legislation? Why or why not? And what, if any, changes would you support relating to the AAA?

Brackins: "No! Since its inception, the Alabama Accountability Act has taken at least \$3.5 million from local District Seven K-12 classrooms. There appears to be a push to further reduce funding for local school districts, even though the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Alabama has shown that AAA students show no academic improvement as a result of students transferring from a "failing" school system. I will support repealing the AAA and replacing it with a system that funds our school systems adequately from kindergarten through 12th grade."

Robertson: "I am not an expert on this law, but I am working every day to learn more about it. I will rely on those the AAA affects the most to educate me, and represent their concerns in Montgomery."

FFP: What role, if any, should political party affiliation play in voters' choice in the House District Seven race?

Robertson: "I am a proud Conservative Republican, but I believe people should research the positions and intentions of individual candidates before casting their vote. I have volunteered in local Republican politics for years, but I will always represent people over any one political party."

Brackins: "Political affiliation should not be the sole rationale for voting for a particular candidate. In a democracy, we should elect individuals who we believe will propose and support policies and laws that advance the welfare of individuals, families and the communities they represent, regardless of party."

FFP: What is there about your qualifications for this office that separate you from the other candidate? In other words, why should voters support you on Election Day?

Brackins: "I feel I'm uniquely equipped to serve as your State Representative. I've spent my entire life in this district and have worked alongside many of you on boards, committees and volunteer projects. I've served as chair of the Lawrence County Industrial Development Board (13 years as chair), the North Central Alabama 310 Board (16 years as chair), the Jesse Owens Museum and Park Board (15 years as chair) and the Trustee Board of Oakville Missionary Baptist Church.

"In addition, I serve as vice chair of Moulton Housing Authority Board of Directors. I've been involved with Lawrence County Youth Leadership since its inception about 12 years ago. My service as a volunteer and my professional life have given me insight needed to go forward from day one improving life in our district. It will be an honor to serve. I humbly ask for your support."

Robertson: "My opponent is a good man, and I appreciate anyone who will make the sacrifices necessary to run for any political office. Respectfully, I pride myself on not being outworked in any capacity. Whether it's on the campaign trail or in the office, I pledge to work as hard as I possible can to represent people in Montgomery.

"Further, I believe our communities do better and our businesses thrive when we subscribe to conservative values and policies, and I am the person to best represent those local values."

FFP: As it relates to public education, what will be your ideology in Montgomery?

Robertson: "Our schools are improving, but we still have a great deal of work to do. Under Republican leadership, we have seen school budgets improve and proration become a thing of the past, providing certainty to teachers and administrators.

"Our future as a state is only as strong as our schools are today, and I will keep that philosophy in mind every day as I serve our communities in Montgomery. I will keep open lines of communication with all of our public educators to make sure I am aware of the challenges they face and the ideas they bring to the table to improve our education system."

Brackins: "Education will be a priority for me. Education has been my life. I believe the path to improving the lives of citizens in Alabama begins with a first-class education. Education and employment are the engines that drive and maintain a strong economy. A strong economy is what allows us to have the quality of life of our choosing."

FFP: What is the best advice you ever received from your parents, and how have you implemented that advice into your life?

Brackins: "My grandmother, Mama Sis Brackins, watched over her family like a mother hen and offered many words of advice to us. Two things I remember that I've followed for all of my 60 years are, 'You must have Jesus in your life,' and 'Always respect others.'

Robertson: "My parents raised me to be humble and respectful to all people—to always fall back on those unchanging values and principles to make my decisions in life. With that in mind, there was a phrase my grandfather would say to our family members as we talked about life and our role in it. 'Remember who you are!' This has remained with me in my daily life, and I apply it every day. No matter where I am, or what position I hold, I will always remember those core beliefs that were instilled in me at a young age."

FFP: What role, if any, should a representative's faith have in his or her decisions, voting and representation?

Robertson: "I am a Christian by faith, raised in a small county church with very traditional Christian values. I was raised to follow and respect those traditional Christian values as I travel through this life. Among those is 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

"I believe those principles have sustained me and brought me to where I am today. Having said that, I understand we are a very diverse culture, and as your state representative it's my job to represent all people of all faiths within District Seven and the State of Alabama.

While I am guided by my personal faith, my job is to represent the people of my district, and I will always do that with respect for their personal beliefs as well."

Brackins: "[Faith] is important, as it is a person's moral compass. I'm chairman of the trustee board at my church and have taught Adult Sunday School classes for over 40 years. God teaches, 'Come, let us reason together.' He also expects us to love and respect one another. I am who I am today because of my faith. It has kept me grounded in all aspects of my life!"



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.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at franklinfreepress.net!



Classifieds

256.332.0255

BUSINESS • LOST & FOUND • GARAGE SALES • PETS • APPLIANCES • HELP WANTED • SERVICES • APPLIANCES • CLOTHING • FURNITURE

YARD SALES/ ESTATE SALES

Yard Sale this Friday Nov. 2 from 8-4 at 911 Adams Street NW. Three families. Lots of new and used clothes, new ladies' coats, new and used shoes, jewelry. Lots of good buys!

One-Day Yard Sale this Friday, Nov. 2 from 7am-until at South Side Baptist Church youth building. All proceeds benefit Relay for Life.

Russellville Free Will Baptist Church will hold a Yard Sale on Fri./Sat. Nov. 2/3. 7 a.m.-until each day. Church is on Highway 43.

Multi-Family 'Downsizing' Sale. Fri./Sat. Nov. 2/3. Fri. 7-until. Sat. 7-12.

2363 Hwy. 60, Russellville. One mile east of King's Drive-In. Furniture, pictures, lamps, glass, lots of household items and lots of clothing!

Yard Sale. Fri./Sat. Nov. 2/3. 8-4. 397 Forest Drive in Russellville.

Three-Family Yard Sale this Friday & Saturday, Nov. 2-3 from 7am-until at 903 Lawrence Street West, Russellville, AL 35653. Furniture, dishes, clothes, lots of odds & ends. Too much to mention!

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Sat. Nov. 3. 7-2. 4194 Duncan Creek Road. Follow the arrows past the high school. Boutique clothes, Christmas decorations, baby boy clothes

0-6 months, lots of jewelry and home items.

Community Yard Sale this Saturday, Nov. 3 at Southwood Gardens Apartments. Several families. Lots of items!

Yard Sale this Saturday, Nov. 3 from 7-4 at top of Spruce Pine Mountain on Hwy. 26. Winter coats, clothes, purses, glassware, Christmas items, bags, comic books, DVDs, too much to mention! For more information, call Kim at 256-436-3992.

Multi-Family Yard Sale this Saturday, November 3 from 7am-until at 411 Skyline Drive, Russellville. Children's clothes, adult clothes, household items, tools, lots of misc. items.

Cancelled if rain.

HOUSES/ APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR SALE

2 BR, 1 BA house for rent. Deposit required. Call 256-436-4622. (4)

LAND FOR SALE

Land for Sale. 5 acres +/- pasture land in Littleville. Ideal for horses. Large barn and inside/outside corral. Fenced. Access to Twin Pines Golf Course. Located on Osborn Hill Road. Asking \$50,000. Call 256-332-9045. (1)

AUTO

2004 Thunderbird. Red in color w/both tops. New tires. Runs great. 5-speed automatic. Only

22,800 miles. \$25,000 firm. Call 423-213-2939. (Russellville, AL). (3)

1923 T-Bucket. 290 miles on new crate engine. New 308 gear. New carpet & gauges. 4-wheel disc brakes. Beautiful car. R-400 transmission. \$21,500. Call 423-213-2939. (Russellville, AL). (3)

APPLIANCES

New Panasonic Microwave. \$35. Call 256-332-1341. (1)

FURNITURE

Like-new loveseat w/built-in bed. Bed never been used. \$75 OBO, or trade for one day of work. Call 256-332-4037.

One Cedar Wardrobe for

sale. \$75. 256-332-1341. (1)

Oval oak clawfoot coffee table for sale. \$60. Call 256-332-0205 or 256-710-8604. (1)

Three end tables for sale. Painted and distressed. \$40 each. Call 256-332-0205 or 256-710-8604. (1)

MISC. FOR SALE

Mechanic tools and other items for sale. Call 256-324-4021. (1)

Machinist's Tool Chest with Tools Included. \$200. Call 256-332-1341. (1)

Retro Green Hairstyling Chair for sale. \$200. Call 256-332-4354. (4)

Aluminum Mobility Wheelchair and Scooter Carrier, 500-pound capacity. Like new. Used once. Cost new was \$170. For sale for \$75. Call 256-332-5907. (4)

Franklin Free Press Classified Rates
Yard Sale Rates: **FREE**, Deadline Monday at Noon; Real Estate-Homes, acreage, lots for sale or rent. \$25 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 40 words per ad; Vehicles, Boats, RVs, Motorcycles for sale. \$15 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Pets For Sale only \$10 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Free of Charge: Lost & Found, Giveaways, and Items Under \$100 (Private Parties Only). 15-word

limit; Commercial Classified Rates: \$25 for Businesses, 15 words or less for six weeks. Ads exceeding word limit add \$10 per additional 15 words. The number in parentheses represents the number of times the ad has appeared. Call us at 256-332-0255 to place, cancel or renew your ad. Payment is required in advance of publication for ads.

Amigo Paisano

Compre su casa hoy. Haga una cita con Don Enrique. No credito no hay problema, solo demuestre ingresos. Seguro Verde y pasaporte ok. Don Enrique es un Realtor con American Realty Company LLC. Buy your first home with no down payment, with no closing costs.



Call Enrique Aguilar at 256.740.2366

County Board of Education recognizes Shewbart

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Board of Education recognized board member Mike Shewbart for his six years of service at its October 23 meeting.

Shewbart, who lost his bid for a second term representing District Five, presided over his final meeting this week.

"I am honored to have served. I can say that it's been a pleasure to see the one-month fund balance at my last meeting," Shewbart said, referring to the one-month reserve fund required for all public school systems by the State of Alabama.

Franklin County Schools recently reached its one-month fund for the first time after receiving a large settlement from FEMA for tornado damage from 2011.

In other action, the board:

- Adopted a resolution proclaiming October as Dyslexia Awareness Month.
- Approved out-of-state trips including:

Tharptown Elementary sixth grade to Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga on May 17, 2019; Phil Campbell Elementary first grade to Disney on Ice in Tupelo on December 7; Phil Campbell Elementary Resource/Special Education to Disney on Ice in Tupelo on December 7; Phil Campbell High School varsity boys, girls and B-varsity boys basketball teams to Belmont High School on December 4, for games; Franklin County Career Tech Center FBLA members to Nashville for Tennessee Titans Learning Lab and Opry Mills Mall visit on November 13.

- Approved a memorandum of understanding between Franklin County Board of Education and the City of Red Bay to employ a school resource officer at Red Bay School. The officer will be an employee of the City of Red Bay.
- Received an update on the Tharptown cafeteria project. Phase Two has started with pre-construction completed and a date of July 13, 2019, as the completion date. Students are 30-60 days out until occupancy of the new school cafeteria. Also, a

new road has been completed behind Tharptown School that will give two access points to Hwy. 48 when all projects are completed. The school will use the new road for drop off beginning October 29 so that building of Phase Two can continue.

- Approved the following personnel moves:
 - Employment—Emily Hester, business education teacher at Red Bay High School; Carol Armstrong, special education aide at Red Bay; Hannah Jackson, in-school suspension aide at Red Bay; Shea Miller, community development coordinator; Ronnie Gaston, bus driver at Tharptown; Elizabeth Wooten, special education teacher at Tharptown.
 - Transfers—Darryl Whitehead, from Tharptown bus driver to Phil Campbell bus driver; and Gina Wilson, from bus driver at Tharptown route 41 to route 42.
 - Employment in Supplement—Tynes Channell, assistant baseball coach at Belgreen; and Angie Bolton, volunteer basketball coach at Vina High School.

Eight local eateries receive satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The eight Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of October 15-19 each had scores that fall into 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 eight Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 90 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

The highest score was 98, received by Wal-Mart #403 Deli, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, and Little Tigers Preschool, 1003 East Lawrence St., Russellville.

Inspections of Franklin County businesses, with critical item violations noted, resulted in the following scores:

- Homestead Cafe, 6631 Hwy. 43, Spruce Pine, 90. (Dish machine not sanitizing).

- Legacy Chevron, 13518 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, 91. (Smoked chicken out of temp in warmer).
- Wal-Mart #403 Bakery, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 94. (No paper towels at hand sink).
- Jack's #148, 13640 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.
- Daisy Restaurant, 125 North Jackson Ave., Russellville, 96.
- Piggly Wiggly #87 Deli, 3625 Broad St., Phil Campbell, 97. (Meat slicer dirty).

Of the 24 inspections done in Colbert County from October 15-19, no restaurant scored below the satisfactory range.

The high score for the week in Colbert County was 99 for three businesses, including Southern Blend Coffee, 1404 East Avalon, Tuscumbia.

Health ratings are available at www.foodscores.state.al.us and may be viewed by city or county.

Siegelman seeking office of Attorney General

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

You wouldn't expect a candidate for a statewide office to say he doesn't like politics, but that's exactly the message from Alabama Attorney General candidate Joe Siegelman when he describes the state of Alabama politics these days.

"As someone who doesn't like politics, at least what it's become in Alabama, I'll be an Attorney General who will not make law or change law," Siegelman said. "You have limited opportunity to interpret the law, but your job is to apply the law equally to all Alabamians."

"I view this position as a non-political, non-partisan office. We need independence in the Attorney General's office more than anything, and that's what I offer."

Siegelman, the son of former Alabama Governor Don Siegelman, is the Democratic nominee for Attorney General. He will face Republican incumbent Steve Marshall in the November 6 general election.

Siegelman made a campaign stop in Franklin County on October 5, where he shared his message of "people not politics" when it comes to the office of Attorney General.

"I wish we didn't have to have a letter beside our names for this office. The most important characteristic for Attorney General is character," Siegelman said. "When my opponent has taken so much illegal money in contributions, and it's been pointed out to him in so many ways and he hasn't returned the contributions, that speaks volumes as to the level of leadership he would provide."

Siegelman referred to an ethics complaint filed by former Attorney General Troy King, who lost to Marshall in the Republican runoff, alleging that Marshall received \$735,000 in contributions from the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) in violation of an Alabama law that prohibits candidates from receiving contributions transferred from one political action committee (PAC) to another PAC.

Marshall allegedly received the funds from RAGA's Action Fund PAC, which received contributions from RAGA, also a PAC. Marshall responded to the

allegations by saying that the PAC-to-PAC contribution ban does not apply to federal PACs.

The matter is pending before the Alabama Ethics Commission, but the commission, which met October 3, did not take any action on the complaint, Siegelman said.

Siegelman penned a letter to the Ethics Commission on October 4 asking the commission to take "swift action" on the matter. In spite of drafting the letter, Siegelman says he doesn't want Marshall's ethics complaint to become a central issue in the campaign.

"As someone who doesn't like politics, at least what it's become in Alabama, I'll be an Attorney General who will not make law or change law," Siegelman said. "You have limited opportunity to interpret the law, but your job is to apply the law equally to all Alabamians....I view this position as a non-political, non-partisan office."

"The issues Alabama needs addressed include our opioid epidemic, for one. Alabama saw an increase in overdose deaths last year," Siegelman said. "We need to keep our grandparents and parents safe from fraud, especially in this era of cyber crime. We need to keep our children safe in schools and stop the spread of human trafficking."

"These are not partisan issues. They are real-life issues that require real solutions."

Siegelman said that of a nationwide coalition of 41 Attorneys General formed to combat the opioid crisis, Alabama was the last state to join the coalition.

"With one of the worst opioid epidemics in the nation, we can't afford to be last in fighting this problem," Siegelman said.

Siegelman, whose father was released from federal prison last year after serving seven years on federal corruption convictions during his tenure as governor, said Alabamians have lost faith in government with the recent removal of Gov. Robert Bentley, speaker of the house Mike Hubbard and Roy Moore, chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, due to either criminal or ethical violations.

And even if Marshall's \$735,000 campaign contribution isn't illegal, Siegelman said, it casts doubt upon his ability to remain objective in enforcing Alabama law.

"Accepting three-quarters of a million dollars of out-of-state, special interests, dark money—the people of Alabama are tired of asking if their government is working for them," Siegelman said. "Alabama has recently gotten involved in a number of out-of-state lawsuits. When we ask why our Attorney General is doing this with our tax dollars and realize he's accepted almost \$750,000 of special interests, dark money, it become clear why."

"My goal as Attorney General is to restore faith in that office, to where the people know every decision I make as Attorney General will be based on merit and the best interests of the people of Alabama."

At 30 years old, Siegelman has heard the concerns that he's 'too young' to hold statewide office, but he chooses to see his age as a positive.

"I may only be 30, but I know better than to accept \$750,000 in illegal contributions," Siegelman said. "Alabama is ready for a younger perspective to bring the office of Attorney General into the 21st century and have new leadership for Alabama."

"Bill Baxley was elected at 28 [as Attorney General]. I believe my energy, drive and determination to work for the people of Alabama is actually an asset."



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Week 10 in the SEC

Last week's record: 2-2
 Year to date: 23-13
Saturday, November 3
Texas A&M at Auburn



Mike Self
Sports Editor

Last week, I would have been all over A&M to win this one. That was before the Aggies face-planted in Starkville, allowing a Mississippi State offense that had been virtually nonexistent for weeks to average 7.2 yards per play in Saturday's 28-13 win. Now? Who knows?

The A&M run game is in a bit of a downward spiral, which doesn't bode well against an Auburn defense that leads the SEC with 8.2 tackles for loss per game. A&M is tough to run on, too, which puts the quarterbacks in the crosshairs. Consider this a vote for Kellen Mond over Jarrett Stidham.

The Pick: Texas A&M 24 Auburn 21
Georgia at Kentucky

It's no surprise that Georgia could clinch the SEC East with a win in Lexington on Saturday. The fact that Kentucky could do the same is downright shocking. It's also a tribute to the Wildcats' resilience—and to their defense, which has helped them keep winning despite an offense that has gone dry.

Kentucky failed to top 15 points in any game in October, against three defenses that are probably inferior to that of Georgia. Still, the Bulldogs can be run on, which gives the Wildcats a chance. The trouble is going to come when Kentucky has to throw the ball.

Jake Fromm made some big-time throws in the clutch and played great last week in the win over Florida. It's hard to see the Bulldogs losing when the edge at quarterback and in overall talent is so heavily in their favor.

The Pick: Georgia 27 Kentucky 14
Missouri at Florida

Where these two teams are from a psychological standpoint is anyone's guess. Missouri snatched defeat from the jaws of victory last week, blowing an 11-point fourth quarter lead and losing to Kentucky on a last-play touchdown. Florida, meanwhile, got flattened in the second half by Georgia in a loss that eliminated the Gators from the SEC East title race.

The guess here is that Florida, with the superior defense and home-field advantage, bounces back faster.

The Pick: Florida 31 Missouri 24
Alabama at LSU

Funniest line of the week: LSU fans complain about star LB Devin White—the victim of a ridiculous targeting call in the fourth quarter against Mississippi State—having to sit out the first half of the Alabama game. Tide fans offer this as comfort: "It's okay. We'll sit Tua out in the second half."

The guess here is that Tua's services will be needed for the full sixty, but LSU lacks the offensive firepower to truly threaten a Bama team that could score 30 points in its sleep.

The Pick: Alabama 34 LSU 13

On the map

On her way to a milestone win, Teresa Whitten helped Belgreen volleyball make a name for itself

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Teresa Whitten recalls very clearly the first time she felt as though Belgreen volleyball had finally arrived.

"It was our third trip to Super Regionals [in 2015], and we were playing Spring Garden," Whitten said on Sunday. "That was the first time we ever won a set against anybody at Super Regionals. The first year we went [in 2013], nobody had even heard of Belgreen. The team we played [Ragland] didn't even know who Belgreen was. I said to myself then, 'I'm gonna make sure everybody knows who Belgreen is.'"

"That third year we were [in Huntsville], Spring Garden's coach walked up to me before the match and said,



PHOTOS BY ADRIAN LOPEZ

NUMBERS GAME - Whitten (above, at last week's pep rally, and below, with her varsity players) picked up her 100th career win when the Lady Bulldogs beat Covenant at the area tournament. Belgreen has been to five Super Regionals and two Sweet Sixteens in Whitten's seven years as coach.

'Congratulations, y'all have had a really good year.' I said, 'Y'all have, too.' Then their coach said, 'Belgreen is *always* here.' That's when I was like, 'Oh, wow. I didn't realize y'all knew that.'"

Raising the profile of the program and turning the Lady Bulldogs into perennial contenders has been Whitten's goal since she first took over as head coach in 2012. There was only

See 'MAP,' Page 24



Bobcats aim to use tough losses as motivation

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Three consecutive region losses by seven points or less (two of which were decided in the final minute of the game) will leave Phil Campbell on the outside looking in when the playoffs kick off on November 9.

Those three gut-wrenching defeats (52-47 by Lauderdale County, 32-26 by East Lawrence and 21-14 last Friday night by Colbert Heights) have also left Bobcat head coach Kevin Barnwell sorting through mixed emotions.

"It is frustrating," Barnwell said on Sunday evening, "but at the same time it's encouraging. Our kids are right there. We're still working to change the culture. We have to learn how to win. We have to learn how to find a way to win, to make things happen instead of letting them happen. Instead of hoping someone else makes something happen or waiting on someone else to make a play, our guys are still learning to say, 'I have to be the one to go make that play.' That's where we are right now.

"Mentality-wise, we're still waiting on the door to open. We have to learn to kick the door open."

Phil Campbell (2-7, 1-5 in Class 3A, Region 8) is undoubtedly a young team, with three sophomores (left tackle Johnson Leeth, left guard Ethan Foster and center Eli Smith) starting up front and three more (quarterback Luke Barnwell and versatile receivers Trey Leindecker and Ridge Raper) spearheading a late-season offensive surge. With youth and inexperience come growing pains, but Kevin Barnwell firmly believes his players will reap a reward from this season's adversity, and that it will ultimately help them get over the proverbial hump.

"At some point in time, our kids will hopefully use this as fuel for that fire," Barnwell said. "We're young, and we have to learn to overcome that adversity. That's what life is—learning to overcome adversity. We will in time."

In the meantime, Barnwell likes the fight he sees from his team, which has had a legitimate chance to win all but two of its first nine games. He doesn't expect a string of close losses—no matter how frustrating—to dull that competitive spirit.

"As far as the vibe around here goes, our kids will continue to play hard,"

Barnwell said. "I would be shocked if they didn't. That's just our character to do so. Effort is not a problem. Consistency has been a problem."

Barnwell points out that the Bobcats had three touchdowns called back in an early-season loss at Lexington and three more would-be scoring plays nullified in a Week 5 loss at Phillips. Last week, when a win over Colbert Heights would have punched Phil Campbell's playoff ticket, the Bobcats had a touchdown wiped out by a holding penalty right before the half in a 14-14 game. They would not score again and saw their postseason hopes dashed in the fourth quarter when the Wildcats' Carson Shaw returned a punt 55 yards for the game-winning touchdown. [That special teams breakdown was reminiscent of the Lauderdale County loss, in which the Bobcats gave up a pair of long kickoff returns that changed the course of the game.]

"At some point in time, our kids will hopefully use this as fuel for that fire," said Barnwell, whose team lost three straight region games by seven points or less. "We're young, and we have to learn to overcome that adversity. That's what life is—learning to overcome adversity. We will in time."

"We're six or seven plays away from sitting here at 7-2," Barnwell lamented on Sunday. "Red Bay was better than us, and Westminster Christian was better than us. With everyone else, we've had our opportunities, and we just didn't get it done. The penalties, the mistakes—those are things we've got to learn to overcome.

"One of my focuses going forward will be on our culture, on learning how to win and how to make things happen."

Barnwell brought new systems and new schemes with him when he left his post as a Russellville assistant this past spring to take the Phil Campbell job, but his chief priority was not installing an offense or a defense but rather instilling a sense of urgency—one that he perceived to be almost entirely absent upon his arrival. Even in the midst of three straight losses filled with what-ifs and marked by what-might-have-beens, Barnwell has seen the Bobcats making strides in that area.

"These last few weeks have shown me what our guys are made of," Barnwell said. "I've coached them really, really hard since I got here. One thing I've learned is that I don't have to coach them that hard. They will coach themselves, and they will push themselves. What I was trying to do early on was really promote a sense of urgency in how we played. I felt like in our seven-on-seven stuff and our competitions this summer, our guys just didn't know how to play with a sense of urgency. We're slowly getting that, but we're still working on it.

"It's never a problem on Friday nights. We play with a sense of urgency on Friday nights. What I want to promote is a sense of urgency in how we practice, because ultimately we're gonna play like we practice. This is a laid back

See 'BOBCATS,' page 20

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Zaye Boyd Senior RB, Russellville

Boyd posted his fourth 200-yard game of the season last Friday, rushing for a career-high 281 and four touchdowns as the Golden Tigers wrapped up the No. 2 seed in Class 5A, Region 7 with a 41-26 win over visiting Dora.

Boyd broke off six runs of 20-plus yards and scored on runs of 39, 12, 9 and 3 yards. Of his 26 touchdowns this season, 13 have covered at least 30 yards. The 5'11, 195-pound senior has rushed for 1,742 yards this year on 168 carries, an average of 193.6 yards per game and 10.4 yards per attempt.



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'BOBCATS,' from page 18

group. Everyone here was laid back. I felt like I had to get a sense of urgency installed, and that's what we've tried to do."

As far as installing the X's and O's of Barnwell's spread offense, there have been recent signs that point to major progress.

"Our kids have an idea now of what we're doing," Barnwell said. "The other night [against Colbert Heights], we came into the locker room at halftime, and Ridge and Luke came right up to me and said, 'Hey, we've got something we need to talk to you about.' I told them to hang on a second, and then I showed them what I was looking at doing with a counter off the play we wanted to run and how we wanted to tag it on the [wrist] band. When I got done, they both just sort of laughed and said, 'That's what we were gonna tell you.'"

"These guys are slowly understanding it. That's all part of the process."

After struggling to score points early in the season, the Bobcats have become more productive and more dynamic on offense the past few weeks. Weapons at the skill positions have emerged, but Barnwell said the improvement on offense starts up front, where Leeth, Foster and Smith are joined by junior right guard Kaleb Solis and senior right tackle Dakota Mansell, who was chosen as the team's ALFA Player of the Week following his strong performance in the East Lawrence game.

"Overall, our offensive line has really improved," Barnwell said. "Montre [McCulloch] helps us, and he and Coach [Darby] Allison have done a great job with those guys. Our offensive line guys have really bought in. They're learning to practice with intensity, too. That's helped us more than anything."

"If you can make one or two blocks, Trey has so much speed...you don't really have to knock your guy down. You can just latch on and stay on your block, and he'll do the rest."

Leindecker has been a revelation the past three weeks, rushing 43 times for 379 yards (an average of 8.8 yards per carry) and seven touchdowns, including a 58-yarder last Friday night that had Barnwell thinking big.

"When he came to the sideline after that long run in the first series or two, I sort of jokingly patted him on the helmet and said, 'Man, do a Heisman pose or something,'" Barnwell said. "He's starting to believe in himself. I think he's getting some confidence in himself and understanding the type of player he can be. He can be a player on a different level, if he really wants to."

The Bobcats like to move the speedy Leindecker around the formation, searching for favorable one-on-one matchups. Raper, who filled in capably at quarterback early in the season when Luke Barnwell was out with a shoulder injury, is back primarily at receiver now, where his toughness, instincts and hands are assets Phil Campbell can't afford to live without.

"There are a lot of things I would intend to do with Ridge at quarterback," Kevin Barnwell said, "but the role he has on offense from a receiver standpoint is so important. We have to count on him so much at receiver, we don't maximize our offensive efforts if we move him somewhere else."

"I told Ridge the other night, 'Man, you're just a freakin' winner.' That's what he is. He'll do anything to win. The other night, we had a fourth-and-four, and we like to call on him in short-yardage situations. We gave it to him on the quarterback sweep, and he got 4.1 yards—all on effort. He was gonna get that first down. He's a guy you can count on to do whatever you ask."

Luke Barnwell still deals with occasional pain in the throwing shoulder he separated in the season opener against Red Bay, but the sophomore signal-caller has played very well since returning from the injury. Barnwell threw for 295 yards and three touchdowns in the shootout loss to Lauderdale County, and last week against Colbert Heights he completed 14-of-26 passes for 170 yards while also rushing for a 10-yard score.

With the playoffs now out of reach, Phil Campbell will try to close its season on Thursday night by snapping a 15-game losing streak against rival Hackleburg. The Bobcats haven't beaten the Panthers since a 28-20 win on November 1, 2002. Hackleburg has struggled to a 2-7 record this season, with its only wins coming over Shoals Christian in Week 4 and Vina last Friday. Thursday night at Hackleburg appears to be a great opportunity for Phil Campbell to snap its streak of futility against the Panthers, but Barnwell wants his players to focus all their energy and effort on the here and now.

"We've mentioned the fact that we've taken our lumps in the past, not just from Hackleburg but from lots of people around here," Barnwell said. "If we can learn to control the things we can control, I think we'll be successful against Hackleburg, Phillips, Red Bay or whoever it is. We have some rivalry games here, but our guys can only play in the present. You can't get caught up with what's happened in the past. If you let those side distractions and all the clutter influence your effort in any way, you can get yourself in a situation where you're either gonna be complacent or disappointed."

"Our emphasis continues to be on being where our feet are. The only way we can accomplish anything is to win the play that is at hand. We can learn from what's behind us, but we can't let what's behind us affect us, and we can't let what's in front of us influence us either. If we'll approach it one play at a time and not worry about what's going to happen or what has happened, we'll eventually start to be successful."

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Russellville wraps up first-round home game

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - One week after falling flat in its bid to bring home a region championship, Russellville bounced back in a big way last Friday night by beating Dora 41-26 to secure the No. 2 seed in Class 5A, Region 7 and home-field advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

The Golden Tigers (8-1, 6-1 in region play) finished runners-up to Jasper (8-1, 7-0) in Region 7 and will host Center Point in a first-round game next Friday, November 9. The Eagles (5-4, 5-2) finished as the No. 3 seed in Region 5 after losing 14-0 to Central Clay County last week.

Coming off a 42-13 loss at Jasper the previous week, Russellville showed no ill effects early against Dora. The Golden Tigers drove 73 yards for a touchdown on their opening possession and then scored on their next two drives as well, racing out to a 20-0 lead before the game was 11 minutes old. By night's end, Russellville had gained 460 yards of total offense and reached the 40-point mark for the fifth time in five home games this season.

Senior tailback Zaye Boyd had another monster night, rushing for a career-high 281 yards and four touchdowns on 27 carries. Boyd broke loose for six runs of 20-plus yards on his way to topping the 200-yard mark for the fourth time in the last six games. His previous career-high had been 275 rushing yards in a win at Haleyville on September 28.

Senior quarterback Lucas McNutt also had a big game against Dora, rushing eight times for 60 yards and throwing for 112 yards and a touchdown on 9-for-13 passing. McNutt and senior receiver Devin Buckhalter hooked up three times for completions of 20-plus yards. Buckhalter finished the night with four catches for 69 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore Rowe Gallagher added three grabs for 28 yards.

Boyd ran four times for 65 yards on Russellville's first drive, capping it off with a 39-yard touchdown at the 10:20 mark of the first quarter. The extra point was blocked, and the Golden Tigers led 6-0.

After a quick three-and-out by Dora, Russellville took possession in plus territory at the Bulldog 46-yard line. McNutt got loose for gains of 19 and 15 yards, and then Boyd capped the three-play drive with a 12-yard touchdown run. Miguel Flores added the PAT to make it 13-0 with 7:15 left in the first.

Following another punt by Dora, the Golden Tigers converted a third-and-nine when McNutt found Buckhalter for 21 yards. Boyd ran for 22 yards on the next play, and then McNutt threw a perfect strike to Buckhalter on a corner route for a 22-yard touchdown on third-and-six. Flores nailed the extra point to make it 20-0 with 1:05 left in the first.

Dora drove for a touchdown on its next possession, but Russellville answered midway through the second quarter with a quick five-play, 67-yard scoring drive. Boyd ran twice for 20 yards, and then McNutt found Gallagher for 13 more. After a

27-yard completion to Buckhalter, junior back Austin Ashley capped the drive with an eight-yard touchdown run to make it 27-7 with 6:18 left in the first half.

The Bulldogs scored on their first two possessions of the second half, but Russellville answered each time with a touchdown run by Boyd (one from nine yards out and another from three yards out) to stay in command. Trailing 41-20 with less than three minutes remaining in the game, Dora finished off the scoring with a four-yard touchdown run by Tavares Howard.

Russellville rushed for 348 yards as a team on 40 carries. Dora ran for 257 yards on 48 attempts and finished with 404 yards of total offense.

The Golden Tigers, who haven't won nine games in the regular season since 2015, will look to improve to 9-1 when they travel to face Central-Florence on Friday. The Wildcats (5-4, 4-2) beat Rogers 14-7 last week to finish as the No. 3 seed in Class 4A, Region 8.

Heading into the regular-season finale, Boyd has rushed for 1,742 yards and 26 touchdowns on 168 carries (an average of 193.6 yards per game and 10.4 yards per carry). McNutt has added 493 yards rushing and six touchdowns on 61 attempts while also throwing for 957 yards and 12 scores on 57-for-101 passing. Nine of those 12 touchdown tosses have gone to Buckhalter, who leads the team with 32 catches for 586 yards.

Russellville and Central have not played since 1983. The Golden Tigers lead the all-time series 7-0, with one tie.

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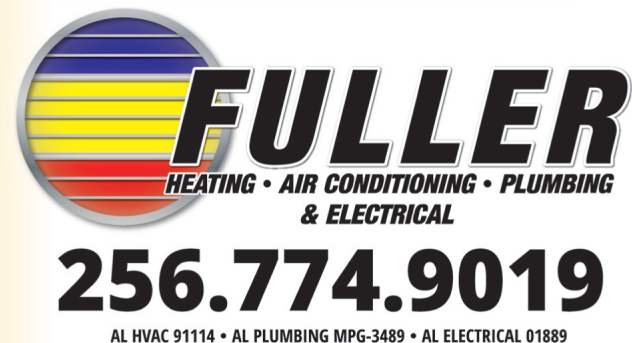
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'MAP,' from page 17

one means of accomplishing that goal—winning, which is something Belgreen has done with increasing frequency over the last seven years.

After winning just two matches—both against Hackleburg—in Whitten's first season, the Lady Bulldogs have steadily progressed, making five Super Regional appearances in a six-year stretch and increasing their win total all the way to 18 in 2016, 20 in 2017 and then a school-record 25 this season. Along the way, Belgreen volleyball has more than made a name for itself.

"I really feel like we've been successful in that aspect—getting ourselves on the map," Whitten said. "People recognize that we're really building a program. We want to be the next Meek or Athens Bible or whoever it could be."

With a 25-12, 25-18, 25-14 victory over Waterloo last Friday at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, the Lady Bulldogs advanced to the Sweet 16 for the second time in program history. Their bid for a first-ever state tournament berth fell one match short with a three-set loss to Meek, but the 2018 season was nonetheless a memorable one.

Last Tuesday, at the Class 1A, Area 14 tournament in Bear Creek, Belgreen beat Covenant Christian in a first-round match to give Whitten her 100th win as head coach. She took a moment Sunday afternoon to reflect on that career milestone, and on the journey that led up to it.

"For starters, I have a very supportive family," Whitten said. "There's no way I could do this if my husband [Brian] wasn't so supportive. He takes care of the house and everything while I'm doing my thing with volleyball. The second thing is, I just keep studying. I'm always going to conferences, reading articles, talking to successful coaches—just trying to figure out what to do next."

Whitten received plenty of useful advice from those veteran coaches she sought out, and she's done her best to apply it at Belgreen.

"They told me to be patient, for one thing," she said. "[Volleyball] was such a new sport at Belgreen. We didn't have youth league volleyball. We had our first travel team this year, and that's gonna be very helpful in the long run. Starting a jayvee team—I did that my first year—has helped a lot. Trying to build a program with just a varsity team, you can't do it."

"Just this past year, I went to a big conference in Louisville, Kentucky, and I learned that the closer you get to postseason play, the more important it is that you really rest your players more. I think in years past I might have over-done it as far as practicing goes. I've also learned to just keep it fun. Trying to be the disciplinarian person ['You've gotta run suicides for missing this or doing that'], that only works for a very short term. I've learned that if losing is not enough [to motivate you] on its own, you don't need to be playing this sport."

Ironically, Whitten didn't play the sport in high school; she graduated from Hamilton, which had no volleyball program at the time. When she was asked to assume the role of head volleyball coach for the Lady Bulldogs following their inaugural 2011 season, she certainly had her doubts.

"I had just hired on [at Belgreen]. It was my first year to teach," Whitten said. "When the season was over, they asked me if I wanted to take over. I said, 'Well, I don't know much about it, but sure.' When I was at Hamilton, we didn't have a volleyball team. I had played in the back yard, but that was about it."

"Our girls were very disappointed with the way it ended, but we had a really good season," Whitten said. "To be in the top sixteen in the state out of sixty-four 1A schools is really big. We wanted to go to state, but we came up just a little short. Maybe next year."

Whitten got her first career win in 2012 against Hackleburg. Belgreen won just one other match that first season, but the program was starting to grow—along with its head coach, who sought out help and advice from anyone willing to give it.

"I just started doing a lot of homework," Whitten said. "Tracey Fretwell, the head coach at Tharptown, was very helpful. I called on her a lot. The UNA coaches at the time, they were also really helpful. They came and did a camp for us, and they've stayed in touch and helped me. They're at Southern Miss now, but we text back and forth."

The Lady Bulldogs made the Super Regional four straight times from 2013-16. An area tournament loss to Tharptown (a team they had beaten four times in four tries during the regular season) denied them a fifth straight Super Regional berth, but Belgreen made it back to Huntsville this season. The Lady Bulldogs finished 25-12, setting program marks for most wins and fewest losses, and were beaten by only two Class 1A opponents (Top 10 teams Phillips and Lindsey Lane) during the regular season.

Last Friday's loss to Meek in the regional quarterfinals left a sour taste, but it didn't diminish everything Belgreen accomplished in a record-setting season.

It took Whitten a full seven years to reach the century mark. At the rate the Lady Bulldogs are currently going, it shouldn't take that long for her to win another hundred.

"I hope not," Whitten said with a laugh. "We won twenty-five this year, twenty last year, seventeen or eighteen the year before. It keeps going up. Hopefully we'll break it again next year, too."

"It was disappointing," Whitten said. "Meek was very solid. Our girls were very disappointed with the way it ended, but we had a really good season. To be in the top sixteen in the state out of sixty-four 1A schools is really big. We wanted to go to state, but we came up just a little short. Maybe next year."

With no fewer than half a dozen key contributors set to return in 2019, plus the help that should be arriving from a junior varsity team that finished undefeated for a second straight season, the arrow is definitely pointing up for the Lady Bulldogs. Setter Autumn Bragwell, outside hitter

Katie Dempsey, passer Gracie Dempsey, hitter Ansley Tate and specialist Bailey Wood will all be seniors next season. Emma Dempsey, a 6'1 middle hitter, will be joined in the junior class by Bailey Oliver, Makayla Lane, Kelsey Wilson and Ella Wiginton, all four of whom helped the jayvee post another perfect record this year.

Four seniors, including key contributors Camie Terrell and Kaycee Wilson, will have to be replaced, but the pieces should be in place for Whitten and the Lady 'Dogs to make another run at that elusive state tournament bid.

"I'm really excited," Whitten said. "Some of our girls coming back are wanting to play travel volleyball in the spring, and that's gonna be really helpful. If they can start doing that and actually be out there playing and getting better instead of just sitting around waiting for the season to start, that will help us a lot."

"Ansley Tate, who was a junior this year, she had a really great day at regionals this past weekend. She had a lot of kills for us and did a super job. Kelsey Wilson moving up is big, too. She's a really good setter and server, and she could help the team out a lot next year."

Whitten believes the last hurdle for her team to clear in its pursuit of a state tournament berth is a mental one—specifically, learning how to keep grinding when things don't go their way.

"They've got to learn not to quit—that's the main thing," Whitten said. "These girls know how to play volleyball. I'm always making them play bigger schools. We can schedule 1A and 2A teams and have a really good record, but we're not gonna get any better unless we're playing better teams."

"The key with our girls is getting them confidence, knowing that if we get down a few points they can focus on the process, focus on the positive, don't work on the outcome, and we can easily get those points back. Sometimes it's easier to quit and make excuses. But like I told them last year, we're not defined by wins and losses, but by who you become as you go through the wins and losses."

With regard to wins and losses, there have been far more of the former and far fewer of the latter in recent years for the Lady Bulldogs, who have made significant strides on the road from being the team nobody knows to being the team nobody wants to play.

"It's really flown by," Whitten said of her seven-year tenure. "Some days it seems long, and some days it seems like it was just yesterday when it all started and I had no idea what I was doing. I still don't, some days."

It took Whitten, who entered the season with 76 career wins, a full seven years to reach the century mark. At the rate the Lady Bulldogs are currently going, it shouldn't take that long for her to win another hundred.

"I hope not," Whitten said with a laugh. "We won twenty-five this year, twenty last year, and seventeen or eighteen the year before. The last three years, it keeps going up. Hopefully we'll break it again next year, too."

DO THE WRITE THING!



The two faces of Attorney General and candidate Steve Marshall

An essential purpose of the Republican Party is to slow and reverse the tide of tyrannical government. When the Party stops being useful in that, I must wonder whether there is a continued need for it beyond them not being Democrats.

The Alabama Republican Party was worthy of the purpose in 2010. The ALGOP pushed for campaign finance and ethics reform. They enacted their agenda in a special session of the legislature only a few weeks after the great landslide wrought largely by the promises of reform.

Because financial transparency in and around government is an important bulwark against corruption and the tyranny it spawns, the ALGOP enacted a ban on contributions by Political Action Committees (PAC) and tax exempt 527 organizations with the exception that a PAC could contribute to the principle campaign committee of a candidate. This means that a 527 organization can put money into Alabama campaigns only by becoming an Alabama PAC, that a PAC can put money into Alabama campaigns only by becoming an Alabama PAC, and that these entities can contribute funds only to the principle campaign committees of candidates. These provisions are the essence of what is called the Alabama ban on PAC to PAC transfers. This ban and companion reporting requirements have made it harder to disguise the source of campaign money by laundering it between PACs and other organizations.

The PAC to PAC ban was immediately challenged. In 2011, the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC) sued the state of Alabama and Attorney General Luther Strange to overturn the law as impermissible under the US Constitution. The ADC lost repeatedly in federal courts, most recently in April 2017 when the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) refused to issue a writ of certiorari, thus upholding the lower court decisions.

The Attorney General of Alabama defended the Alabama law because that is his job. At first this was Luther Strange. And he led by example. In 2014, he promptly returned \$50,000 of unlawful contributions from the Republican Attorneys General Association (the RAGA, a 527 organization) as the law required.

The end game belonged to Steve Marshall who succeeded Luther Strange in February 2017. The brief to urge SCOTUS to deny certiorari bears Attorney General Marshall's name. We can conclude that Attorney General Marshall understood and agreed with the Alabama law he defended in federal court.

In May 2017, Attorney General Marshall registered as a candidate for election to the office he was appointed to by Governor Bentley, a registration that allowed him to begin receiving lots of campaign money, \$129,000 in June 2017 on the way to over \$3.3 million so far.

Candidate Marshall's respect for Alabama law seems to have dissolved by February 2018 when he began accepting contri-

butions from the RAGA, the same organization to which Candidate Strange had promptly returned unlawful contributions in 2014. So far Candidate Marshall has taken and not returned \$735,000 from the RAGA, 22 percent of his total campaign contributions.

So why is Candidate Marshall breaking the law Attorney General Marshall and Attorney General Strange defended in federal court?

Apologists for Candidate Marshall have offered the alibi that federal organizations are regulated by federal law and do not have to comply with Alabama campaign finance law. This is poppycock. Because the RAGA's stated mission is to elect Republican attorneys general in the states, the RAGA and its affiliates do not play in federal elections. By not playing in federal elections, there is little federal law that impacts the RAGA. Besides, federal law is supreme only when it conflicts with state law. There are many examples of the federal government and states legislating concurrently on the same subjects, e.g., taxes on income. And on this campaign finance issue there is no conflict between federal and state law because neither sovereign has meddled in the realm of the other.

Apologists for Candidate Marshall also say that the RAGA and its PACs report to the IRS and Federal Election Commission respectively and do not have to comply with the reporting required by Alabama law. This is a dodge, again because the RAGA does not play in federal elections and has no federal election reporting requirements. And this alibi is risible because the primary issue is not reporting, it is Candidate Marshall not returning unlawful contributions as required by Alabama law.

I have not heard much chatter on this issue. Republican leaders may be hoping the issue goes away as complaints to the Secretary of State and Ethics Commission crawl ahead at the speed of government. Democrats may be biding their time for an October campaign surprise, except it will not be a surprise at all.

Candidate Marshall is a scofflaw worthy of impeachment. Running such an ethically flawed person to continue as the state's chief of law enforcement while he also co-chairs the ongoing Ethics Reform Commission should embarrass the ALGOP even as it lacked the courage to deny his nomination and now compromises the essential purpose of the Republican Party to slow and reverse the tide of tyrannical government.

As Candidate Marshall skates past the law, Democrats will use this embarrassment to defeat him in November and in the process damage the entire Republican ticket. After Hubbard and Bentley, I am disappointed in pusillanimously myopic leadership that has fully embraced another fiasco. Republican voters deserve better.

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Submit your picks to us each week in one of two ways: Fill out the entry form on this page and mail it to us at 113 Washington Ave. NW, Russellville, AL 35653, or email your picks to us along with your name and number at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. **Picks sent in by mail for Week 10 must be postmarked by Friday, November 2, and picks submitted by email for Week 10 must be received by Saturday, November 3 at 10 a.m.** Each week, the contestant who correctly picks the most games will win a free T-shirt and the chance to pick in the grand-prize final-week contest. If multiple contestants correctly pick the same number of games in a given week, the tiebreaker score will be used to determine a winner. Contestants are only eligible to win the weekly contest once. Thanks for playing, and good luck!

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Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

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Georgia at Kentucky	Georgia	_____
Missouri at Florida	Florida	_____
Alabama at LSU	Alabama	_____
Iowa at Purdue	Purdue	_____
West Virginia at Texas	West Virginia	_____
Penn State at Michigan	Michigan	_____
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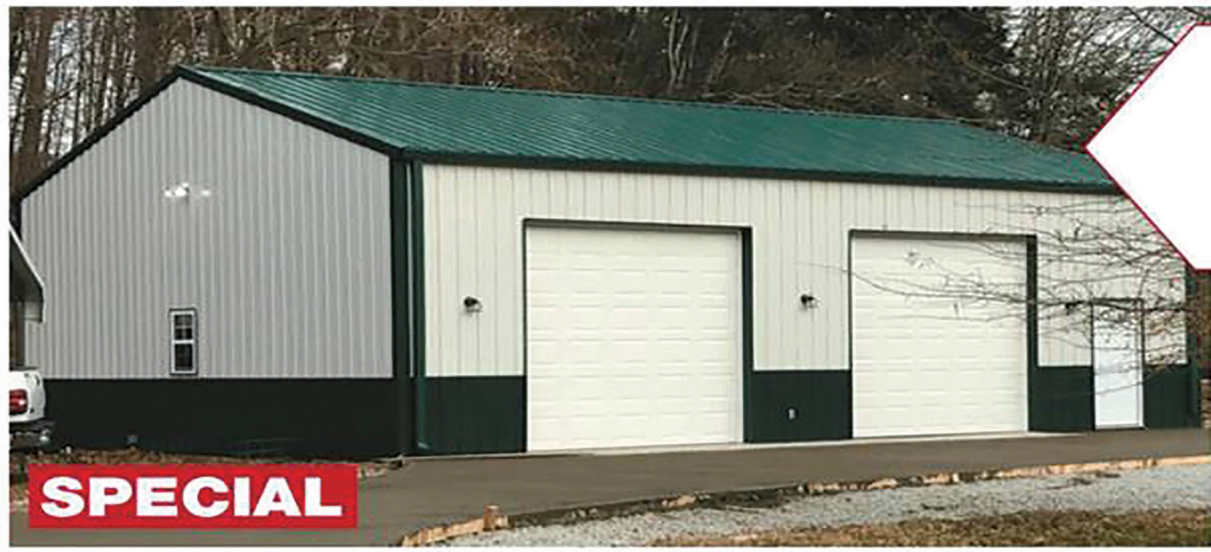
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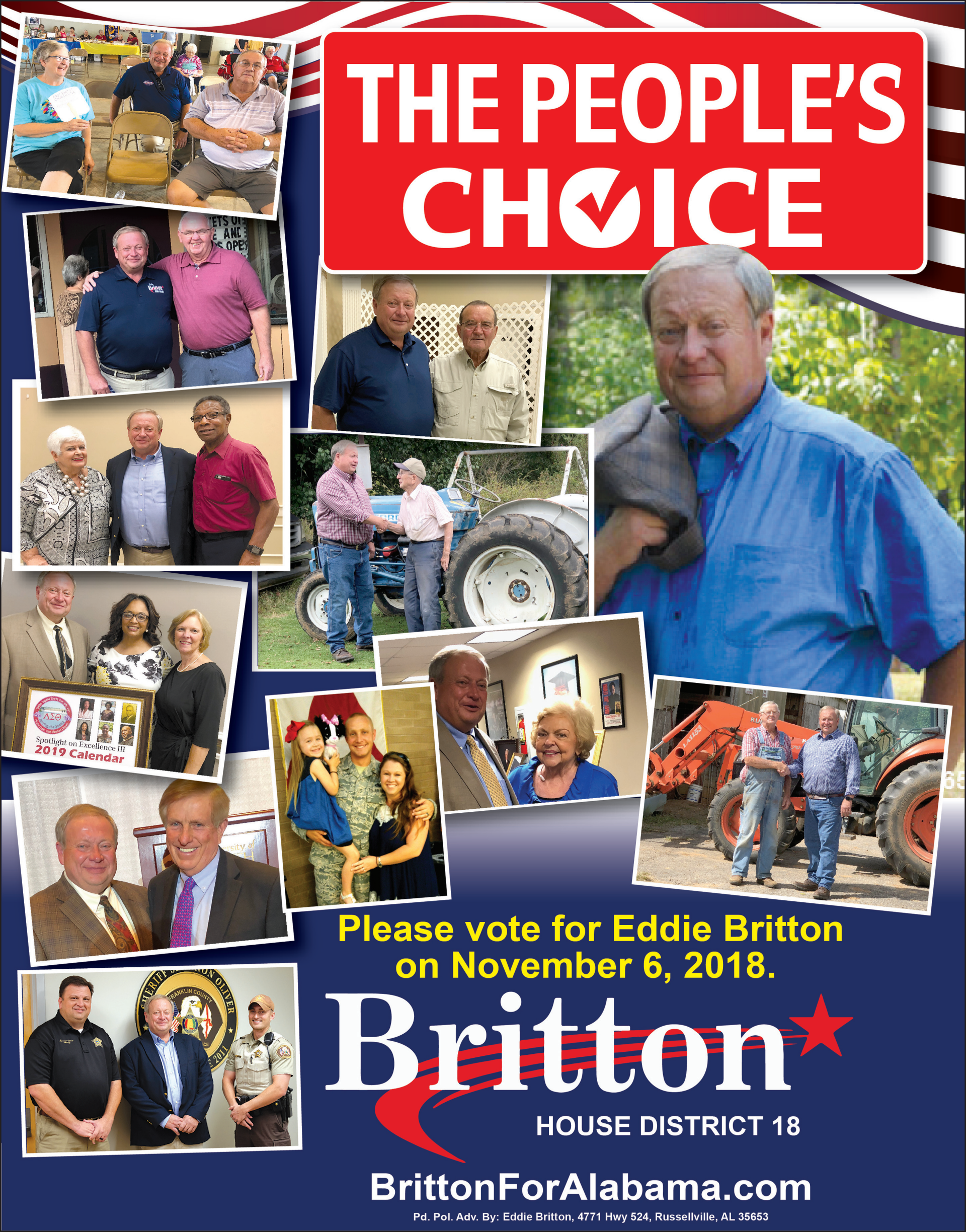


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