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Crimson Tide broadcaster set to visit Roxy June 15th



COURTESY PHOTO

Chris Stewart (right) accepts one of his five Alabama Sportscaster of the Year awards from Jim Nantz.

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As an important part of the University of Alabama athletics broadcast team, Chris Stewart is often asked what type of person coach Nick Saban is away from the field.

Stewart quickly responds by saying Saban is a compassionate, caring person—and he knows that first-hand.

When Stewart had a stroke on April 16, 2018, Saban called several times to check on him, even though the coach was busy preparing for his team's annual 'A-Day' game. And Saban's wife Terri kept in regular touch with Stewart's wife Christy to receive updates on her husband's condition.

"He's perceived to be so hard-nosed, and he certainly can be," Stewart said of Saban. "He's so intense, and when the time calls for it, there's no one more intense, but I've seen his genuine passion and concern for his players. I've also seen it for other individuals, and I fall into that category. Here it is the week of a game, and he's calling to check on me, knowing it would have

See 'ROXY,' Page 9

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Coroner: Funeral home rotation 'the fair way' to handle referrals

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

For Franklin County coroner Charles Adcox, it's all about being fair when it comes to referrals to local funeral homes.

That's why Adcox has started a rotation among the four funeral homes in Franklin County for calls where the services of funeral home staff to remove a body are required.

Adcox said it's always the decision of the family which funeral home to use, but in the case of car accidents and other fatalities where nobody is on the scene, he will rotate among Akins Funeral Home, Spry Memorial Chapel and Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville and eastern Franklin County. Calls on the west end of the county will sent to Deaton Funeral Home of Red Bay,

Adcox said.

The rotation comes after a recent auto accident with a fatality where the funeral home that transported the body also embalmed the body without knowledge of the family, Adcox said.

"We don't want people to think the coroner's office is getting paid from funeral homes. The fair way is, everyone gets a piece of the pie," Adcox said. "Seventy-five percent stay with whoever picks them up unless there's a pre-need or other plans already arranged, so I think this is the fairest method. But in the end, the family always has the final say-so."

"The family was upset because they wanted to use another funeral home," Adcox said. "You always have the right to choose who you want to use. It was a mistake

See 'CORONER,' Page 9

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Mary Sue Britnell, Russellville, age 83
Died Saturday, June 1, 2019. Visitation will be Wednesday, June 5, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pinkard Funeral Home, with funeral service to follow at 2 p.m. Interment will be in Franklin Memory Gardens.

Juanita Ider Hipp, Hueytown (formerly of Russellville), age 97
Died Monday, May 27, 2019. Funeral held at Southside Baptist Church in Russellville. Interment in Sunny Home Cemetery in Winston County. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.

Jerry Paul Lindsey, Phil Campbell, age 76
Died Thursday, May 30, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Jonesboro Cemetery.

Daniel Posey, Phil Campbell, age 76
Died Sunday, May 26, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Blue Springs Cemetery.

Robert Edward Smith, Phil Campbell, age 62
Died Friday, May 31, 2019. Graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at Phil Campbell City Cemetery. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.

Louise E. Thorn, Russellville, age 81
Died Thursday, May 30, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Pleasant Site Cemetery in Red Bay.



We love to hear from you! Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoons, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.
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County school board hires new principals

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Board of Education approved two new principals at Tharptown High School and Phil Campbell High School with an in-system transfer and promotion at the board's May 28 meeting.

Ann Scott transfers from Belgreen High School principal to THS principal, and Darit Riddle was named PCHS principal after being promoted from his assistant principal position at the same school.

The vacancies will be posted, and the board will decide on replacements at its June meeting.

The meeting consisted primarily of personnel moves, as is often the case at end-of-year board meetings. Other personnel moves approved by the board included:

- Retirement: Susan Thompson, Belgreen teacher.
- Resignation: Christina Chambers, Red Bay math teacher; Johnathan Daniels, Red Bay music/health teacher; and Clint Isbell, Belgreen physical education teacher and coach.
- Leave of Absence: Autumn Horton, third-grade teacher at Phil Campbell, beginning August 1, 2019.
- Transfer: Todd Johnson, transfer from cabinet making instructor (half time) at Vina to cabinet making instructor at Franklin County Career Technical Center (half time). This move will make Johnson full time at the career tech facility.

- Employment: Kellie Henson, math teacher at Red Bay.
- Employment in Supplement: Shane Clay, varsity boys basketball coach at Phil Campbell.

In other action, the board:

- Approved payment of \$2,000 in 2018-19 Youth Tobacco Grant funds plus fringe benefits to Dr. Jacqueline Parsons for services performed outside of regular duties.
- Approved an out-of-state trip for Franklin County Gifted Class Grades 4-7 to Louisville, Kentucky, from September 16-18, 2019.
- Approved a physical therapy agreement with Dr. Jenny L. McCullar for the 2019-20 school year.

The next regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of Education is scheduled for June 11 at 4:30 p.m., with work session at 4:15 p.m.

RCS Board elects officers for 2019-20 school year

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

At a meeting highlighted by a large number of personnel moves, the Russellville City Board of Education elected its officers for the 2019-20 school year.

Greg Batchelor was elected president, with Jerry Groce to serve as president-elect.

Personnel moves included a number of retirements, as is often the case at the last board meeting of the school year. Personnel moves approved by the board included:

Retirement in Position: Vickie Bragwell, WES custodian; Pamela Hagedorn, RES teacher; Deedra Moore, RHS teacher; Patricia Cooper, CNP Manager at WES; Rhena Westmoreland, WES teacher; Margarita Lazo-dela-Vega, RHS teacher; and Vickie Sutton, physical education aide at WES.

Resignation of Position: Tara Vincent, WES teacher; Ashley Almon, RES teacher; Corey Thomaston, RHS teacher; Paige Hargett, attendance clerk at RHS.

Transfers: Cynthia McGee, from CNP assistant manager to CNP manager at WES; Cassie Goodwin, from library media specialist at WES to RES teacher.

Resignation of Supplement: Kelsey Pruitt, varsity cross country coach; Tony Buckhalter, assistant varsity football coach.

—Employment in Supplement: Jermaine Groce, varsity girls basketball.
—Employment in Position: Jacob Wallace, RES teacher; Emily Woods, RES teacher; Anna Lisa Jackson, WES teacher.

See 'OFFICERS,' page 11

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Alabama's education system needs change

It's time for an appointed state school board

Parker Snider
Alabama Policy Institute

A new plan by Senate Pro Tem Del Marsh and Governor Ivey seeks to replace a group of elected positions, those of the State School Board members, to positions appointed by the governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Though it will be first voted on by the legislature, it must ultimately be approved by the voters of Alabama as a constitutional amendment.

We can't know for sure whether or not this change will lead to increased test scores and a better education for Alabama's students. Some of our problems simply can not be solved by the hand of government. This is not, however, a blind move. A study has shown, in fact, that "states perform better when governors are empowered to appoint leaders of state education agencies."

Is this a good idea?
At first glance, it seems like a

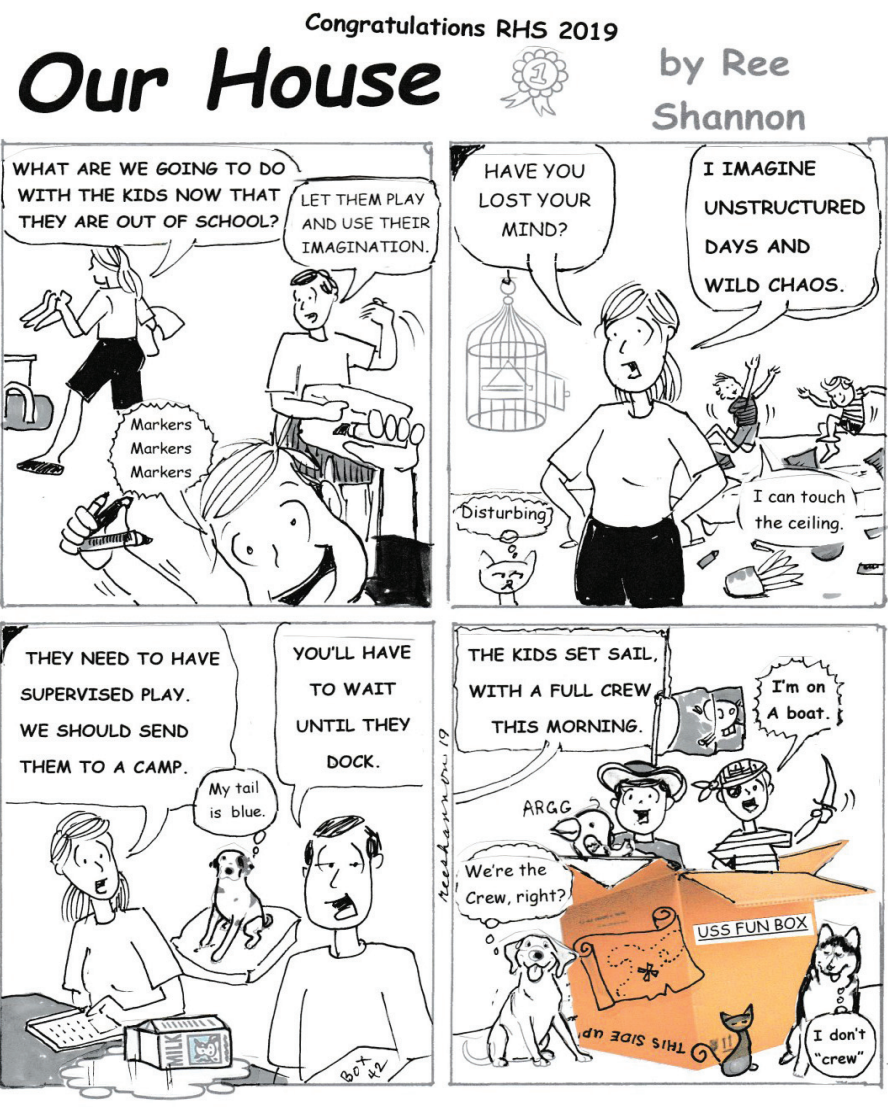
Washington-esque power grab, an attempt to take away the local voice in education. What is important to note, though, is that this plan only changes the organization of the state's education structure, not that of your local school board. If you elect your local school board members now, you will continue to do so.

Furthermore, it is clear that Alabama's education system needs to change. Just last week, *US News* ranked Alabama 50th in the nation in education. It's not just the *US News* ranking, though. Our NAEP test scores consistently place us at the bottom of the list year after year.

Could this change be the start of a new era for education in Alabama?

As currently organized, the State Board of Education, which is tasked with overseeing the entire state's education system, is elected. They, in turn, appoint the state superintendent of education. The governor, in this scheme, is barely a part of the picture.

See 'CHANGE,' Page 8



Help your kids save some cash

If you're the parent of a high school graduate, congrats! Getting through high school was a lot of work for them, and between the stress of having a first-time driver and the hours spent helping with test prep, I know it's been a ton of work for you, too.

There's plenty of time to kick back and celebrate, but before your son or daughter heads off to college they probably need to save some extra cash for the upcoming school year. And even though they may not admit it, they still need your guidance.

Here are just a few tips to help your kids end the summer with more cash in the bank.

Set clear goals.

Stashing more money in the college fund is a great starting goal. But you can help your teen get real results by making sure their goals are:

•Specific. "Earn money for college" is vague. But, "save \$1,000 by the time I start school on August 21" is a specific goal.

Sure, any job that earns a steady paycheck will bring in some extra money. But your teen probably wants to do work they actually enjoy. Who doesn't? Help them figure out their options by asking them what they're passionate about, pointing out their strengths and skills, and working with them to brainstorm creative ways to turn those natural abilities into cash.

•Measurable. How will your teen know when they've hit their goal? Easy! When they save \$1,000.

•Deadline-driven. Help your teen pick a day on the calendar to have their goal completed by. For example: "By freshman orientation," "by the time classes start," etc.

•Personal. Your teen needs a personal connection to their goal. It has to be something they want, or they won't be motivated to keep going.

•Written down. Written goals are way more real, and the act of writing will help your teen express exactly what they want to achieve. Plus, written goals act as daily motivators when your teen keeps them somewhere they'll see them every day!

Get creative with the job search.

Sure, any job that earns a steady paycheck will bring in some extra money. But your teen probably wants to do work they actually enjoy. Who doesn't? Help them figure out their options by asking them what they're passionate about, pointing out their strengths and skills, and working with them to brainstorm creative ways to turn those natural abilities into cash.

Here are a few summer job ideas to get them thinking:

- Tutoring
- House-sitting
- Pet-sitting
- Lifeguard
- Nanny
- Mowing lawns
- Painting houses or fences
- Social media consulting
- Selling art
- Building websites

The more your teen can tap into their entrepreneurial side by turning their passions or hobbies into a small business, the more they'll enjoy the



Anthony O'Neal

See 'CASH,' Page 5

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Re-fi now?

Dear Dave,
I recently started following your plan, and I've looked into refinancing the home I bought five years ago to free up more money to put toward paying off debt. My interest rate is 3.625 percent, along with a private mortgage insurance payment of \$200 per month. This makes my mortgage payment \$2,700 a month, and I owe \$325,000 on the house.

I was offered a re-financing plan that included a monthly payment of \$2,576 with no PMI, but the interest rate would be 4.6 percent. What do you think?

Phil

Dear Phil,
You don't need to refinance with those numbers. You'd be going up more in terms of interest rate than you'd save with no PMI. The only reason the payment is going down is that you'd be agreeing to stay in debt longer.

Now, if you could've lost some of that interest rate and gotten rid of the PMI, that *might* have come close to making sense. But even that might not have worked in the end, because you'd have closing costs associated with the deal.

There's no way this deal is a good idea. You'd essentially be going up a full percentage point in terms of interest, and all you'd really be doing is resetting, or re-casting, the loan. Basically, you'd be starting over on the loan. That's why the larger payment and PMI would go away, but you'd have a significant increase in your interest rate.

Where you're at right now is fine, Phil. You're off to a good start, so just keep on moving forward with getting out of debt and gaining control of your finances!

Dave

'CASH,' from page 4

work—and the more driven they'll be!

Keep track of earnings with a budget.

A huge part of earning and saving money is keeping track of where that money goes. If your teen has never had a budget before, help them create one or show them how to use a budgeting app like EveryDollar.

Aside from expenses like gas or clothes, college savings should be the biggest part of their budget right now. Their budget will help them keep track of their spending and their savings!

And last but not least, remind them it's okay to leave a little room in the budget for fun stuff. After all that hard work, they've earned it!

Anthony O'Neal's latest book and video kit, Teen Entrepreneur Toolbox, released in April 2018. You can follow Anthony on Twitter and Instagram @AnthonyONeal and online at anthonyoneal.com or [facebook.com/aoneal](https://www.facebook.com/aoneal).

Watch out...

Dear Dave,
My wife and I are completely debt-free, and we have a full emergency fund in place. We bring home around \$110,000 a year combined, and we are both maxing out 401(k)s at work. We each just opened additional IRAs, as well. At this point, we want to start setting aside \$30,000 a year for a few years as savings to help buy a home.

With all this in mind, what do you think about the idea of vintage watches as an investment? I work with a high-end retail company, and I've noticed certain sports watches have been doubling or even tripling in value over time. Would it be okay to spend around \$5,000 on a vintage watch now, or should I wait until we're in even better financial shape?

Mike

Dear Mike,

Yeah, you could do that. Just make sure you look at it the right way. It would be a hobby, not a real investment.

I have a friend who has collected a few thousand bottles of wine over the years. The value of most of them has gone up since he bought them, but it's not part of his investment strategy. So, if you buy a \$5,000 watch in your situation, that's okay. Just don't go nuts and buy 10 of them, you know?

What we're talking about here are collectibles. It could be the first step in building a collection of fine watches over the years. You could do the same thing with cars, but don't make them part of your investment strategy. Treat them like consumption items, things you can afford to spend money on and enjoy.

Then, if they happen to go up in value, it's icing on the cake!

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.*



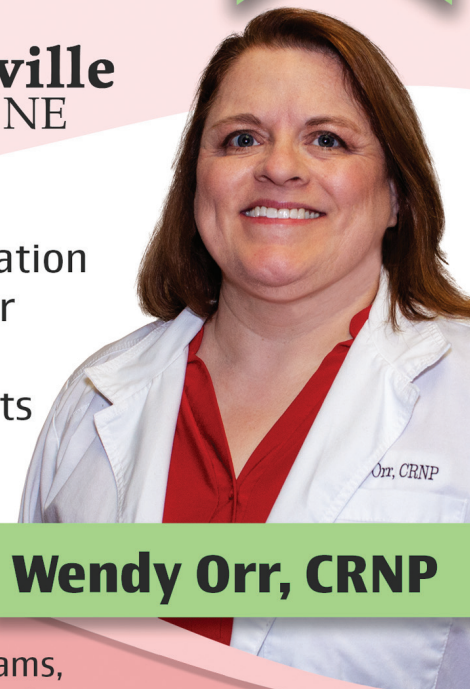
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What's Happening

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

LifeSouth Community Blood Center will host a blood drive at Russellville Hospital this 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 this 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 this Friday, June 7. The play, which will be performed on Friday and Saturday nights through 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.

This 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.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre this 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.

Registration for Russellville Golden Tigers tackle/flag football and cheer will be held this Saturday, June 8 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center, 201 Ash Avenue. 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.

St. Paul C.M.E. Church will celebrate Rev. Zethelyn R. Johnson Second Appreciation at the Todd Centre in Russellville this 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.

Water 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.

For anyone with the courage to be honest about life's hurts, habits and hang-ups, First United Methodist Church of Russellville will host *Celebrate Recovery!* on Tuesday nights with supper at 6 p.m., large group at 6:30 and small groups at 7:30. Free childcare provided. Church is located at 311 North Jackson Avenue. Come and join us!

American Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, June 13 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, June 18 from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., the RHS Athletic Department will host an Athletic Blood Drive at the RHS Gym. For every donor that day, the American Red Cross will make a donation to the RHS Athletic Fund. These donations will be used to purchase equipment utilized by ALL of the female and male athletes of Russellville City Schools. You can sign up for an appointment at <http://www.redcrossblood.org>. Our location code is goldentigerathletics. Click on location, and then see times to select an appointment time. If you are unable to sign up with the steps above, email tony.buckhalter@rcs.k12.al.us or john.ritter@rcs.k12.al.us with your name, phone number and a desired appointment time. Thanks for your support!

What's Happening

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

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!

Attention all young ladies of Colbert, Franklin and Lauderdale counties entering 10th, 11th and 12th grades in the Fall of 2019!!! The Distinguished Young Women Scholarship Program will be held Saturday, August 3, 2019 at Norton Auditorium on the campus of The University of North Alabama. Young ladies entering the 12th grade will have the opportunity to compete for cash scholarships as well as many other scholarships to colleges and universities. Also, each county winner will have the opportunity to represent her county at the state program in Montgomery in January of 2020. Information and registration meetings will be held Wednesday, May 8, Wednesday, May 15 and Wednesday, June 5 from 4-5 p.m. at First Metro Bank, Muscle Shoals. Young ladies entering the 10th and 11th grades have the opportunity to be "DYW Little Sisters." For more information, please contact Susan Hargett at 256-710-9239 or Katernia Cole-Coffey at 256-332-8880, or check information on our Facebook page at Distinguished Young Women of Northwest Alabama, or email dshargett@aol.com. Other information and sign up is available at www.DistinguishedYW.org. Please contact us no later than Sunday, June 23.

Spruce 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 July 2. All members and friends are urged to attend.

The NACOLG SenioRx Medication Assistance Program supplies free and low-cost medications for anyone in Alabama with a disability or a chronic illness, regardless of age, that requires daily medication. Medicare recipients may also be eligible. For more information, contact NACOLG SenioRx today. There is no charge for this service. Call 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463) or 256-389-0529 and ask for Paula Pardue. This program is in partnership with the state of Alabama and Alabama Department of Senior Services.

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



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COURTESY PHOTO

Civil War historian Jerry Smith will speak at Saturday's *The Way We Were* program.

Civil War presentation highlights second event in historical series

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When Civil War historian Jerry Smith presents a program, he tries to personalize it with local history of that community.

And that's exactly what Smith will do this Saturday, June 8, when he and fellow historian Tim Kent take part in *The Way We Were*, a multi-week program sponsored by the Russellville Bicentennial Committee.

This Saturday's event will be held at the Russellville Canteen, 217 Washington Avenue, next to the A.W. Todd Centre, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Smith, a Crooked Oak resident, and Kent will present their informative program on the Civil War from 10-11 a.m., with a 30-minute question and answer session and examination of Civil War artifacts planned for 11-11:30 a.m.

"We try to do local history and tell some stories that really hit close to home," Smith said. "We may have to go outside of Franklin County a little bit, but we'll present things that are important to this area."

Smith said there were several Civil War regiments from Franklin County, including the 2nd, 16th, 26th, 27th and

35th infantry, the 4th and 5th Alabama Cavalry, and the 1st Alabama infantry, a Union infantry, all with their roots in Franklin County.

Smith will tell the story of Col. Sidney Stokes Anderson, who was wounded at the Battle of Franklin and lost an arm. He would go on to serve as Franklin County Probate Judge and was one of two probate judges in the county to die while in office.

"We'll also have a living history tent, if the weather allows," Smith said. "We have some artifacts, too, and some things people may never have seen before. We'll talk about the causes of the Civil War, why it began and where some area battles took place. We want people to understand why the Civil War was fought and that it wasn't about slavery, but was really about taxes."

Two Confederate generals had Franklin County roots, including General James Deshler, for whom Deshler High School was named, and General John Gregg.

"There is a lot of local history in and around Franklin County related to the Civil War," Smith said, "and Tim can answer most any question about the war. We want people to get involved and ask questions."

See 'HISTORICAL,' page 9

'CHANGE,' from page 4

The problem with the governor being virtually powerless here is a big one. As the state's head, he or she is seen as responsible for the goings-on of the state. In our current system, however, we offer the governor little authority over education. Our state's primary leader can be sidelined by a board and superintendent who have no desire to work towards the policies the governor campaigned for and was elected to pursue.

Now, we can't know for sure whether or not this change will lead to increased test scores and a better education for Alabama's students. Some of our problems simply can not be solved by the hand of government. This is not, however, a blind move. A study has shown, in fact, that "states perform better when governors are empowered to appoint leaders of state education agencies."

It makes sense. In states with this type of model, governors are held accountable for the education system. They are required to make

education a priority or risk an angry electorate who can vote them out of office. With the governor as the only politician identifiable to many residents, regardless of the state, the voice of the people becomes *more* powerful, not less.

No matter where you sit on the political spectrum, we all know that the status quo of education in our state isn't working. If this change is approved by the legislature and the residents of Alabama, governors--regardless of party--will have the ability to drive meaningful reform. Progress will be quicker, leaders will held accountable and, perhaps, this will be the first step in transforming Alabama from a state that is first in football and last in education to one that excels equally in both.

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'HISTORICAL,' from page 8

Smith is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and he travels the state giving presentations to schools and at festivals and special events. Lisa Green, Alabama State president of the Order of the Confederate Rose, will present a program from 11:45-12:45. Indian historian Butch Walker will lead a program on Native American history from 1-2:30 p.m. A living history camp will be set up outside, weather permitting, and there

will be wagon rides for children. There will be additional *The Way We Were* programs on Saturday, July 13, August 10 and September 14 as part of the 200th birthday of the City of Russellville celebration. Different exhibits, demonstrations and portrayals will be scheduled each month. For more information on the program, contact Doris Hutcheson at 256-332-4085 or Chris Ozbirn at 256-332-8827.

'CORONER,' from page 1

and a miscommunication. There's never going to be any pressure from our office as to which one to use. If you don't want the funeral home that is on rotation, tell us who you want."

Adcox said it's a common occurrence for one funeral home to remove and hold the body and for another funeral home to handle arrangements and final disposition. Adcox said he's been through the rotation once already and has started a second

time.

"We don't want people to think the coroner's office is getting paid from funeral homes. The fair way is, everyone gets a piece of the pie," Adcox said. "Seventy-five percent stay with whoever picks them up unless there's a pre-need or other plans already arranged, so I think this is the fairest method. But in the end, the family always has the final say-so."

Since he took office earlier this year, Adcox and/or his deputy coroners have responded to 22 scene calls, 10 hospital calls and 12 cremation calls.

Adcox will be sponsoring a suicide prevention course for first responders on November 8, 2019. The program, *Call for Backup*, will have a morning and afternoon session. For more info, visit the Facebook page for the Franklin County Coroner.

'ROXY,' from page 1

been understandable if he'd just checked with someone else to get updates. But to take the time to call me and my wife meant an awful lot.

"That care and compassion he has for people is often surprising to people who don't know him."

Stewart, who serves as the voice of Crimson Tide men's basketball, baseball, host of the Nick Saban Show and broadcast host for Alabama football, will visit Russellville's Roxy Theater on Saturday, June 15 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available from Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council board members or online at eventbrite.com, with a link directly on the Roxy Theater's Facebook page.

The event is a fundraiser for the council, and ticket proceeds will go toward the operational expenses and renovation of the Roxy.

Stewart will share some of his experiences and stories from a broadcasting career that has spanned more than three decades. The Fairfield, AL native began his career in sports broadcasting while he was a freshman at the University of Montevallo. He graduated from Montevallo in 1992. Stewart attended high school at Central Park Christian School in Birmingham and was part of the school's first graduating class, with 13 classmates. He anchored sportscasts for Montevallo's campus television station and did play-by-play for Montevallo basketball.

"The first Montevallo game I ever saw, I did the play-by-play," Stewart recalled. "I also worked as sports director of a radio station five minutes from campus. And I was sports editor of the school newspaper, so I was doing TV, radio and print all at the same time. That really gave me some valu-

able experience to move forward in my career."

As the play-by-play voice of Crimson Tide basketball, Stewart has already developed a respect for new men's basketball coach Nate Oats, who had a successful run at the University of Buffalo before moving on to Alabama. Stewart is impressed with how Oats has quickly built a rapport with the Crimson Tide's passionate basketball fan base.

"He's been embraced by our fan base, and he's embraced what it means to be a part of what the University of Alabama is. He's not going to shy away from expectations," Stewart said. "That's what drew him to Alabama, in large measure. People are extremely excited about the style of play he has. And even if you don't know the name Nate Oats, most fans know what Buffalo has done the last few years under his direction.

"And Coach Oats has said he's got a very talented roster here that fits that style of play and what he likes to do."

Stewart's broadcasting career has seen him honored in 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2016 as Alabama Sportscaster of the Year by the National Media Association. He was honored by the University of Montevallo with a 2009 Alumni Achievement Award as well. He and Christy have three children, ages 18, 14 and eight.

While Stewart's schedule keeps him busy all year, he said there are times when he pauses, albeit briefly, to reflect on how he's living out his professional dream.

"It has hit me that we are in an era that may be looked back on as fondly as the era of Coach Paul 'Bear' Bryant, and I'm a part of that," Stewart said.

"I'll let others debate which era was better, but to have a front row seat for history and what I watched growing up is incredibly special, and I know blessed and fortunate I am.

"I'm a kid who grew up, like so many in this state, and knew exactly what I'd be doing and where I'd be at 4:30 Sunday afternoons. I'd be in front of the TV watching the Bear Bryant Show. It's very rare when I'm sitting on a set or on the field after a game taping the Nick Saban Show that it does not dawn on me, 'Holy cow, you're hosting the Alabama football coach's show.'"

It was last month when Stewart heard the tragic news that the voice of Auburn University, Rod Bramblett, and his wife Paula, died in a two-vehicle accident in Auburn.

"That one hit really hard. I've known Rod since before I did Alabama baseball games 20 years ago," Stewart said. "All of us who knew Rod and had a chance to work with and around him have taken it very hard. Any time children lose a parent, it's devastating. I lost my mother as a senior in high school, but the unimaginable tragedy of losing both—that's absolutely heartbreaking."

Stewart, who does 10 to 20 speaking engagements each year, said he hopes each time to give the audience a perspective they don't regularly experience when it comes to University of Alabama sports.

"I try to peel the curtain back a good bit to share things they don't get to see or experience. At the same time, I try to entertain, and I hope people enjoy themselves," Stewart said. "I always want to share some stories that will bring smiles to people's faces."



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

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

YARD SALES

Yard Sale this Thursday, Friday & Saturday, June 6-8, from 8am-until at West Side Apartments. Apt. 222. Cancelled if raining.

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Fri./Sat. June 7/8. 7 a.m. Vacant lot behind Wal-Mart in Russellville. Come see us!

Garage Sale this Friday & Saturday, June 7-8 at 3890 Waterloo Road. 2.5 miles past the high school. Blue building. Lots of glassware, bottles, model cars, glass counter, linens, desk chair, collector Barbies, jewelry and much more! Rain or shine!

Multi-Family Yard Sale this Saturday, June 8. 6 a.m.-until. 92 Factory Falls Road, Spruce Pine. Furniture, clothes and lots of misc. Come see us!

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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. (4)

On Monday, April 29, I visited Walmart in 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! (4)

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Five local eateries earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Each of the five Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of May 20-24 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.

All five Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodg-

ing establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

The highest score was 99, received by Tienda Latina Mi Refugio, 412 Madison St., Russellville.

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

- B&A Auction, 1385 County Road 77, Russellville, 94. (Ice cream, cheese dip, held at 44-48 degrees).
- Tokyo Sushi and Steakhouse, 14001 Hwy. 43 Suite 17, Russellville, 95.
- Panaderia Adonai, 311 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 97.
- Frosty Inn, 12805 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, 98.

Of the nine inspections done in Colbert County from May 20-24, all but one received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 99 went to Ambresha 2 LLC, 5101 Hwy. 43 South, Tuscumbia.

Sprint Mart #40, 21731 Hwy. 72 West, Tuscumbia, received an unsatisfactory score of 78. Violations included: Pizza meat out of temperature, chicken fingers out of temperature and no one possessed a food safety certificate.

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

Class act



PHOTO BY ADRIAN LOPEZ

Members of the Russellville High School Class of 1949 recently met at Taylor's Restaurant to celebrate their 70th class reunion. Pictured above (from left) are Elbert Merriman, Sue Hammond, Martha Sue Newton, Roseford French, Leland Sneed and William Foster.

'OFFICERS,' from page 3

- Temporary Employment in Position for 21st CCLC Summer Program: Rhonda Lier, teacher; Amy Grimes, teacher aide.
- Reinstatement of Sick Leave Days: Lisa Thorn, RES teacher for March 15,20,22; April 5,25 (half day), 30 and May 1,2,3 and 15 for an on-the-job injury.
- Athletic Volunteer: Vincent Smith for varsity girls basketball.
- In other action, the board:
 - Approved trip requests for RHS students to travel to San Antonio, Texas, June 28-July 3 for FBLA National Competition; RHS students from June 5-6 to attend the Alabama State FFA Convention in Montgomery.
 - Approved a contract with Brock Malone and Lucas McNutt to clean the Russellville High School campus for the months of June and July 2019.
 - Agreed to a regular meeting date of the fourth Thursday of each month at 8 a.m. at the Central Office on Waterloo Road.

FBLA competitors



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2019 Alabama FBLA State Competitions were held in April. Seventeen students from the Franklin County Career Technical Center competed this year: 1st row - Ismael Lopez, Claire Wiginton, Gregoria Baltazar, Kimberly Luna, Alyssa Betts, Trevor Thompson, Carson Cox, Emily Luna and Maria Estrada; 2nd Row - Doris Holderby, FBLA advisor, Alex Betts, Ella Wington, Ansley Tate, Elizabeth Seal, Devan Bush, Amber Franks, Cheyenne Cheatham and Dillon Borden. Carson Cox made it to the final round for Job Interview and Ismael Lopez the finals of Public Speaking I. Also bringing home second place in their categories and the opportunity to compete nationally in San Antonio, TX this summer were: Amber Franks - Computer Applications; Dillon Borden - Computer Applications; Trevor Thompson - Economics.

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2020 should be another strong year for softball

This past season was a strong one for Franklin County softball, with four teams making a run to the regional tournament. 2020 could be another banner year, as all four of those teams should be in excellent position to repeat that success.

Belgreen advanced to the state tournament and won two games in Montgomery before bowing out.

The Lady Bulldogs will have to replace two big bats in departing seniors Kaycee Wilson and Camie Terrell, but pitcher Emma Dempsey will be back following a sensational sophomore season in which she ranked among state leaders with 20 wins and 219 strikeouts in 176.1 innings.

Dempsey (66 hits and a .520 batting average) will anchor a still-potent lineup that also returns rising seniors Katie Dempsey (.465 average with 22 extra-base hits and 50 runs scored), Sydney Borden (.378 average with a .490 OBP), Bailey Wood (.347 average with 20 RBIs) and Gracie Dempsey (.400 average with a .447 OBP and 33 runs scored), plus rising junior Kelsey Wilson (.392 average with 10 doubles and a .512 OBP).

Tharptown and Red Bay battled it out all year, with the Lady Wildcats winning the county title, the Lady Tigers claiming the Area 15 crown and both teams earning regional berths. Next season should bring more of the same, with Tharptown returning pitchers Olivia Ergle (17-9 with a 3.55 ERA and 174 strikeouts in 137.2 innings) and Taylor Cameron (8-6 with a 2.48 ERA and 101 strikeouts in 78.2 innings) and rising senior Shaylee Wieting (.500 average with 63 runs and 55 stolen bases) back to lead the offense.

Red Bay also brings back its top two pitchers in Chloe Knoblock (12-8 with a 3.28 ERA and 128 strikeouts in 110.2 innings) and Lila Blackburn (8-4 with a 3.28 ERA and 85 strikeouts in 63.2 innings), and Blackburn (.529 average with seven home runs and a .604 OBP) will anchor a lineup that also returns standout leadoff hitter Annaliese Rogers (.404 average with 46 runs scored).

Russellville must replace Megan Warhurst in the circle, but a senior-laden lineup will be led by infielders Madison Murray (.362 average with 11 extra-base hits and 21 stolen bases), Alivia Clemmons (.342 average with four home runs and 36 runs scored) and Autumn Logan (.350 average over the past two seasons with a total of nine homers and 82 RBIs).

Factor in other veterans like rising seniors A.J. Taylor, Makala O'Neal and Krista Sikes, plus young difference-makers in rising sophomore Tori Tiffin (.370 average with eight extra-base hits in just 53 plate appearances in 2019) and rising freshman Jenna Whitfield (.292 average with 24 runs scored), and Russellville should be right back in the hunt for another regional berth.



Mike Self
Sports Editor

Franklin Free Press 2019 All-County Softball Team

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Last week, we released the second annual *Franklin Free Press* All-County Baseball Team. This week, it's the ladies' turn, as we unveil our 2019 All-County softball selections.

Once again, we've drafted a roster of 20 players (10 starters and 10 reserves) from all across the county, and we'll play the part of head coach by filling out our lineup card as though we were preparing for an actual game. We feel confident that the group we've put together belongs on the field with anybody.

Let's start in the circle, where **Russellville pitcher Megan Warhurst** is our 2019 Player of the Year. The senior left-hander carried a heavy workload for the Lady Golden Tigers, pitching in 36 of their 41 games. She made 25 starts and tossed 16 complete games, including five shutouts and a no-hitter against area rival Lawrence County in a 3-1 win on April 9.

Warhurst signed with West Florida last fall and then looked every bit the part of a collegiate pitcher this spring, putting together the best season of her prep career. She reached peak dominance in a five-day stretch in late April, striking out 32 batters while allowing zero earned runs on just five hits in 24 innings of work against Cullman, Decatur, Mortimer Jordan, Lawrence County and Hamilton.

Warhurst finished the season 18-7 with a 1.41 ERA that led Franklin County and ranked 15th in the state (all classifications), according to



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Warhurst accounted for 18 of Russellville's 22 wins and posted an ERA of 1.41.

MaxPreps.com. She completely stifled opposing lineups, giving up just 87 hits in 149.1 innings pitched (an average of barely four hits allowed per seven innings). Her 18 wins and 172 strikeouts both ranked in the state's Top 20, according to MaxPreps.com.

Warhurst's value to Russellville in the circle is hard to quantify, but these numbers should help: She accounted for 65 percent of the team's total innings pitched, 82 percent of their total wins and 79 percent of their total strikeouts. Then there's this mind-boggling stat: Warhurst did not surrender an earned run in area play (tournament included) *all season*, going 5-0 with only three hits allowed and 26 strikeouts in 25 innings.

Warhurst was no slouch at the plate either, batting .329 on the season with five doubles and a team-leading .430 on-base percentage. Clearly, though, her consistent excellence in the circle is what makes her our Player of the Year for 2019.

We'll pencil her in as our starting pitcher. Now let's get to work building the rest of our All-County lineup.

Leading off for us and playing second base is **Tharptown junior Shaylee Wieting**. Wieting handled shortstop duties for the Lady Wildcats this season, but shortstop is an especially crowded



PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW

Wieting (above, left) was a game-changing presence in the leadoff spot for Tharptown, ranking third in the state in stolen bases with 55 and 12th in runs scored with 63. Terrell (above, right) was a force in the middle of the order for Belgreen, leading the county in average (.544), extra-base hits (28) and RBIs (48).

‘SOFTBALL,’ from page 13

position in Franklin County, so we’ll take advantage of her versatility and slide her to the other side of the infield. The bottom line is, she can play wherever she wants in the field as long as we’ve got her dynamic, game-changing presence at the top of the order.

Tharptown coach Susie Sellers says Wieting is one of the fastest players she’s ever coached. Wieting put that speed to good use this season, leading Franklin County by a wide margin (and ranking third in the entire state, according to MaxPreps.com) with 55 stolen bases in 59 attempts. She also led the county (and tied for 12th in the state) with 63 runs scored in 42 games. She ranked third in the county with 61 hits (including four doubles and three triples), batting an even .500 for the season.

Wieting tied for the county lead with 20 multi-hit games and also drew 18 walks, reaching base at a stellar .563 clip. She struck out only 11 times all year in 142 plate appearances.

Batting second and playing center field for our All-County squad, we’ll go with **Belgreen junior Katie Dempsey**. Blending excellent speed with tremendous gap power, Dempsey ranked second

in Franklin County in both stolen bases (27) and extra-base hits (22). Her nine triples led the county and tied for third in the entire state, according to MaxPreps.com.

Dempsey settled into the leadoff spot for Belgreen and sparked a prolific offensive attack that averaged 7.4 runs per game. She finished top-five in Franklin County with 59 hits, a .465 batting average, 50 runs scored, 34 RBIs, 17 multi-hit games and a .543 OBP. She also demonstrated outstanding command of the strike zone, drawing 20 walks and striking out just 11 times in 151 plate appearances.

At the West Central Regional in Tuscaloosa, Dempsey delivered five hits, five walks and six runs scored in four games, helping the Lady Bulldogs punch their ticket to the state tournament. Dempsey shined in Montgomery as well, going 7-for-15 with four RBIs and six runs scored in four games.

Batting third for us and starting at third base is **Red Bay sophomore slugger Lila Blackburn**. A shortstop by trade, Blackburn is more than capable of handling the hot corner—and we know she can handle the bat. Blackburn tied Russellville’s

Karlie Moore for first in Franklin County with seven home runs this season, and she also shared the county lead in RBIs with 48 in 35 games.

An on-base machine, Blackburn drew 19 walks to go along with her 45 hits and posted a county-best .604 OBP. Her .529 batting average ranked second in the county and 17th in the state, according to MaxPreps.com. She pounded out 12 doubles and two triples to go along with those seven homers, ranking third in the county with 21 extra-base hits. She also scored 40 runs and, just for good measure, stole 14 bases without getting caught.

Blackburn was a force to be reckoned with in the Class 2A, Area 15 tournament, going 12-for-16 with three home runs, three doubles and 15 RBIs in five games to help the Lady Tigers take home the area title.

As an added bonus, Blackburn provides us with depth in the circle. She went 8-4 with a 3.28 ERA as Red Bay’s No. 2 pitcher, striking out 85 batters and allowing just 48 hits in 63.2 innings. She made 18 appearances and 12 starts in the circle, tossing seven complete games.

See ‘SOFTBALL,’ page 15



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'SOFTBALL,' from page 14

For our cleanup hitter and designated player, we'll go with **Belgreen sophomore Emma Dempsey**, another terrific two-way contributor. Dempsey led all of Franklin County and ranked in the state's Top 30 this season with 66 hits, including 16 for extra bases (one home run, four triples and 11 doubles). She tied for the county lead with 20 multi-hit games and ranked third in both batting

average (.520) and RBIs (38). Her .539 OBP ranked fifth in the county.

We'll let Dempsey bat in place of Warhurst in our All-County lineup, and she also provides another outstanding option in the circle. Dempsey led Franklin County and ranked in the Top 12 in the state (according to MaxPreps.com) with 20 wins, 176 innings pitched and 219 strikeouts. She pitched in 39 of Belgreen's 45 games, starting 33 of them. She tossed 24 complete games, including 10 shutouts.

The first day of May was a memorable one for Dempsey, as she threw three shutouts (including a pair of no-hitters) to lead the Lady Bulldogs to blowout wins over Vina, Hackleburg and Phillips at the Class 1A, Area 11 tournament.

Batting fifth and playing first base for us is **Belgreen senior Camie Terrell**, perhaps the most dangerous hitter in all of Franklin County. Terrell batted .544 this season, ranking first in the county and 13th in the entire state (all classifications), according to MaxPreps.com. Of her 62 hits, a whopping 28 went for extra bases—easily the most in Franklin County. Her 21 doubles tied for sixth-most in the state, and she also had four home runs and three triples.

Terrell tied for the county lead in both multi-hit games (20) and RBIs (48). She ranked second with a .567 OBP and scored 36 runs while stealing 12 bases in 14 tries. Terrell was productive in the playoffs as well, going 11-for-27 with four extra-base hits and 10 RBIs in a total of eight games at the regional and state tournaments.

Batting sixth for our All-County squad and starting in left field, we'll take **Tharptown junior Brooke Daily**. Daily did plenty of damage with her free-swinging approach, ranking fifth in Franklin County with 52 hits (including three triples and nine doubles) and seventh with a .426 batting average. She also ranked among county leaders with 39 runs scored (fifth), 18 stolen bases (tied for

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Blackburn led the county with seven home runs and a .604 OBP.



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In addition to her terrific work in the circle (where she racked up a county-best 20 wins and 219 strikeouts), Dempsey also batted .520 this season and led the county with 66 hits.

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'SOFTBALL,' from page 15

seventh) and 15 multi-hit games (sixth).

Daily drove in 29 runs on the year, good for second on the team. She swung the bat well at the Class 2A, Area 15 tournament, going 7-for-15 with two triples and two doubles in four games to help the Lady Wildcats clinch a regional berth.

Batting seventh and playing shortstop for us is **Russellville junior Madison Murray**. After missing her sophomore season due to a torn ACL, Murray came back healthy and better than ever in 2019.

In addition to seamlessly handling a position switch from behind the plate (where she batted .349 as a freshman catcher in 2017) to short, Murray also ranked as Russellville's best and most consistent hitter this season. She led the team in hits (42), batting average (.362), doubles (eight), stolen bases (21) and multi-hit games (12).

Murray hit two home runs this year while ranking

third on the team in RBIs (22) and second in runs scored (29). She rose to the occasion in the Class 5A, Area 15 championship game on May 1, going 4-for-4 with two doubles and five RBIs to lead a 13-0 rout of Hamilton.

Batting eighth in our All-County lineup and running the show behind the plate is **Belgreen senior catcher Kaycee Wilson**. Wilson's smooth lefty stroke proved as productive as ever in 2019, helping her rank among county leaders with 51 hits (sixth), a .451 batting average (sixth), 14 extra-base hits (fifth), 35 RBIs (fourth) and 16 multi-hit games (fifth).

Wilson tied for second on the team with 13 doubles and also drew 10 walks, posting an excellent .484 OBP. She was tough to strike out, doing so just 14 times in 127 plate appearances.

Batting ninth and starting in right field for our All-County squad is **Russellville junior Alivia Clemmons**. An outfielder as a sophomore in 2018, Clemmons made the move to second base this season, but a little flexibility goes a long way; she'll fit nicely in right field for us, and her bat plays anywhere.

Coming off a monster 2018 season in which she hit .390 with six home runs, Clemmons got off to a slow start at the plate in 2019. Through 19 games, she was batting just .212 with one extra-base hit.

Then, on March 30 against Sparkman, Clemmons went 3-for-4 with a home run, a double and four RBIs, and she never looked back. Starting with that breakout performance, Clemmons batted .452 (28-for-62) over the final 22 games with four home runs, six doubles, 15 RBIs and 21 runs scored.

She finished the season batting .342 overall and tied for third in Franklin County with those four home runs. She led Russellville with 36 runs scored and also ranked among team leaders with 39 hits (second), 11 extra-base hits (tied for first), 14 stolen bases (third), 11 multi-hit games (second) and a .409 OBP (second).

Now, let's hand out the remaining 10 spots and round out our All-County roster. We'll start in the circle, where **Tharptown junior ace Olivia Ergle** finished in the state's Top 20 (according to MaxPreps.com) with 17 wins and 174 strikeouts in 137.2 innings. Ergle pitched in 34 of the Lady Wildcats' 42 games, making 26 starts and going the distance 18 times. She tossed three shutouts and a pair of no-hitters, finishing the season with a 3.55 ERA and a very solid strikeout/walk ratio of 3.2/1.

Ergle was also productive at the plate, driving in a team-best 30 runs while batting .279 with three homers and five doubles.

Cut the from the same two-way cloth, **Red Bay**

freshman Chloe Knoblock also made a major impact in the circle and at the plate. As the Lady Tigers' top pitcher, Knoblock went 12-8 this season with a 3.28 ERA while leading the team in wins, starts (20), complete games (15), innings pitched (110.2) and strikeouts (128). She demonstrated excellent command, issuing just 29 walks on the season.

As a hitter, Knoblock batted .310 with a solid .402 OBP, walking more often (15 times) than she struck out (11 times). She drove in 18 runs and scored 17, stealing eight bases in nine attempts.

Staying with the two-way theme, we'll add **Tharptown freshman Taylor Cameron** to our All-County roster. Cameron put up some impressive numbers as the Lady Wildcats' No. 2 pitcher, going 8-6 with a team-best 2.48 ERA and 73 hits allowed in 78.2 innings. She struck out 101 batters and walked only 25, making 13 starts among her 23 appearances and throwing eight complete games. At the plate, Cameron tied for the team

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PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW

Murray (above) led Russellville in hits (42), average (.362), doubles (eight), stolen bases (21) and multi-hit games (12). Daily (pictured at left) batted .426 for Tharptown with 52 hits, 39 runs scored and 18 steals.



PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW

Clemmons caught fire after a slow start, batting .452 over Russellville's final 22 games with four home runs and six doubles.

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lead with nine doubles and batted .274 with 20 RBIs and more walks (14) than strikeouts (eight).

Our final two-way contributor is **Belgreen junior shortstop/pitcher Sydney Borden**, who batted .378 this season with a stellar .490 OBP. Borden ranked among county leaders with 42 hits (including 11 for extra bases), 34 RBIs, 34 runs scored, 25 walks and 20 stolen bases in 20 attempts. She also turned in a solid season as the Lady Bulldogs' No. 2 pitcher, going 10-3 with a 4.20 ERA and 62 strikeouts in 55 innings. Her 21 appearances in the circle included 12 starts, six complete games and two shutouts.

Red Bay freshman third baseman Annaliese Rogers earns a reserve spot on our All-County team after batting .404 this season and ranking third in Franklin County with 46 runs scored. Rogers ignited the Lady Tigers' offensive attack at the top of the order with her potent bat, on-base skills and speed. She collected 40 hits, drew 12 walks and got hit by a pitch nine times, fueling an elite .500 OBP. She also stole 17 bases without getting caught and finished the season with seven doubles, two triples and 20 RBIs.

Russellville's Autumn Logan is an All-County selection after putting together another productive year at the plate. A junior third baseman, Logan led the Lady Golden Tigers and tied for fifth in Franklin County with 34 RBIs this season. She also ranked among team leaders with 34 hits (third), a .327 batting average (fourth), three home runs (third), seven doubles (second) and a .405 OBP (third). Logan also led the team in walks with 14 and struck out just 10 times all year in 121 plate appearances.

Third base was a deep position in Franklin County this year, as **Belgreen sophomore Kelsey Wilson** also earns a spot on our All-County roster after helping the Lady Bulldogs reach the state tournament for a second straight season. Wilson batted .392 and ranked sixth in the county with a .512 OBP, drawing 14 walks and getting hit by a pitch 11 times to go along with her 40 hits. She tied for seventh in the county with 11 extra-base hits (including 10

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'SOFTBALL', from page 17

doubles) while driving in 27 runs and scoring 25.

Phil Campbell lands a pair of infielders on our All-County squad in sophomore Katie Thomas and junior Cypress Quinn. Thomas batted .397 this season, tying for the team lead with 23 hits in 20 games. She led the Lady Bobcats with seven multi-hit games and also had two triples and four doubles. Thomas struck out just four times in 61 plate appearances and has now gone down on strikes just eight times over the past two seasons in 190 trips to the plate.

Quinn led Phil Campbell with a .411 batting average this season and tied Thomas for the team lead with 23 hits. She also ranked first on the team with nine extra-base hits (including eight doubles) and a .484 OBP. Quinn stole 12 bases in 13 tries and had six multi-hit games.

Rounding out our All-County roster is Red Bay junior second baseman Emmie Scott, who handles the bat well and excels at playing the short game. Scott put down 13 sacrifice bunts this season, easily the most in Franklin County, while drawing 13 walks and striking out only five times in 115 plate appearances. She ranked third on the team in hits (32), runs scored (27), batting average (.376) and on-base percentage (.409). She also recorded eight multi-hit games and stole nine bases in 10 tries.

Scott's presence in the two-hole was a major reason why the Lady Tigers averaged nearly seven runs a game on the year.

Leading our All-County squad from the dugout is our 2019 Free Press Coach of the Year, Belgreen's John Smith. A former four-time state champion as the head coach at Hatton High School who also led Russellville to the state tournament in 2016, Smith returned to the dugout this season after a two-year absence and promptly guided the Lady Bulldogs to Montgomery.

Belgreen reached the 30-win mark in 2019, finishing 30-15 and cruising to the Class 1A, Area 11 championship. The Lady Bulldogs went 3-1 at the West Central Regional in Tuscaloosa, finishing runner-up and earning a berth in the state tournament. They then won a pair of games in Montgomery before being eliminated with a second loss to defending champion Brantley.

Smith excels at coaching and teaching hitting, and Belgreen had a tremendous year at the plate in 2019. The Lady Bulldogs boasted five .400 hitters and four other .300 hitters in their lineup this season, batting .427 as a team with 121 extra-base hits and averaging a robust 7.4 runs per game.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Smith, who previously won four Blue Maps as the head coach at Hatton and also led Russellville to the state tournament in 2016, returned to the dugout this season after a two-year absence and guided Belgreen to Montgomery. The Lady Bulldogs finished 30-15.

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