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Parker wins prestigious award

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

A Russellville City Schools teacher received a prestigious award last Monday that recognized her commitment to educating students in the four disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM.

The Air Force Association (AFA) Tennessee Valley Chapter awarded West Elementary School secondgrade teacher Chasity Parker with the 2019 Teacher of the Year Award for grades K-8.

Parker received the award at a special ceremony held at the school May 20. AFA Tennessee Valley Chapter president Rick Driesbach, USAF Colonel (Ret.) and AFA South Central Region president Russell

See 'PARKER,' Page 3



COURTESY PHOTO (From left) AFA Tennessee Valley Chapter president Rick Driesbach, USAF Col (retired); WES principal Deanna Hollimon; AFA South Central Region president Russell Lewey, USAF Col (retired); Chasity Parker, AMSTI; specialist Natalie Burt; and RCS superintendent Heath Grimes were present for last week's award ceremony.

State voters to decide next year on church security amendment

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

Alabama voters will decide next year whether to approve a Constitutional amendment that would extend the 'stand your ground' law allowing someone to use deadly physical force in self-defense or defense of others on the premises of a church.

"In church security," Kiel said, "the security person is not only tasked in protecting himself and those around him, but he may have to be proactive toward people in another location of the church. If security is called to a dangerous situation, they are going to seek out the danger in order to protect those where the danger is located, and we want that person to be fully able to do that without fear of criminal or civil repercussion."

Rep. Jamie Kiel (R-Russellville) sponsored and introduced HB 536 during the 2020 legislative session. The bill proposes an amendment to the Alabama Constitution that is applicable only in Franklin County.

Since it was a local amendment, HB 536 could have been decided only by Franklin County voters next March, but that required it passing the House unanimously. Although the bill cleared the House, a representative from Jefferson County cast the lone 'no' vote, so now the amendment will be decided by voters across the state.

"Generally on local amendments there is no opposition," Kiel said. "I was surprised that a legislator would involve herself in what should have been a local decision to protect the churches of Franklin County."

The bill also cleared the Senate, paving the way for it to be sent to secretary of state John Merrill's office for See 'CHURCH,' Page 11





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Census Committee now has mission statement

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission approved the mission statement of the Franklin County Census Committee at the commission's May 20 meeting.

Census Committee chairman Dick Rowland presented the statement to commissioners. The Census Committee consists of Rowland, Leah Mansell, David Palmer, Michael Hughes, Mary Hallman-Glass, Jason Miller, Greg Hamilton, Heath Grimes and Katernia Cole-Coffey.

Rowland said the committee anticipates a 2020 census result for Franklin County that will be 120 percent of the 2010 census estimate of 31,500 residents.

"That would be 37,800, a 6,300 increase in county," Rowland said. "Most of that county will come from the Latino community, including undocumented residents and their children. That increase will amount to about \$10,080,000 each year to the state and this county.

"In the period between 2020 and the next census, that amounts to a \$100,800,000 additional cash flow."

Most federal programs whose funding allocations are determined by population rely on census data to calculate the division of monies to states. That averages out to about \$1,600 per person in Alabama in federal funding.

The Franklin County Census Committee presented the following purpose statement to the commission: The purpose of the Franklin County Complete Census County Committee is to achieve a complete accurate census count in 2020 and every bicentennial census that follows. We will do a better job

every census that follows.

We are, in 2020, focused mostly on the opportunities presented by our huge and relatively recent Latino population. We failed, we believe, in 2010 to record a large portion of that cohort, especially non-citizens and their children. In 2020, we strive to motivate and inspire a count of 90 percent or more of that population. Further, the census gives us an opportunity to take major improved and ongoing activities and actions to integrate the Latino population into the whole of our community, giving each of us both individually and collectively, more resources to pursue a more fulfilling future.

In addition to the availability of federal and state financial resources, another reason to participate in the census is that Alabama is at risk of losing one of its seven Congressional seats if the 2020 Census data shows a decrease in population. That would mean one less voice for Alabama at the federal level.

In mid-March of 2020, every Alabama household will receive a packet from the U.S. Census Bureau in the mail. It will include information on how to complete the short census form in one of three ways: Online via computer or smart phone; by calling a toll-free number and completing it over the phone with a U.S. Census Bureau employee; or calling a toll-free number and requesting a traditional paper form.

Some rural areas, including some in Franklin County, that have low internet access will receive a paper form in the initial mailing.

Rowland said there are employment opportunities available through the U.S. Census Bureau for Franklin County residents, especially those with bilingual skills. For more information, log onto https://2020census.gov/jobs.

Commission authorizes public sale of vehicles

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission approved the public sale of eight vehicles owned by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office at the commission's May 20 meeting.

Commissioners authorized sheriff Shannon Oliver to sell by sealed bid the following vehicles: 2005, 2008 and 2010 Ford Crown Victorias; 2012 Chevy Tahoe; 2013 Ford Taurus; 2014 Chevy Caprice; and a 1974 van.

In other action, the commission:

•Approved the solicitation of loan bids for the \$438,620.85 purchase of two new one-arm

garbage trucks by the Franklin County Solid Waste Department. The loan will be for 60 months.

•Approved a public hearing to consider the vacating of Edgar Branch Road.

•Failed to second a motion by commissioner Rayburn Massey to vacate an 80-foot right-of-way on Carpenter Road. The motion died for a lack of a second.

•Received notice that Valley State Bank would agree to interest-only payments for 2019 on a Franklin County Highway Department loan for the purchase of dump trucks.

•Approved a bid from Pest Solutions for insect treatment at the Franklin County Courthouse in

the amount of \$320/month. The bid was higher than another submitted bid but was accepted due to being an Alabama vendor, commissioners said.

•Approved the renaming of the Trapptown voting precinct to Churntown precinct. The polling place is Cornerstone Church.

•Approved moving the Vina voting precinct from the Vina Fire Department to the Vina Community Center.

•Accepted the resignation of Trae Durden from the Community Action Agency and appointed Tracy Thompson to the position.

•Heard an update on the Franklin County Census Committee from chairman Dick Rowland and approved the committee's mission statement.

'PARKER' from page 1

Lewey, USAF Colonel (Ret.) were on hand to present the award to Parker.

The AFA's mission is to encourage education in aerospace-related fields and STEM subjects and to support teachers who carry that mission out in their classrooms.

Parker was nominated by RCS superintendent Heath Grimes based on her passionate commitment to STEM education as well as her role in creating a robotics program at West Elementary. She has been trained as an Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) specialist, and Parker works as an AMSTI math and science trainer for other teachers each summer.

With WES students and faculty set to enjoy their annual Field Day May 20, Parker was surprised to receive a call from WES principal Deanna Hollimon asking her to dress up for what she was told would be a newspaper interview. Much to Parker's surprise, a school assembly was actually scheduled, with her as the guest of honor.

"I had no clue I was going to receive an award," Parker said. "Mrs. Hollimon told me a newspaper wanted to do a story on our robotics program, and I might want to dress up even though it was Field Day."

The award, which included a \$250 cash stipend to be used in her classroom, was extra special for Parker since her father, Ralph Vincent, was an Air Force veteran.

"My dad served in the Air Force four years during the Vietnam War as a jet engine mechanic," she said. "When I realized the Air Force was presenting the award, it meant so much more to me. It's one thing to earn an award, but my dad died three years ago, and to receive an award from the Air Force was really special to me."

Parker's mother, Betty Vincent, was a longtime employee for the City of Russellville. Parker is married to Steven Parker. They have three children:

Caden, a 2019 graduate of Russellville High School; Maddux, who will be a sophomore this fall; and Hudsen, who will enter the fifth grade in August.

Parker is a 14-year veteran of Russellville City Schools, having taught second grade the entire time. Parker worked to start a robotics program for K-2 graders this year at West.

The 20 students selected met each Wednesday afternoon after school. In February, they competed at the University of North Alabama Robotics Competition and won the K-2 division as well as finishing first overall out of 80 teams consisting of K-12 students.

Students were selected based on scan tron scores as well as grades, behavior and teacher input.

Parker said she's glad to see the additional focus on STEM curriculum in elementary schools because it reflects the training and education students need as they enter today's work force.

"It boils down to our society changing. Our role as educators is changing," she said. "Careers are geared toward science and engineering. We're not working in the fields anymore, or if we are, it's being done through some type of technology. We want to better prepare our students for the work force and the world with its changing ways of technology."

Grimes said when he read the nomination criteria for the award, he immediately thought about Parker.

"Chasity has jumped on board with the STEM and the instructional progress in our school district," Grimes said. "She really seems to love the STEM portion of the science and math classroom. She is very creative, energetic and she has taken a lot of extracurricular time to work with the robotics team from West.

"She was very deserving of this award and really shines a positive light on Russellville City Schools and all that is happening here with STEM."

Honey Do: Air conditioners

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Well, here we are in the middle of July....at least, it certainly *feels* like the middle of July. At this rate we may be frying eggs on the sidewalk this summer. Anyway, it's a great time to talk about air conditioners, preferably while you are sitting under one.

I have always said that I was born at just the right time. By the time I was potty-trained, the folks moved the bathroom into the house. When I started cutting the grass, Dad invested in a riding mower. And I can't really remember not having an air conditioner in the house.

Before going to the store, you should know three things. How much area do I want to cool? What type of power supply do I have to plug into? How big is the window where I will be installing the airconditioner? If you know all this, your purchase and installation should go smoothly.

Many homes have central heat and air these days, but window units are still common, whether for primary cooling or dedicated space cooling. For example, small units can be used for offices, bedrooms or sunrooms, while large units may cool the entire house.

The biggest mistake I see people make is buying too small. Window

air conditioners start out at about 5,000 BTU's. These may cool a very small bedroom (10'x10' or less) at night, but don't expect it to keep a daysleeper comfort-

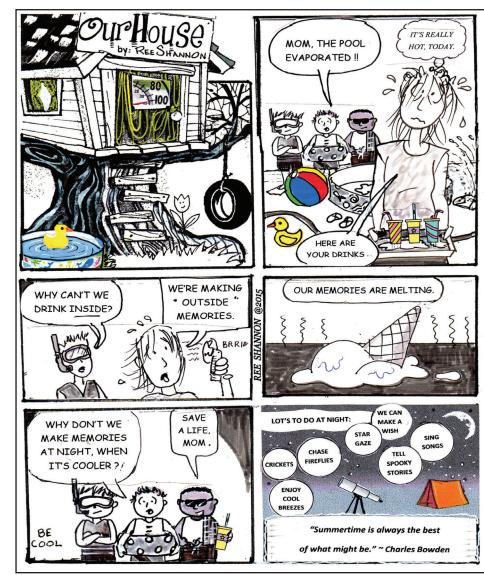


daysleeper comfortable on a hot, summer day. I reccommend a minimum of 8,000 BTU's for any small room.

Window air conditioners generaly range from 5,000 BTU's to 15,000 BTU's that will plug into a standard 110v outlet, while larger units require a dedicated 240v outlet. Some larger units may also require a 30-amp outlet that is larger than the common 20-amp outlet found in most homes. Be sure you know what your electrical outlet looks like before you pick out your A/C, or be prepared to have an electrician out to install one for you.

Before going to the store, you should know three things. How much area do I want to cool? What type of power supply do I have to plug into? How big is the window where I will be installing the airconditioner? If you know these three things, your purchase and installation should go very smoothly.

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



wouldn't buy a place in Florida if I lived in Washington, D.C. and there was a chance I could be re-assigned pretty much anywhere in the world. I'd just scrape the lot where the rental house was, sell it, and invest that cash along with the insurance money.

Long distance landlording is really tough. It's stressful, and it adds an even bigger element of risk to the rental property equation. It's not something I generally recommend. If it's something you guys want to take a chance on, though, you're certainly in the financial position to do it.

Just remember to pay cash for the whole thing, and if possible, try to get a location where you'd both like to end up when your military careers are over.

Congratulations, you two! And thank you for your service to our country.

Dave

Combine finances in marriage?

Dear Dave, Should my husband and I combine our finances?

Jenny

Dear Jenny,

If you want a quality marriage, the answer is yes. If you want a high probability of building wealth, the answer is yes.

I read an article the other day about how you shouldn't rely on joint bank accounts in marriage, because half of all marriages end in divorce, and the woman needs to be independent of her husband financially, so she won't get messed over if the marriage doesn't last. That's an absolute load

FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

113 WASHINGTON AVE. NW RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35653 256-332-0255

The *Franklin Free Press* is published weekly by Pilati Investments, Inc. Our publication is mailed to our readers at no charge.

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Long distance landlord?

Dear Dave,

My husband and I are active-duty military stationed outside Washington, D.C. We're completely debt-free and have finished your entire Baby Steps plan, but last month our paid-for rental house in Florida burned down. It was empty at the time, so no one was hurt, and we got a check from the insurance company for \$165,000. We both plan to serve another nine years, and we know we could be moved around during that time. We love that area in Florida, though, and want to go back there one day. Do you think we should use the money to buy another place and rent it out until we're ready to retire from the military?

Carrie

Dear Carrie,

Wow! I am so proud of you guys. You're at the point where you're living—and giving—like no one else. You have achieved financial peace!

Now, I *love* real estate. But it's always a good idea to have your rental property near you. I

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'DAVE,' from page 4

of crap, and here's why.

How and where you spend your money is always a direct result of your value systems. Jesus said it this way: "For where your treasure is, your heart will be, also." When you plan your finances together and you're sharing your hopes and dreams, you're sharing your goals for the future. You're reaching for those *together*. You each have a voice, you each have a vote, and no one loses their personal identity in this. So yes, married couples should combine their finances. They should combine their checking accounts and their decision-making on finances. You'll make better, smarter decisions that way, *and* it instills communication in a marriage.

You know, when I first started teaching this stuff, I didn't realize that. I told couples to combine their finances, not from a relational standpoint, but because it's impractical to run two sets of books in a household. But it's very hard to hit the same goals and make good things happen *together* when you're living separate financial lives. Since then, I've become convinced this approach builds stronger finances *and* stronger marriages.

Marriage is grand, divorce is fifty-grand, and when you live separately you're going to end up living...separately. Combine your finances.

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

egistration for Russellville Golden Tigers tackle/flag football and Kcheer will be held Thursday, May 30 and Saturday, June 8 at the Russellville Rec Center, 201 Ash Avenue. May 30 sign-up times are from 4-7 p.m. June 8 sign-up times are from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Required documents include \$40 registration fee and birth certificate. Discount available for siblings. Ages 4-5 on flag football, 6-12 on tackle football and 4-12 on cheerleaders. For more info, call Loretta Hatton, Russellville Youth Football and Cheer president, at 256-412-6817.

iberty Chapel Free Will Baptist Church will have revival with evangelist Bro. Shane Williams June 2-5, with Sunday service at 5 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday services at 7 p.m. The church is located on Hwy. 81 in the Oak Grove/East Franklin community. Pastor Bro. Brian Fuller and congregation invite everyone to attend!

C pruce Pine Historical Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month At 6:30 p.m. at the Spruce Pine Community Center in Spruce Pine. Next meeting will be June 4. All members and friends are urged to attend.

ifeSouth Community Blood Center will host a blood drive at Russellville Hospital on Wednesday, June 5 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. LifeSouth is the primary supplier of blood products to Russellville Hospital. Please contact Deborah Lindsey to schedule an appointment at 256-332-8676 or by email at deborah.lindsey@russellvillehospital.org. Please be sure to bring your photo ID when you donate. Everyone who signs up to donate will receive a free T-shirt, an appetizer card from Texas Roadhouse, a free cookie dough card from Papa Murphy's and a free meal ticket from Russellville Hospital. We will also be giving away DOOR PRIZES! Thank you for giving the gift of life!

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp

#1833, will meet Thursday, June 6, 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 58th season of "The Miracle Worker" play at Ivy Green, the Home of Helen Keller, begins Friday, June 7. The play, which will be performed on Friday and Saturday nights though July 13, depicts the life of Keller from the discovery of her deafness and blindness, caused by a fever when she was 19 months old, to her learning to communicate with the help of her teacher Anne Sullivan. It is the Official State Outdoor Drama for Alabama and has been named a Top 20 Event by the Southeast Tourism Society. Keller went on to become a world renowned author, lecturer and advocate for people with disabilities. She was known as America's First Lady of Courage. The gates at Ivy Green open at 6:30 p.m. for the play, with the performance getting underway at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for reserved seats, \$10 for general admission and include a self-guided tour of Ivy Green and its grounds. Concessions are available. For tickets, or more details, call Ivy Green at 256-383-4066. For more places to see and things to do in Colbert County, call Colbert County Tourism and Convention Bureau at 256-383-0783.

n Saturday, June 8 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., the Russellville Bicentennial Committee will present the second in the Saturday history series called "The Way We Were: Historical Demonstrations, Exhibits, and Portrayals." Schedule: 10-11 a.m. Civil War Historians Jerry Smith and Tim Kent; 11-11:30 a.m. Civil War questions and answers and examination of Civil War artifacts; 11:45-12:45 Lisa Green, Alabama State president of the Order of the Confederate Rose; 1-2:30 p.m. Indian historian Butch Walker. There will be a living history camp outside and wagon rides for the children. Other Saturday events will be on July 13, August 10 and September 14. There will be different demonstrations, exhibits and portrayals each month. All events will be at the Russellville Canteen at 217 Washington Avenue. Call Doris Hutcheson at 256-332-4085 or Chris Ozbirn at 256-332-8827.

he Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre on Saturday, June 8 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. Proceeds will benefit the renovation and restoration of the Roxy.

St. Paul C.M.E. Church will celebrate Rev. Zethelyn R. Johnson Second Appreciation at the Todd Centre in Russellville on Sunday, June 9 at 2 p.m. Guest speaker will be Dr. William Boyd. Come and join us in this celebration. We are looking forward to a blessed time in the Lord! Dinner will be served. For more information, call 256-332-6177.



Jater Aerobics classes will begin at the Russellville City Lake Pool on Monday, June 10 at 9 a.m. There is a \$10 cost for the class. It will be held on Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. Please wear pool/water shoes, and bring water to drink during the class. For more information or questions about the class, please call 256-483-1268.



merican Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, June 11 at 7 p.m. at the A Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Join us in studying God's faithfulness to Joseph in Vacation Bible School at Oakwood Missionary Baptist Church in Spruce Pine on Saturday,

June 22 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This year's theme is "Farm Fresh Faith." The church is located on Hwy. 13 on the right before the four-lane ends. VBS is for ages 2 all the way through teenagers. Everyone is welcome!

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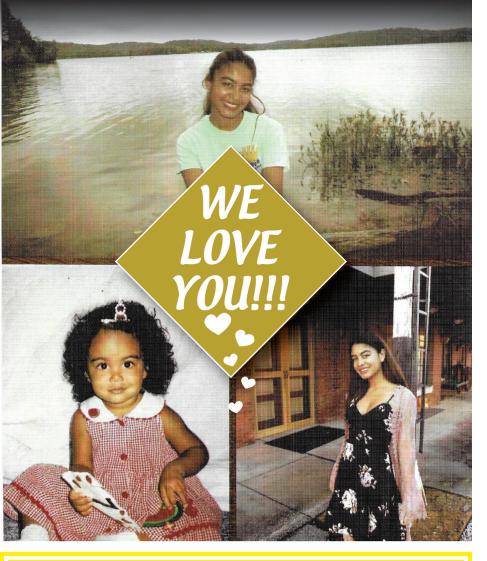
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Local teams soar at Rocketry Challenge

Brady Petree Franklin Free Press

Fifty years ago this year, Neil Armstrong became the first person to ever step foot on the moon. What came after that historic moment is what became the inspiration for students across the country to become interested in rocketry and engineering. Two groups of those students are located right here in Franklin County.

The Russellville Rocketry Team and the Tharptown Rocketry Team placed in the Top 25 at the Team America Rocketry Challenge in Washington D.C. Russellville had two teams finish in the top 25, with one placing 14th and the top team placing second. The Tharptown Rocketry Team made its first appearance in the national tournament and finished 23rd.

Each team will receive an invite to participate in NASA's Student Launch program, and the top Russellville team received a \$15,000 prize for finishing in second place.

The sponsor for the Russellville Rocketry team and engineering teacher is Gabe Willis, who just took over the rocketry team this year. Willis was extremely encouraged to see the team perform better than a majority of the magnet and larger schools at the competition, but he expected no less.

"It's awesome for us to place second and 14th among all of these schools that may be twice our size or may be a magnet school, where some of those kids, [rocketry] is all they really focus on," Willis said. "This is consistency at its finest. Some of these kids have been doing this for several years, and they've consistently placed in the top ten. So for them to place that high against that level of competition, it's incredible, but we know they have done it and can do it."

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Dolan appointed to Phil Campbell water board

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

After more than three months with a vacancy, the Phil Campbell Water Works and Sewer Board again has a five-member board after Gary Dolan was unanimously appointed by the Phil Campbell City Council at its May 21 meeting.

The appointment of Dolan, a retired employee of the department, ended a prolonged debate about who would replace Stephen Sampson, whose term expired earlier this year.

The council met before a packed house of residents, from both inside and outside Phil Campbell city limits, and several employees of the Phil Campbell Water Works and Sewer Board.

At the council's April meeting, a motion to appoint mayor Steve Bell to the Water Works and Sewer Board failed after the council voted 2-2-1 on the measure. The primary issue for discussion was whether the vacancy should be filled by a third council member.

Council members Danny Brown and Jim Cartee already serve on the board, along with Sammy Taylor and Denny Hagood.

Taylor addressed the council before the meeting to voice his concerns about the situation.

"As vice-chairman of the board, with two council members on the board, this has been a hard thing at times," Taylor said. "At our May 6 meeting, the council was at a meeting in Mobile, so the water board only had two board members present at our meeting. There was a third chair just sitting there. If someone had been there, we could have conducted our business.

"I've been on the board 29 years, and it's never taken three months to fill a spot. My question is, why has it taken so long, and why does it have to be another member of the council? You may have the right to do that, but it may not be the right thing

According to Willis, the competition this year was centered on commemorating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. The students had to construct a rocket that could go 856 feet into the air, break apart into two pieces and safely return three eggs (which were to represent the astronauts) safely back to the ground. There were around 800 schools that started out competing for a chance to make it to the national tournament in Washington D.C., and only 100 of those made it to the tournament.

Willis is proud of the work that the students have put in and happy to see that their hard work has paid off.

"These kids are awesome," he said. "I mean, practicing and preparing for things like this isn't easy. You have to take into account the weather. If it's even too windy, you can't really do anything, and especially if it's raining and storming like it has been. But these kids have persevered. They've put in the time and effort, and it clearly shows. I'm just really proud of what they've been able to do this year."

Russellville High School principal Jason Goodwin, who moved to Russellville shortly after the team had won the world championship in 2015, also had some words of encouragement for the members of the Rocketry Team.

"When I moved here in 2015, I didn't truly realize how much this program meant. I quickly learned just how important it was and how great it really was," Goodwin said. "With the help of the commu-

to do."

Bell acknowledged the vacancy had been open too long but took issue with Taylor about whether the vacancy should be filled by a council member.

"I agree with that completely. It should not take three months," Bell said. "But I can turn that around and say, why not a council member, other than the perception that something's going on."

Another issue involved whether the board appointment should go to someone living inside the Phil Campbell city limits. Dolan, according to council member Lynn Landers (who made the motion), is a Phil Campbell resident. But the Phil Campbell Water Works and Sewer Board serves approximately 475 city residents and almost 1,900 customers outside the city limits, so the majority of revenue is coming from outside the city.

Bell responded to allegations that the council was trying to 'take over' the Water Works and Sewer Board by attempting to appoint a third council member.

"For me, it's not about getting the money the water board has," Bell said. "The money the water board has doesn't belong to the town. Ultimately, it doesn't belong to the water board. It belongs to all the customers served by that water board.

"Assumption and speculation will get you nowhere."

Cartee said the council already is involved in obtaining monies for the Water Works and Sewer Board, and that involves a team effort.

"All the funds that went to build lines out of town and in town come through this council. It's a pretty big job. You benefit from it, but you pay the bills, too," Cartee said. "Everyone pitches in together. In order for this to happen, it must come through the folks sitting at this council table."

After the hour-long work session, which saw several Water Works and Sewer Board customers and employees address the council, Landers

'SOAR,' from page 8

nity, the sponsors, the teachers and of course the members of the Rocketry Team, the team did outstanding.

"To be able to go out and compete with these magnet schools whose students are already enrolled in engineering courses and perform extremely well and compete with them is tremendous."

The members of the Russellville Rocketry Team



made the motion to appoint Dolan. Council member Eddie Barton seconded it, and Dolan was approved unanimously.

In other action, the council:

•Authorized the purchase of a used bush hog for approximately \$11,000 for use by the Street Department.

•Heard an update from Bell about Spectrum cable and internet now being live in Phil Campbell.

"If you are inside the city limits, you have available 100-meg internet, cable and phone," Bell said. "Just go to the Spectrum office in Russellville to sign up. It's something we've been working on a long time."

•Approved the preliminary steps for a Community Development Block Grant to pay for demolition of dilapidated buildings, structures or slabs anywhere in town. Citizens may have these removed at no cost to them, and the town has no match if awarded the grant.

Kevin Hill with the Street Department is working with citizens to obtain a form saying they want the work done.

"Just contact city hall to let us know you're interested," Bell said. "We have the option to abate these properties where the property owner would be responsible for demolition costs, but we don't want to do that.

"This is a no-cost option and is not restricted to tornado damage, but any dilapidated property. We urge residents to take advantage of this grant."

•Approved the hiring of part-time employees Carley Nix and Amy Hodge at the Phil Campbell Splash Pad to work with Nelda Moss for the summer.

•Approved posting for a full-time position with the town to work on a garbage truck. There is a temporary employee in the position now, but Bell said the town needs to hire a full-time person as soon as possible.

1 that placed 14th are Katie Burns, Seth Burn, Jessica Morrow and Rudy Ajualip-Huarcas.

The members of the second-place team for the Russellville Rocketry Team are Bailey Hargett, Carrie Ruth Jackson, Elijah Hawkins and Tino Soto.

The members of the Tharptown Rocketry Team are Greyson Studdard, Grace Beard, Danielle Cassel and Brayden Malone.



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

YARD SALES

FOR **AIF**

Large estate sale this Friday and Saturday. May 31/June 1 from 7 am-3 pm at 127 Virginia Avenue, Russellville, AL 35653. Furniture, dishes, household items, lots of misc. stuff.

Two Family Yard Sale. Fri. May 31 & Sat. June 1. 7 a.m.—until. 340 Briarleigh in Briarleigh Subdivision. Go past Russellville High School

on Waterloo Road. 3rd Chemical Energy park-AMERICAN REALTY, LLC.

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ing lot in downtown Russellville. Yard sale will include total of 5 families Furniture clothes, toys, home goods, jewelry, shoes, kids clothing, tools and Friday/Saturday, May

left past Summit off

Waterloo. Clothing

Household items

furniture and more

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31/June 1. 7 a.m.-until.

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little of everything and

everyone is welcome!

Huge Yard Sale this

Saturday, June 1 from

7 a.m.-12 p.m. 107

Madison St. NE @ Petro

more! Three-family yard sale this Saturday, June 1 from 7 am-3 pm next to Southside Baptist Church on Hwy, 43 Clothes, children's clothes, name-brand clothes, dishes, furniture,

lots of misc. items.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost Dogs. Lost from residence at 603 Franklin St. NE in Russellville. Male Sable German Shepherd About 11 months old Leather dog collar with rabies vaccination tag. Also, male blond lab mix. Long hair. App. 10 years old. No collar. Beloved family pets. Please call 256-332-1143 with any information on these dogs. (3)

On Monday, April 29, I visited Walmart in

JOB OPENING

Russellville Gas Board (RGB)

Position: Helper (Full-Time)

Responsible for: General labor to assist with any function of the operation and maintenance of the Board's facilities as assigned or required. Must have current Alabama Driver's License. Must have high school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to pass OPS drug test. Fluent English/Spanish speaking preferred. For all inquiries regarding this position or to apply for this position, please contact the Russellville Gas Board by phone at (256) 332-2020 or in person at 1296 Walnut Gate Rd, Russellville, AL 35654 (RGB Office).

Applications for this position will be accepted for until Friday 5/31/2019 at 3 PM.

Russellville and checked out using the self-serve checkout kiosk. The machine gave out \$60 in change for my purchase, but I forgot to pick up the change and left the \$60 in the machine. When I returned to the Walmart the money was no

longer there. I am asking the person or persons who took the money to PLEASE return it to the service desk at Walmart. There will be NO questions asked. I am not in a financial position to be without this money. Thank You for your help

and God bless! (3) HOUSES/ APARTMENTS/ PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

7 Room Brick Ranch in Hester Heights For Sale. 3 BR 2 Full Baths Remodeled kitchen. Two-car attached and 2.5-car detached garage. Storm house. Large level lot. Reduced to \$139,000 OBO. Please call 256-263-8589. (2)

3 BR, 2 BA house for rent. Deposit required. Lawn service included. Call 256-436-4622. (4)

2 BR, 1 BA house for rent. Deposit required. Lawn service included. Call 256-436-4622. (5)

Small double-wide mobile home, fully furnished, central heat & air. Must be moved. \$3,995. Call 256-324-2831. (3)

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to good home. Black in color. 8 weeks old. Call 256-668-3345. (2)

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MISC. FOR SALE

Playstation 3 gaming system for sale. Includes 25 games, four controllers, two microphones for Singing Star, guitar and guitar adapter. \$100. Call 256-324-2407. (5)

Classified Rates Yard Sale Rates: FREE, Deadline Mondav 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, Giveawavs. and Items Under \$100 (Private

Franklin Free Press

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

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Second event in Bicentennial historical series set for June 8

.Iohn Pilati Franklin Free Press

If you're a history buff, or just want to learn more about the history of our community, an event next Saturday is just for you.

Russellville Bicentennial The Committee will present the second in a history series called The Way We Were. The event will be held at the Russellville Canteen, 217 Washington Ave. NW, next to the A.W. Todd Centre, on Saturday, June 8 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

There will be a number of historical demonstrations, exhibits and portravals. And kids will find an outdoor living history camp and wagon rides to enjoy.

The Way We Were is being presented over five Saturdays this year in conjunction with the 200th birthday of the City of Russellville, which was founded November 27, 1819.

The June 8 event will feature Civil War historians Jerry Smith and Tim Kent from 10-11:30 a.m. There will be a question and answer session and a number of Civil War artifacts will be on display.

From 11:45-12:45, Lisa Green, president of the Alabama Chapter of the Order of the Confederate Rose, will have a presentation on the histo-

ry, heritage, research and preservation of some of the sacred symbols of the Confederacy and a rememberance of the soldiers who fought for Southern freedom.

From 1-2:30 p.m., Indian historian Butch Walker will take center stage.

Walker is a member of the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama and a former science teacher at Speake High School. In 1987, Walker became director of Lawrence County Schools' Indian Education Program and later served as Oakville Indian Mounds Education Center Director, where he and the program received national recognition.

Walker has authored numerous books, including Soldier's Wife: Cotton Fields to Berlin and Tripoli, which provides insight into the often overlooked lives of the women who stood behind our service men. He also wrote a biography of Chickasaw Chief George Colbert, for whom Colbert County was named.

Additional programs for The Way We Were are scheduled for July 13, August 10 and September 14, with different exhibits, presenters and portrayals each time.

For more information about this special event, contact Chris Ozbirn at 256-332-8827 or Doris Hutcheson at 256-332-4085.

PAGE 11 MAY 29, 2019

'CHURCH,' from page 1

placement on the 2020 primary ballots.

HB 536 provides that a person may use deadly physical force with the legal presumption of justification in self-defense or defense of another person if the person reasonably believes that another person is using or about to use physical force against an employee, volunteer, member of a church, or any other person authorized to be on the premises of the church when the church is open or closed to the public when the church is open or closed to the public while committing or attempting to commit a crime involving death, serious physical injury, robbery in the first degree, or kidnapping in the first degree.

Essentially, the bill would allow anyone, including a member of a church security team, to use deadly physical force if justified with no duty to retreat and having the right to stand his or her ground.

"It allows you to protect yourself or those around you," Kiel said. "In church security, the security person is not only tasked in protecting himself and those around him, but he may have to be proactive toward people in another location of the church. If church security is called to a dangerous situation, they are going to seek out the danger in order to protect those where the danger is located, and we want that person to be fully able to do that without fear of criminal or civil repercussion."

The bill would provide immunity for someone using justified deadly physical force from civil action or criminal prosecution. It also states that law enforcement may use standard procedures for investigating the use of deadly physical force in a church, but may not make an arrest a person for using it unless it determines there is probable cause that the force was unlawful.

The proposed amendment will appear on ballots as follows: Relating to Franklin County, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that a person is not liable for using deadly physical force in selfdefense or in the defense of another person on the premises of a church under certain conditions.

Voters will cast a YES or NO vote on the amendment.

Kiel said there are similar bills pending for Colbert and Lauderdale counties. He derived the idea of extending the stand your ground defense to churches after attending a conference on church security at First Baptist Church, Russellville.

"The church security seminar was sponsored by the Alabama Baptist Convention," Kiel said. "At that seminar, we discussed the potential for statewide legislation that protects church security teams. That night I saw a number of security teams already in place in Franklin County and knew we needed to do something to protect them from unreasonable charges in the case of an incident."

With the regular session set to conclude soon, Kiel said the House would have to approve the education budget before it adjourns, and the Senate must approve the general fund budget prior to adjournment.

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Haleyville Area Chamber of Commerce and 9-1-1 Festival



<u>9-1-1 Festival Events</u> Friday, May 31st & Saturday, June 1st, 2019 Friday Events

1:00 p.m. Arts/Crafts/Food Vendors Set-up on Main Street & blocked to thru traffic

- **3:00 p.m.** NASCAR #88 Show Car & Race Simulator compliments of Haleyville Insurance Center and Nationwide Insurance *Friday Only*
- 5:00 p.m. Kids' Zone Opens...Moon Jump, Slide, Obstacle Course and More!
- **5:30 p.m.** Music Stage...Parking lot behind Dixie Theatre and Library Fly By Radio...Kicks it Off!
- 7:00 p.m. 3-Wheel Drive
- 8:30 p.m. Special Guest Star William Michael Morgan
- 10:00 p.m. NEAL McCOY
- **11:30 p.m** Winston Ramble After Party on 9-1-1 20th Street Stage







Saturday Events

- 6:00 a.m. Encore Rehab/SportsFit 5k & 1 Mile Color Fun Runs Registration at Downtown Park
- 7:00 a.m. Encore Rehab/SportsFit 5k & 1 Mile Color Fun Runs
- 8:00 a.m. Classic Car Show Haleyville Center of Technology, Automotive Department Registration Haleyville City Hall Safe Center Lot Antique Tractor Show - Cox Farm Supply on behalf of FFA
 - Registration on Quinton Street near Maxx Cleaners
- 9:00 a.m. 9-1-1 20th Street Stage Opens See Schedule to the right Arts/Crafts/Food Vendors on Main Street and Kids' Zone Opens
 9:30 a.m. Cornhole Tournament *Registration Haleyville City Hall - Front Lot*
- **10:00 a.m.** Cornhole Tournament *Haleyville City Hall Front Parking Lot* Parade...Haleyville Alumni & 9-1-1 Festival Units
- **11:30 a.m.** Haleyville Alumni Luncheon at School

Noon Fireman's Challenge - *Parking Lot behind Dixie Theatre & Library*

1:00 p.m. Classic Car Show Awards Antique Tractor Show Awards

Stroll Thru Main Street, Visit The Vendors, Kids Zone Fun & Enjoy The Festival ~ DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS ~

<u>9-1-1 20th Street Stage</u> Saturday Morning

- **9:00 a.m.** North Alabama
- Dance Theatre
- 10:15 a.m. A&M Ramblers
- 11:30 a.m. Tang Soo Do -Demonstration



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SPORTS



Best may be still to come for Bobcats

Phil Campbell's first trip to the baseball state semifinals since 2006 didn't go well, with the Bobcats bowing out to Piedmont in a one-sided sweep, 5-0 and 14-1. But that sour ending did nothing

to diminish what was a break-

through season for head coach



Mike Self Jonathan Raper and company; nor Sports Editor

did it change the fact that, as good as Phil Campbell was in 2019, the best may be yet to come.

In one sense, the Bobcats arrived ahead of schedule this season. They were tasked with replacing five senior starters—including UNA signee Peyton Thomas—from the 2018 team that won 25 games. There was proven talent coming back on the mound, but the everyday lineup had more than a few holes to fill.

Consider those questions answered.

Russellville transfer Luke Barnwell took over as the starting shortstop and raked all year in the leadoff spot, batting .356 with a .491 OBP and 15 extra-base hits while ranking third in the entire state with 60 runs scored. Barnwell is just one member of a sophomore class that formed the core of what turned out to be a prolific offensive attack—one that produced a .340 team batting average and 9.5 runs per game.

That class of rising juniors also includes third baseman Austen Baker (.345 average with a .470 OBP and 13 extra-base hits), infielder Ridge Raper (.367 average with a .484 OBP and 13 extra-base hits) and speedy outfielder Trey Leindecker (.302 average with 11 extra-base hits and 42 runs scored). Factor in rising senior catcher Rilan Garrison (team-best .409 average with a .578 OBP and 42 RBIs) and slick-fielding second baseman Mason Swinney (.392 average as a freshman in 2019 with a .527 OBP), and Phil Campbell should have no fewer than six everyday starters returning next season.

They'll be loaded on the mound as well, with Raper (8-1 with a 2.47 ERA and a county-best 77 strikeouts in 51.1 innings) leading a deep staff that should also feature Barnwell (3-1 with a 1.70 ERA in 33 innings), Baker (1-2 with a 1.44 ERA and 31 strikeouts in 33.2 innings), Swinney (2-0 with just one earned run allowed and 32 strikeouts in 15.1 innings) and rising junior Brett Saint (5-3 with a 3.82 ERA and two complete games).

Without a doubt, senior starters Nate Owens, Cole Motes and Ty Leindecker will all be missed. But the bottom line remains: The Bobcats had more to replace and less coming back this past year, and they went 33-10 and came up one step shy of Montgomery.

They may well take that last step in 2020.

Franklin Free Press 2019 All-County Baseball Team

Mike Self Franklin Free Press

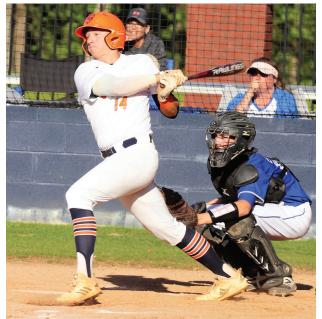
Another school year is in the books, and summer is upon us, which means it's time for us to unveil our second annual All-County baseball selections. Just as we did last season, we put together a

roster of 20 players from Franklin County and then played the part of head coach, filling out a lineup card as though we were preparing for an actual game. With the group we've assembled, we like our chances against just about anyone.

We'll start with our 2019 Free Press Player of the Year, Red Bay senior pitcher/shortstop Kolby Bragwell. As a hitter, Bragwell enjoyed his best season as a senior-and that's saying something, considering he batted .544 with six home runs as a junior in 2018.

This year the Shelton State signee collected 40 hits in 74 at bats, good for a .541 average that ranked fifth in the state (according to MaxPreps.com). The 6'2, 205-pound slugger set new career-highs with 17 extra-base hits (including 13 doubles, two triples and two homers), 50 runs scored, 36 walks (including four intentional free passes in an area game against Colbert County) and 28 stolen bases in 29 attempts.

Opposing pitchers by and large did whatever they could to avoid throwing Bragwell anything over the plate, but he still managed to be both productive (27 RBIs in 31 games) and disciplined (only nine strikeouts in 114 plate appearances). He reached base safely either by a hit, a walk or a hit by pitch 79 times, posting a staggering .693 OBP. His fearsome presence in the middle of the order had a ripple effect on Red Bay's entire offense, which produced 7.9 runs per game on the season



PHOTOS/KG **Bragwell excelled** everywhere in 2019, whether anchoring the defense at short, going 6-1 on the mound or batting .541 at the plate (below, left).

Bragwell led all of Franklin County in average and OBP, and his 15 multi-hit games tied for second. Once the Class 2A playoffs started, Bragwell went 8-for-14 with 10 RBIs and nine runs scored in the first two rounds, helping the Tigers sweep Collinsville and Sulligent on their way to reaching the state quarterfinals for the first time in 26 years.

Red Bay lost in the third round to eventual state runner-up Westbrook Christian, but Bragwell wasted little time in making his mark, lining a double to centerfield in his first at bat of the series against Warrior ace Samuel Dutton, an LSU commit.

As good as he was at the plate, Bragwell was perhaps even more dominant on the mound, overcoming a bout of early-season arm trouble to throw a career-high 45 innings. The hard-throwing right-hander went 6-1 with a 2.02 ERA across 11 appearances, including eight starts. He threw three complete games and generally made life very difficult for opposing batters, surrendering only 26 hits in those 45 innings.

Bragwell struck out 65 batters this season and walked 22, posting an outstanding strike rate of 64 percent. He was virtually untouchable in three appearances in area play, going 2-0 with only two



PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW

Buckhalter (above, left) led Russellville with a .391 average, 45 hits, 25 RBIs, 16 stolen bases and 13 multi-hit games. Barnwell (above, right) hit .356 with 15 extra-base hits for Phil Campbell and ranked third in the entire state with 60 runs scored.

hits and zero earned runs allowed in 13.2 innings. He struck out 25 batters in those three outings and walked only five, helping the Tigers go 6-0 on their way to claiming the area championship.

We'll pencil Bragwell in as our starting pitcher and No. 3 hitter. Now let's get to work building the lineup around him. We'll start at the top, where **Russellville senior centerfielder Devin Buckhalter** brings plenty of pop, speed and onbase skills to the leadoff spot.

In just his second season as a varsity starter, Buckhalter made major strides at the plate in 2019, leading the Golden Tigers in hits (45), batting average (.391), extra-base hits (13), RBIs (25), stolen bases (16) and multi-hit games (13). He also tied for the team lead with two home runs and 10 doubles and ranked second on the squad with a .463 OBP.

A potentially elite defender in center, Buckhalter's growth at the plate in his final season of high school baseball was plain to see. From his junior year to his senior year, he raised his batting average by 60 points, doubled his extra-base hit total and drastically cut down on his strikeouts (from 40 in 2018 to just 20 in 2019). His elite bat speed enabled him to drive the ball with authority all over the field and also caught the eye of coaches at the next level. He'll continue his baseball career at Calhoun Community College next spring.

Batting in the two-hole for our All-County team and playing shortstop is **Phil Campbell sophomore Luke Barnwell**. The Bobcats were an offen-

'BASEBALL,' from page 13

sive juggernaut in 2019, averaging 9.5 runs per game, and Barnwell was the catalyst at the top of the order. He batted .356 and ranked third in the entire state (all classifications) with 60 runs scored; according to MaxPreps.com, only Morgan Academy's Gunnar Henderson (69) and Westbrook Christian's Joseph Gilchrist (61) scored more.



In addition to going 8-2 on the mound with 72 strikeouts, Owens was also a force on offense with 51 hits, 49 RBIs and 52 runs scored.

Barnwell tied for second in Franklin County with 15 multi-hit games, and he wasn't just a singles hitter either. Of his 47 total hits, 15 went for extra bases (12 doubles and three triples). He drove in 25 runs and finished the season with more walks (28) than strikeouts (19), reaching base at an elite .491 clip. He was also Phil Campbell's secondleading base stealer, with 14 on the year in 16 tries.

Barnwell was also a plus defender at short, displaying excellent range and a strong arm. As an added bonus, he even went 3-1 with a 1.70 ERA and only 20 hits allowed in 33 innings on the mound. Barnwell's all-around contributions helped the Bobcats go 33-10 and reach the state semifinals for the first time since 2006.

Batting behind Bragwell in the cleanup spot, we'll go with **Phil Campbell senior first baseman Nate Owens**. A powerfully built right-handed hitter, Owens finished one RBI shy of joining Morgan Academy's Henderson as the only players in the state (according to MaxPreps.com) with 50 hits, 50 runs and 50 RBIs. Owens tied for 11th in the state with 51 hits, tied for eighth with 52 runs scored and tied for fourth with 49 RBIs.

Despite cooling off some after a red-hot start to his senior season, Owens still finished the year batting .392, a vast improvement over his .261 mark as a junior in 2018. He also led all of Franklin County this season with 17 multi-hit games and 10 sacrifice flies. Owens led Phil Campbell with 16 extra-base hits (four home runs and 12 doubles) PAGE 15 MAY 29, 2019

'BASEBALL,' from page 14

and also drew 20 walks, reaching base at a .451 clip.

Owens' two-way contributions made him our runner-up to Bragwell for Player of the Year honors. A lefty on the mound, Owens tied for third in the state (according to MaxPreps.com) in wins, finishing 8-2 with a 2.85 ERA, 72 strikeouts and just 39 hits allowed in 53.2 innings. He won three playoff starts and finished the season with four complete games, including one shutout.

Batting fifth in our All-County lineup and starting in right field is **Red Bay** senior Chase Allen, who put together a career year at the plate in 2019. When opponents pitched around Bragwell, Allen more often than not made them pay, leading the Tigers (and tying for 13th in the state) with 44 RBIs. In the game in early April when Colbert County walked Bragwell all four times he batted, Allen went 3-for-3 and drove in seven runs to lead a 16-0 Red Bay rout.

After batting a solid .338 as a junior in 2018, Allen upped that mark to a stellar .410 in 2019, collecting 34 hits in 83 at bats. He struck out only a dozen times in 112 plate appearances, drawing 21 walks and posting an elite onbase percentage of .527. He also had one home run, four doubles and 27 runs scored, stealing eight bases in nine tries and recording eight multi-hit games.

Batting sixth and playing third base for our All-County team is **Phil Campbell sophomore Ridge Raper**. The unquestioned ace of the Bobcat pitching staff, Raper also enjoyed a career-best season at the plate in 2019, batting .367 and ranking among team leaders with 47 hits, 42 RBIs and 49 runs scored in 43 games.

Raper pounded out 13 extra-base hits on the year, including nine doubles, three triples and one home run—a three-run shot to help spark a Game 1 victory over Winfield in the Class 3A state quarterfinals. Raper was an RBI machine in the playoffs, driving in 14 runs in 10 games while batting .357 with five doubles. He drew 23 walks on the season and got hit by a pitch eight times, fueling an outstanding .484 OBP. He stole 10 bases in 10 tries and also collected 14 multi-hit games on the year.

Those numbers notwithstanding, Raper did his best work in 2019 on the mound, where he was 8-1 with a 2.47 ERA in 11 appearances (all starts). He struck out 77 batters and walked only 16 in 51.1 innings, allowing 42 hits.

See 'BASEBALL,' page 16

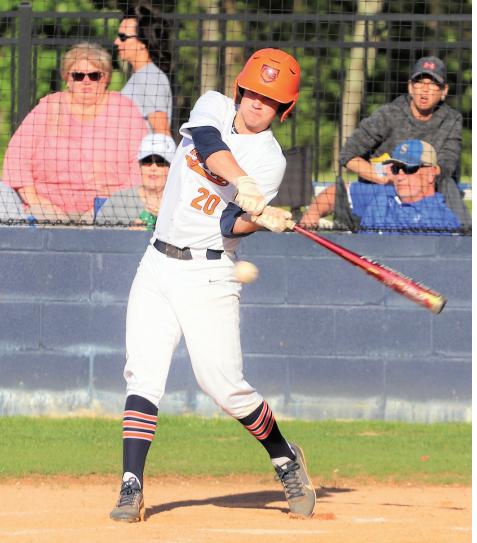


PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW CLEANUP CREW - Allen helped anchor the middle of Red Bay's lineup, batting .410 with a team-leading 44 RBIs.



www.HelenKeller.com



PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW

Raper (above) capped off a career year for Phil Campbell with 14 RBIs in 10 playoff games. Lindsey (below) led Russellville with a .486 OBP and ranked second on the team with 12 extra-base hits.



'BASEBALL,' from page 15

PAGE 16

Raper's three complete games included a five-inning perfect game against Sheffield on March 15 in a 10-0 win.

Raper's best outing, however, may have come in Game 3 of the quarterfinal series with Winfield, when he struck out 12 and walked none in six masterful innings to lead the Bobcats to an 11-1 win.

Batting seventh and filling the role of designated hitter for our All-County squad is **Russellville sophomore Jackson Lindsey**, a tall, lean lefty with a powerful stroke. Lindsey cooled off toward season's end, but he still put together an impressive campaign in his first year of varsity baseball.

Lindsey led the Golden Tigers with a .486 on-base percentage while tying for the team lead in home runs with two and doubles with 10—four of which came in one monster game against Morristown West on March 25. He also ranked second on the team with 38 hits, a .352 batting average, 20 RBIs, 25 walks and 11 multi-hit games.

We'll use Lindsey as our DH in place of **Russellville junior Will Rogers**, a plus defender with speed and an accurate throwing arm who starts for us in left field. In addition to his good work with the glove, Rogers made major strides at the plate this year as well. Over the team's final 19 games of the season, Rogers batted .349 (15-for-43) with 14 RBIs and 19 runs scored. He finished the year batting .286 overall with a home run, two triples, two doubles, a team-best 27 runs scored and a .446 OBP.

Batting eighth in our All-County lineup is **another Golden Tiger, senior catcher Hunter Briles**. A defensive standout behind the plate due to his pitch-blocking and game-calling skills, Briles began to develop into a big-time hitter in the 2018 playoffs, when he batted .378 (14-for-37) for a Russellville team that reached the state finals. He picked up where he left off this past season, batting .318 with two home runs, six doubles and 20 RBIs.

Briles drew 11 walks and got hit by a pitch nine times, posting a solid .409 OBP. He finished third on the team in average, hits (34), and multi-hit games (10).

Batting ninth for our All-County squad and playing second base is **Phil Campbell freshman Mason Swinney**, who made a smashing debut at the varsity level this season. Swinney started slowly at the plate and didn't even get regular at bats until mid-March; then he went 3-for-3 in a game against Sheffield on March 15 and essentially remained hot for the next two months, finishing the season with a .392 average that ranked third on the team.

Swinney collected 38 hits on the year and also walked 28 times, fueling a terrific .527 OBP. He recorded nine multi-hit games and added length and production to a potent Phil Campbell lineup, driving in 31 runs and scoring 35. He demonstrated some extra-base pop (seven doubles on the season) and controlled the zone well for a young hitter, striking out only 16 times all year in 131 plate appearances.

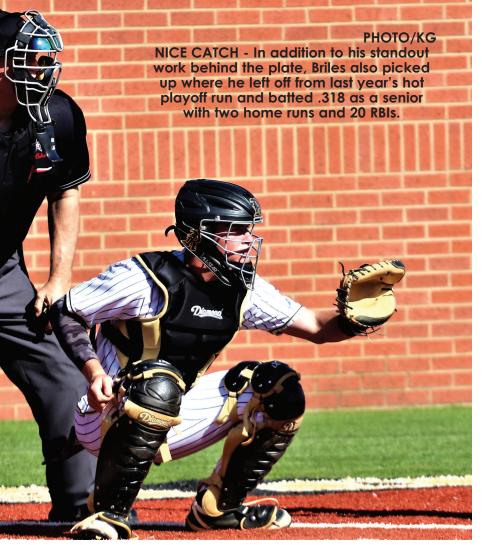
Like so many of the players on this roster, Swinney offers added value as a two-way contributor. He only pitched 15.1 innings this season, but what he lacked in quantity he more than made up for in quality. He allowed just one earned run on seven hits while posting an eye-popping strikeout/walk ratio of 32/5. It seems safe to assume that Swinney will make more than just six appearances on the mound as a sophomore in 2020.

Now it's time to use our remaining ten spots to fill out the rest of our All-County roster and pitching staff. No roster is complete without depth behind the plate, and for that we'll take **Phil Campbell junior catcher Rilan Garrison**. Batting cleanup in a prolific Bobcat lineup, Garrison led the team with a .409 batting average and was an absolute on-base machine, drawing a whopping 43 walks and posting a .578 OBP. He tied teammate Luke Barnwell for second in Franklin County with 15 multi-hit games, and he only struck out 11 times all season in 161 plate appearances. Garrison stroked nine doubles and also ranked among team leaders with 42 RBIs.

Phil Campbell's Austen Baker, a sophomore third baseman, also earns All-County honors after putting together a strong season near the top of the Bobcat lineup. Baker hit .345 for the year and provided plenty of pop in the No. 2 spot in the order, pounding out 13 extra- base hits (two home runs and 11 doubles). He drove in 45 runs, scored 41 and went a perfect 11-for-11 in stolen base attempts. Baker drew 22 walks, posted a .470 OBP and was virtually impossible to strike out, doing so only five times all season in 149 plate appearances.

As an added bonus, Baker also posted a 1.44 ERA in 12 appearances on the mound, striking out 31 batters and walking only nine in 33.2 innings.

Another third baseman/pitcher, **Red Bay senior Peyton Green**, also earns a spot on our All-County roster. Green helped anchor the middle of the Tiger lineup, batting .352 (32-for-91) with 26 RBIs and an excellent .449 OBP. He tied for second on the team with 11 multi-hit games and also stole 10 bases in 12 tries. Green was perhaps even more valuable to Red Bay on the mound, where he went 5-1 with three saves and three complete games in 13 appearances, including six starts. He worked 38.1 innings and finished the season with a 3.50 ERA.



'BASEBALL', from page 16

Providing depth for us in the outfield is **Tharptown sophomore Hunter White**, who sparked the Wildcat attack from the top of the order with a teambest .424 batting average and .582 on-base percentage. White led the team with 34 runs scored and ranked second in both hits (28) and doubles (six). He controlled the zone extremely well, walking more than twice as often (20 times) as he struck out (nine times).

Red Bay senior outfielder Cade McKinney also earns a spot on our All-County team after putting together a career year in 2019. McKinney settled into the No. 6 spot in the Tigers' high-scoring lineup and flourished, ranking third on the team with a .391 batting average and tying for second in both hits (34) and multi-hit games (11). McKinney drove in 24 runs, scored 30 and stole 14 bases without getting caught. He also drew 14 walks and struck out only 15 times in 105 plate appearances, posting a .486 OBP.

Phil Campbell's prolific lineup wouldn't have been quite as deep or dangerous without the contributions of **Trey Leindecker** in the No. 9 spot. A speedy sophomore outfielder with some pop, Leindecker batted .302 on the season with 11 extra-base hits (seven doubles, three triples and his first career homer). Essentially serving as a second leadoff man, Leindecker reached base at a .371 clip, stole a team-best 15 bases in 16 tries and scored 42 runs. He also recorded nine multi-hit games and finished the season with 28 RBIs.

Our final three All-County spots go to pitchers, starting with **Russellville senior ace Caden Parker**. A crafty right-hander who relied more on competitive grit and a high baseball I.Q. than he did on pure stuff, Parker went 6-2 this season with a 3.01 ERA. He led the Golden Tigers in starts (11), complete games (five), innings pitched (72.1) and strikeouts (50). Parker was at his strike-throwing, fast-working best on March 26 against Foley, when he needed just 99 pitches to work a nine-inning complete game in a 5-3 win.

A two-year starter at the varsity level, Parker finished his Russellville career with a 14-5 record and a 2.77 ERA in 139 innings pitched.

Inheriting the role of staff ace for the Golden Tigers will almost certainly be **right-hander Gordon White**, who overcame a rocky start to the 2019 season to put together an impressive sophomore campaign. A loss to Austin on March 5 dropped White's record to 0-3; over the remainder of the season, he went 7-0 with a 1.02 ERA and 36 strikeouts in 41 innings. For the year, White tied for the team lead with 15 appearances and went 7-3 with a 2.09 ERA in 57 innings. He struck out 40 batters and walked 17, posting an excellent strike rate of nearly 64 percent.

White's final outing of the season—a complete-game shutout of Southside Gadsden with Russellville facing elimination in the second round of the play-offs—could be a sign of things to come moving forward.

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'BASEBALL', from page 17



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW After six straight seasons of making the playoffs but failing to advance beyond round two, Raper (above, left) and the Bobcats finally broke through in 2019. They reached the state semifinals for the first time since 2006, finishing 33-10.

Rounding out our pitching staff is Tharptown freshman Jayden Mitchell, who racked up some impressive strikeout numbers for a Wildcat team that finished 13-10. Mitchell opened the season by striking out 14 Hackleburg hitters in just 4.2 innings; remarkably, 29 of the first 30 outs he recorded this year were strikeouts. He finished the season second in Franklin County with 75 K's in just 39.1 innings; only Phil Campbell's Ridge Raper (with 77) had more.

Mitchell made 11 appearances on the mound and went 4-5 with a 3.59 ERA and 28 hits allowed.

Heading up this All-County squad for us is Phil Campbell's Jonathan Raper, our 2019 Coach of the Year. Raper had guided the Bobcats to the playoffs in each of his first six seasons at the helm, but they had never made it past the second round—until this year, when they swept New Hope in round one, took two of three from Hanceville in round two and then won a heavyweight showdown with Winfield in round three to punch their ticket to the state semifinals for the first time since 2006.

Owning a pedestrian record of 5-4 after a loss to Mars Hill on March 12, Phil Campbell proceeded to go 28-4 over its next 32 games before falling in two straight to Piedmont in the Class 3A semis. The Bobcats finished 33-10 overall, winning an area title and a county championship before coming up one step shy of Montgomery. They were dominant in every phase, averaging 9.5 runs per game and allowing only 3.4 per contest.

As good as Phil Campbell was in 2019, the best could be yet to come for Raper and company. No fewer than six everyday starters and five key pitchers are slated to return in 2020.

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