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07.03.19

Adair on bid for Senate: 'We need a change in leadership'

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As he describes it, Stanley Adair has always been involved in politics "in some small way." But this time, he's making a bigger splash, as the Haleyville businessman pursues the Republican nomination for United States Senate. The growing field of candidates will seek the right to face Democrat Doug Jones in next November's general election. The primary elections in Alabama are set for Tuesday, March 3, 2020. "I am not a career politician," Adair said. "I have always been involved in some small way in politics, just not as a candidate."

"We need a change in the leadership we are sending to Washington," Adair said. "If we keep sending the same career politicians and expecting a different result, well, you know the answer—*This is insanity*. We can and will make a difference."

Adair says he's a lifelong Republican who believes deeply in the Republican Party and its values.

"Look at the values of the Democratic Party today and what it stands for with The New Green Deal and Open Borders," Adair said. "These kinds of policies would for sure bankrupt our country. Can you believe the things they are proposing? How about the Republicans that stand against our President?"

"Therefore, we need a change in the leadership we are sending to Washington. If we keep sending the same career politicians and expecting a different result, well, you know the answer—*This is insanity*. We can and will make a difference."

Adair and his wife Pamela have been married 41 years.

See 'ADAIR,' Page 7



Stanley Adair

ACCC chancellor scoffs at vote of 'no confidence' in Colagross

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

If voter turnout for the recent vote of 'no confidence' of Northwest-Shoals Community College President Dr. Glenda Colagross is indicative of upcoming elections, Alabama will have a light turnout for the primaries on March 3, 2020.

From a total employee pool of 470, 139 full-time faculty and staff and 29 hourly and adjunct staff members voted, representing a 35 percent turnout. Among full-time faculty and staff, the percentage of voters was much higher, at 65 percent, but only 29 of the 255 hourly and adjunct staff voted, representing a woeful 11 percent.

In the end, the referendum saw 87 employees voting to say they didn't have confidence in Colagross's leadership and 79 voting to say they did.

The low turnout means one of two things: Either faculty and staff were not interested in the 'no confidence' vote, or they somehow felt pressured not to get involved and that resulted in the low turnout, which is exactly what Shoals Education Association president Sharon Jo McBride believes.

"A vote of no confidence organized in this manner has no bearing on an individual's job security, and the vote that occurred today represented the voices of less than 18 percent of Northwest-Shoals Community College faculty and staff," Baker said in a statement.

"I was pleased with the turnout. It can be very intimidating for employees to make a statement like that," McBride said. "I understood that, having been in that situation before, so I wasn't surprised with the numbers. I

See 'VOTE,' Page 11

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(L to R) - Shannon Smith, Wynoka Bostick, Brenda Rodriguez, Dr. Steve Hammack, Kelly Powers, and Lauren Sims.

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Mary Charlotte Berryman, Russellville, age 69
Died Monday, June 24, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Tharptown Cemetery.

Henry (Buddy) Lee Christian, Jr., Russellville, age 61
Died Saturday, June 22, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Fairview Cemetery.

Sandra "Granny" Pierce Jones, Spruce Pine, age 70
Died Monday, June 24, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Spruce Pine Cemetery.



Letters to the Editor

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

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

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Three local eateries earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Each of the three Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of June 17-21 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.

Seven of the eight Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

The highest score was 100, received by Little Tigers Preschool, 1003 East Lawrence St., Russellville.

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

- Subway 24292, 15300 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 93. (Cracked plastic containers).

- Subway 37464, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.

Of the 16 inspections done in Colbert County from June 17-21, all received scores falling in the range of satisfactory.

The high score of 99 went to East Colbert Senior Center, 5929 River Road, Muscle Shoals.

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

Franklin County awarded federal emergency funds

Submitted to the FFP

The Franklin County, AL Emergency Food and Shelter Board has been awarded federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

Franklin County has been chosen to receive \$12,389 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army; and United Way Worldwide.

The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country. A Local Board will determine how the funds awarded to Franklin County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must:

- (1) Be private voluntary non-profits or units of government.
- (2) Be eligible to receive Federal funds.
- (3) Have an accounting system.
- (4) Practice nondiscrimination.

(5) Have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs.

(6) If they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board.

Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. The Franklin County local board has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with Community Action, Safeplace, Colbert/Franklin Attention Home, and First United Methodist Church (Russellville) participating. These agencies were responsible for providing food and utilities and rent/mortgage assistance in the community.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Samantha Hartsell at rogue910@charter.net or 256-627-6799 for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is July 10, 2019.

RCS students to receive free breakfast, lunch again

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Russellville City Schools students will once again receive breakfast and lunch at no charge for the 2019-20 school year, but administrators need help from parents to complete forms required for the household of every student.

As a result of the efforts of Child Nutrition Program Coordinator Elaine Vaughn and the CNP staff, Russellville City Schools will implement Provision 2 for 2019-20.

The Russellville City Board of Education approved the measure at its June 27 meeting.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, Provision 2 allows school systems to establish claiming percentages for free meal eligibility and to serve all meals at no charge for four years.

During the first year, the system makes eligibility determinations and takes meal counts by type. Forms have been mailed to the home address of every Russellville City Schools student along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to facilitate response.

RCS superintendent Heath Grimes is asking all parents and/or guardians to complete the short form and send it back as soon as possible.

"We need help from our parents getting those forms back to us," Grimes said. "It's a lot of work on the system, but if everyone participates and helps us out by completing the forms, we'll be able to qualify as Provision 2."

"Only one form must be completed per household, even if the home has multiple children enrolled in Russellville City Schools."

The board also approved prices for employee and visitor meals as follows:

- Employee breakfast at West Elementary, Russellville Elementary and Russellville Middle Schools will be free of charge (breakfast in the classroom).

- Employee breakfast at Russellville High School will be \$1.25.

- Employee lunch at all schools will be \$3.75.

- Visitor breakfast at all schools will be \$1.50.

- Visitor lunch at all schools will be \$4.

The board also accepted the resignation of RHS assistant principal Wes Pouncey, effective immediately. Pouncey has been hired to fill an administrative position at Orange Beach High School, Grimes said. The position has been posted, and Grimes expects to make a hiring recommendation by the board's July meeting.

In other action, the board:

- Approved the purchase of new gold F7 football helmets from Schutt Sports, which submitted the low bid of \$22,821.75.

- Approved personnel moves as follows: Resignation in position of Trina Franklin, RHS teacher; Retirement in Position from Vickie Cagle, CNP worker at RMS; Employment in Position of Meredith Hill, WES teacher, Barry Reach, RHS science teacher, Edmund Martinez, EL teacher at RHS, June Smith, CNP worker at WES and Sarah Beall, CNP worker at RMS; Voluntary transfer of Judy Putman from CNP worker at WES to CNP assistant manager at WES; Athletic consultants Chase Gilmer for RMS football and Jacob Wallace for RMS football. Both shall be paid not more than \$960 to be paid by the Football Booster Club; Employment in supplement of Cassie Goodwin, website coordinator for goldentigers.net and Leann Strickland as RHS tennis volunteer.

- Approved facility use requests as follows: RMS gym on June 27 or August 1 for RCS Basketball program alumni basketball game; RHS softball facility on July 8-9 for Tiny Tiger Softball Camp fundraiser; RHS football stadium on June 29 for RHS soccer program kids camp fundraiser; RHS softball facility on July 27 for RHS softball program tournament fundraiser; RCS football facilities on July 26 for team camp fundraiser and RCS football facilities on July 22 for youth camp fundraiser.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Russellville City Board of Education will be Thursday, July 25 at 8 a.m., with work session Monday, July 22 at 3:30 p.m.

Budgeting gets a bad rap

One of the seven money habits I often talk about is simply "Make a Plan for Your Money." It's so basic, but so many people don't do it on a regular basis. Another way of saying this—and hang with me here—is you need to make a budget. I know what you're thinking. Budgeting is so boring! I get that. But, honestly, budgeting gets a bad rap.

I'm as much of a free spirit as anyone, so I understand that the thought of sitting down and talking about bills and expenses might sound a little dull. I also understand how a budget might seem very restrictive. But here's a secret about budgeting: Creating a budget will actually give you freedom with your money. It gives you permission to spend! It's one of the amazing principles about money I discuss in my book, *Love Your Life, Not Theirs*.

I'm as much of a free spirit as anyone, so I understand that the thought of sitting down and talking about bills and expenses might sound a little dull. I also understand how a budget might seem very restrictive. But here's a secret: Creating a budget will actually give you freedom with your money. It gives you permission to spend!

When you know where every dollar is going, you're prepared. You know what's coming in and what's going out.

When most people start budgeting, they feel like they got a raise. They suddenly "find" money they didn't realize was there. One great result of this is you'll be able to start spending without guilt. All your money is accounted for, so you don't have to worry whether or not your bank account will cover your purchase.

No matter what you've heard, I promise that making a budget isn't difficult. First, simply list your monthly household income before the month begins. Next, list all your monthly expenses. This should include all your bills like rent, utilities, basic clothing needs and food, as well as your groceries, eating out, shopping...everything!

Finally, subtract all your expenses from your income. If you've assigned every dollar a name, you should have zero. This is a simple zero-based budget.

When you're making your budget,

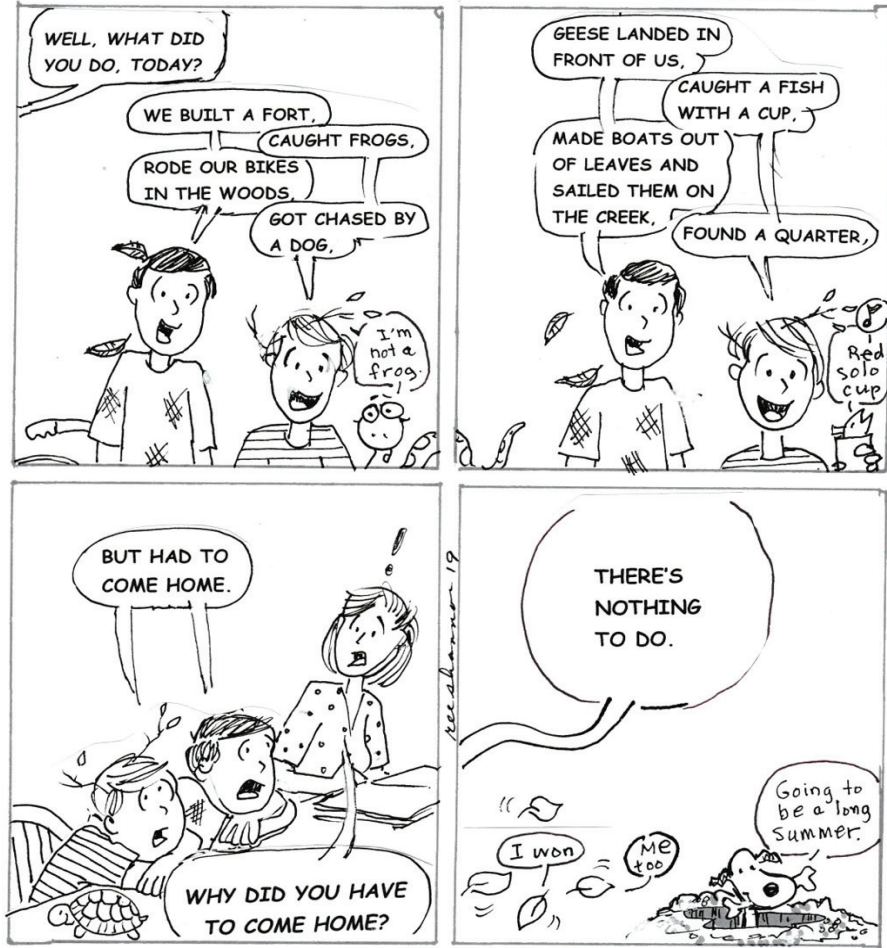
See 'BUDGETING,' Page 8



Rachel Cruze

OurHous

by Ree Shannon



Taking your side hustle full-time

Is your side hustle starting to feel like a second full-time job? Or maybe you're a stay-at-home mom whose home-based business is taking off, and you want to dedicate more time to it.

You're not alone.

According to a study by GoDaddy, more than half of millennials and almost a quarter of baby boomers have a side gig. Overall, 52 percent of those with a side hustle hope it will eventually become their day job.

As a certified business coach and best-selling author, I teach women how to gradually grow their side hustle every day—so I know how scary taking this next step can be. Before you jump, hear me out: Taking your side hustle full-time shouldn't be a "leap of faith" you make because you're sick of your day job. It should be the logical next step once you've proven your idea is profitable.

Here are five steps to gauge whether you're ready:

•Step 1: Define Your Why.

Not having a clear why is like getting in the car without a roadmap. You'll drive around aimlessly, and you might end up at someone else's destination. So, I want you to write out why you're doing your side hustle—and be specific. Why did you start your business, and why do you want to take it full time? What do you want to happen for yourself and your family as a result of turning your side hustle into your full-time job?

•Step 2: Look at the Numbers.

Determine the dollar amount your side hustle needs to generate. How much do you need to make so your family can feel good about you leaving your day job, or hiring extra help at home if you're currently a stay-at-home parent? It does-

n't necessarily have to match the salary of your full-time job if you're willing and able to live on less. As long as your side business is generating enough personal income for you to live on, you are ready to take the step to full time.

If you're not sure how to determine that number, I created a Profit Potential tool to help you figure it out. After a few short questions, you'll know the profit potential of your business, as well as how much money you need to set aside for taxes, whether you need to raise your prices or lower your overhead, etc. You can find this resource on my website at businessboutique.com/profit. Once you've determined this number, your next step is to put a plan in place to get there, which brings us to step number three.

I love this quote from Benjamin Franklin: "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." It's so true. Decision-making becomes so much easier when you've written down goals that are specific, measurable and have a time limit. You know exactly where you're going, so every decision is based on what will get you there.

•Step 3: Set Goals and Make a Plan.

I love this quote from Benjamin Franklin: "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." It's so true. Decision-making becomes so much easier when you've written down goals that are specific, measurable and have a time limit. You know exactly where you're going so every decision is based on what will get you there.

•Step 4: Get Help.



Christy Wright

See 'HUSTLE,' Page 5

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Letters to the editor

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It's only temporary

Dear Dave,
Should I still contribute up to the match to my 401(k) at work, like you recommend, if I'm in the process of trying to get out of debt?

Russ

Dear Russ,
Some people disagree with this stance, but my answer is no. I understand how important it is to take the match in a situation like that, but one of the things I've learned over the years is that personal finance is 80 percent behavior and only 20 percent head knowledge. In the short term, the power of focusing on changing your behavior and working hard to pay off debt will supersede the mathematics

involved where your company match is concerned. In other words, if you stop saving temporarily, for just a year or so—and wipe out all your consumer debt—you'll gain a tremendous amount of financial power. And this will be more beneficial to you than one or two years of your company match.

I'd never tell anyone to stop investing, or taking advantage of a company match, for several years. However, if you put it on hold for just a little while and clean up your debt mess—then go back to investing for retirement—you'll reap many more rewards down the road. You'll permanently change your financial behavior, and you'll be able to invest even more for retirement and other things. Good question, Russ!

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.*

'HUSTLE,' from page 4

When you're first starting out, you're the CEO: the Chief Everything Officer. But as your side hustle grows into your full-time job, you might need some help. That might look like your kids stuffing envelopes, asking your friends to help you produce more product, hiring a virtual assistant or finding a part-time babysitter to help at home. Whatever it is, don't be afraid to wave the white flag and ask for the help you need.

•Step 5: Do It Scared.

There's never been a better time to start your own business. The annual State of Women-Owned Businesses Report estimates that women are starting about 1,821 new U.S. businesses per day, and you could be one of them. Don't wait until you feel ready, because you probably never will. Fear never fully leaves us, and it shouldn't. The truth is, fear is often a sign we're doing something bold. I want you to be wise and take thoughtful steps toward building your business. But if you've defined your why, confirmed the numbers and made a plan, it's time to stop waiting and do it scared!

Christy Wright is the #1 national best-selling author of Business Boutique, host of the Business Boutique Podcast, a Certified Business Coach and a Ramsey Personality with a passion for equipping women with the knowledge they need to successfully grow and run a business. Since joining Ramsey Solutions in 2009, she has spoken to thousands across the country at women's conferences, national business conferences, Fortune 500 companies and her own sold-out live events. You can follow Christy on Twitter and Instagram @ChristyBWright and online at www.christywright.com or [facebook.com/OfficialChristyWright](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialChristyWright).

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

Dear Reedtown School Alumni and Friends: We hope you are having a blessed year so far. The time is fast approaching for our bi-annual Reedtown Round-Up fundraiser. This year's fundraiser will be held July 3-7. We are busy planning details for the event. This year's itinerary will be as follows: Wednesday, July 3 - Meet & Greet at the Back to Basics Life Skilled Center (old Reedtown School) from 4:30-6:30 p.m.; Thursday, July 4 - Free Family Day (celebrate with your family); Friday, July 5 - Talent Show at the Chucky Mullins Center from 7-9 p.m.; Saturday, July 6 - Reedtown Round-Up Banquet held at the Chucky Mullins Center from 6-9 p.m.; Sunday, July 7 - Reedtown Round-Up parade at 3 p.m. (If you are interested in putting a float or decorated vehicle in the parade, please contact the committee.) For more information on this year's event, please call Mr. Joe Graham at 256-668-2228, Mrs. Beverly Harvey at 256-332-5601 or Ms. Ella West at 256-332-7721.

Franks County Offices will be closed Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Garbage trucks will not run on Thursday, July 4. Thursday's route will be picked up on July 5.

Isbell United Methodist Church will host a singing with the group "Living Faith" this Saturday, July 6 from 6-8 p.m. The church is located at 10821 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, AL 35653. Everyone is welcome!

The Harris/Trapp Family Reunion will take place this Saturday, July 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the East Franklin Community Center. Family and friends of Lena and Andy Harris are welcome! Bring a covered dish, desserts or drinks. For more information, call Diane Hulseley at 205-485-4616 or Cathy Harris at 205-486-4387.

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, July 11 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

The Welch Reunion will be held Saturday, July 13 at the Mountain Valley Hee Haw building on Hwy. 79 in Phil Campbell from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. If you are a Welch or are related to the Welches in any way, please come out! We will have cold-cut sandwiches. Bring the kind of meat you like, bread, drinks, chips and desserts. We will have mayo, ketchup, mustard, lettuce and tomato. For more information, call 256-627-7635 or 256-810-4840.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guest Steve Price at the Roxy Theatre in downtown Russellville on Saturday, July 13 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 historic Roxy Theater.

Daniel Wallace's *Big Fish* will be discussed at the July 17 10 a.m. meeting of the Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club. The club meets at Coldwater Books, 105 West Sixth Street, Tusculmbia. For more info, email nancy537481@yahoo.com.

The Franklin County Watermelon Pageant will be held on Saturday, July 20 at the Russellville City Schools Auditorium. For an application or more information, visit www.franklincountychamber.org or call 256-332-1760. The deadline for entries is June 28.

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church (305 Bethlehem Road, Russellville, AL 35654) will have Summer Revival beginning with an all-day service on Sunday, July 21, with afternoon preaching by evangelist Bro. James Nichols at 2 p.m. The revival will continue with evangelist Bro. Glenn Bridgemon July 22-26 with services at 7 p.m. each night. Pastor Bro. Frank Chaney and congregation invite everyone to attend!

The Russellville Golden Tiger football program will host a Youth Camp and Ladies Football Clinic on Monday, July 22 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The youth camp is for kids in grades K-8, and ladies age 15 and up are invited to be a part of "Ladies Night Out," where they will have the opportunity to learn football facts and phrases, get an idea of the daily routines of Golden Tiger players and coaches, take part in a Q&A session with coaches and participate in light drills with the youth campers. Dinner will be provided, and prizes will be given away. Go online to goldentigers.net for more information.

If you are interested in the study of the Civil War and have an ancestor who was in the Confederate Army, join the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month (except January and July) at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center. Next meeting will be August 1. Call 1-800-MYDIXIE or 256-324-2317. The Sons of Confederate Veterans is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Membership is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate Armed Forces. Membership can be obtained through either direct or collateral family lines, and kinship to a veteran must be documented genealogically. Minimum age for membership is 12.

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'ADAIR,' from page 1

They have two children and two grandsons.

Adair's professional background ranges from hosting a Christian television show ("Stanley Adair Ministries" on CTN network) to owning and operating a furniture manufacturing business in Haleyville. Adair's furniture factory closed as a result of effects from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), he explained.

"I will never forget the day I closed my furniture factory and laid off my employees due to NAFTA. Many of them had worked with me for 15 years," Adair said. "I decided that day I would do whatever I could to help Alabama and our country. That is why I believe we need someone who will listen to the concerns of the people and not to the special interest groups.

"I know the struggles of small towns trying to compete for industries. That's why I am for training our work force and support the efforts to develop programs for Technical and Trade Schools to fill jobs as they come available in Franklin County and the surrounding areas. It is one of the best ways to present your community as a place for companies to locate."

As a Haleyville resident, Adair is familiar with the infamous northwest Alabama 'road to nowhere' bypass project that defunded recently after millions of dollars were spent on bridges and infrastructure for the project.

"I'm often asked when the road to nowhere will be finished, referring to the by-pass road from Spruce Pine to the east side of Haleyville," Adair said. "The short answer is they say funding is not available. I will work to try and get this back on the table and garner the support needed. It takes

someone who cares enough to fight for the support. The by-pass road would benefit this area greatly."

Another example Adair cites of politicians being 'out of touch' with their constituents is the recent gasoline tax passed by the Alabama Legislature.

"I will never forget the day I closed my furniture factory and laid off my employees due to NAFTA. Many of them had worked with me for 15 years," Adair said. "I decided that day I would do whatever I could to help Alabama and our country. That is why I believe we need someone who will listen to the concerns of the people and not to the special interest groups."

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"This tax was opposed by seventy percent of Alabamians. This is a state issue, but I did not support it," Adair said. "This shows the out-of-touch politicians only seeking their interests and not the people's."

As the host of a television ministry show, Adair's faith has always been out there for the public to see. But he appreciates that one's faith is between "you and your Creator," and he won't push his beliefs onto others.

"Although I personally believe in one God and

one faith, I do not tell others how to believe. However, given the opportunity, I will share my faith with everyone who will hear me, because I am a Christian," Adair said.

With Alabama's Fourth Congressional District at the top of the national list for opioid prescriptions written, Adair says President Donald Trump has taken positive steps to address this epidemic.

"The president on October 24, 2018, did sign a bill that would address the illegal opioids coming through mail packages and making treatment recovery programs more available," Adair said. "This is a start but not the answer to the problem. We need more intervention and education and awareness of this problem. We must continue to work with health care providers to address this issue moving forward and to slow the tide but protect those who do need these medicines. The drug companies also play a part in this."

Adair also pledges to work to fix what he describes as a health care problem in America.

"We as Republicans need to finalize our plans as to this issue and make it public. Premiums are not affordable, and you can't get health care in some instances," Adair said. "I believe we need to protect pre-existing conditions. They called it the Affordable Health Care Plan, but is it affordable? The people haven't forgotten. I want to see more affordable pricing in health care.

"You will hear more about health care as we move into this election cycle."

For more information on the Stanley Adair Senate campaign, log onto www.stanleyadairforsenate.com or like his page (Stanley Adair for Senate) on Facebook.



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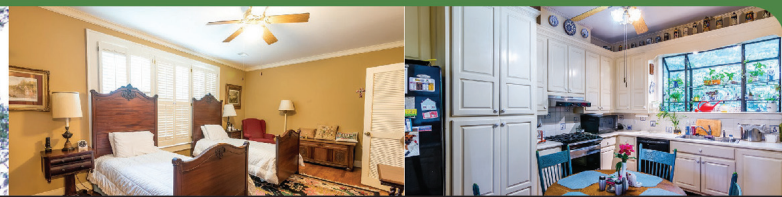
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Compassionate Care For Your Patients

Bank Independent collecting school supplies

Submitted to the FFP

Bank Independent will kick off its sixth annual School Share drive on July 8 to collect supplies for local children. From July 8 through July 26, school supplies can be dropped off at any of the Bank's 28 north Alabama locations.

On July 26, Bank Independent team members will be at Walmart locations in Florence and Huntsville collecting school supplies to "Stuff the Bus" and raise awareness of the needs of local families. In addition to the collection points, Bank Independent has pledged to match customers' Smart Swipe savings up to a total of \$10,000 between July 24-26. Smart Swipe is a simple savings plan that rounds up change from Bank Independent Debit Card purchases to the next dollar and deposits the difference into another BI account of the customer's choosing.

Every time a customer enrolled in Smart Swipe uses their debit card for a purchase during the last three days of the share drive, Bank Independent will donate the pledged cash proceeds to the School Share partner organizations. It is easy to enroll in Smart Swipe. Customers can sign up at

any location, online, through the Sync mobile app or through Customer Service.

"Our customers are invested in serving the community and particularly rally around causes that affect children," said Rick Wardlaw, CEO of Bank Independent. "Removing obstacles to education by providing basic school supplies makes a big impact. The added Smart Swipe match allows our customers to invest in themselves, while encouraging them to make a positive difference towards School Share."

The bank aims to build on the success of last year's drive, which collected 19,904 items. Supplies will be distributed through local organizations in each market, including Committee on Church Cooperation in Decatur, Sidney's Safe! Foundation and New Beginnings Church in the Shoals, and the Department of Human Resources in Madison, Limestone, Franklin and Lawrence counties. Items needed include backpacks, headphones, notebooks, paper, pencils, glue, folders, crayons, markers and rulers.

School Share is part of Bank Independent's Helping Hands program, which also includes employee volunteer efforts, donations and spon-

sorships. Other Share drives include Toy Share to collect toys for children during the holiday season, Shelter Share to benefit animal shelters, and Food Share to collect non-perishable food items.

Helping Hands was inspired by employee requests for organized volunteer opportunities after the April 27, 2011 tornadoes. Since then, Bank Independent employees have donated 6,832 hours in paid volunteer time to community efforts.

About Bank Independent

Since 1947, Bank Independent has taken pride in serving the customers who count on us to be there for them when they need us most. With 28 traditional Sales Offices across north Alabama and one Digital Sales Office, we're committed to providing the best service, designing the most desired products and creating an overall excellent experience for each and every customer. As a local community bank, we believe in building relationships that run deep and last. All of our employees reside in our local communities and believe in giving back through volunteering. To become part of a bank that makes a positive difference in people's lives, visit us at bibank.com.

'BUDGETING,' from page 4

I recommend using a free app called EveryDollar. It's the best budgeting app out there. It will help you create a plan for your money, while making it easy stay on top of your budget throughout the month.

Don't get discouraged if you mess up a few times. You might need three or four months to get your budget the way you want it. But once you have a plan in place, you'll be amazed at how much more in control you feel about your money. You'll experience more freedom, less anxiety and a better all-around understanding of your financial situation.

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As a #1 New York Times best-selling author, Rachel helps people learn the proper ways to handle money and stay out of debt. She's authored three best-selling books, including Smart Money, Smart Kids, which she co-wrote with her father, Dave Ramsey. Follow Cruze on Twitter and Instagram at @RachelCruze and online at www.rachelcruze.com, youtube.com/rachelcruze or facebook.com/rachelramseycruze.

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Local Dems actively seeking candidates for March primaries

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Franklin County Democrats are looking for a few good men and women for the upcoming 2020 elections, and a recently formed committee is designed to start that process sooner rather than later.

Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee chairman Eddie Britton formed a three-person committee, including Wanda Myrick, Terry Bolton and John James, to actively recruit candidates for the March 3, 2020 primary.

Franklin County offices on next year's ballot include Revenue Commissioner, Franklin County Commission (Places 1, 2, 3 and 4), Franklin County Superintendent of Education, Franklin County Board of Education District 3 and Constable positions in each voting precinct.

Other than constables, the only one of those offices currently held by a Democratic elected official is Franklin County BOE District 3, where Pat Cochran is the incumbent. Britton is focused on changing that next year.

"I'd like to have two Democrats running for every position. That may not happen, but that's my goal," Britton said. "We need to form a committee to approach people to run for office as Democrats."

Committee members said they believe the local party needs to financially support local candidates if possible, but that requires money. With that goal in mind, the Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee will hold a fundraiser this summer. More information should be available at the committee's booth at next month's Franklin County Watermelon Festival.

The committee will set the beginning of the qualifying period for 2020 offices at its next meeting later this summer. Qualifying closes on November 9, 2019, but the opening date of qualifying is up to the local party to schedule. The committee will also set qualifying fees for offices at its upcoming meeting.

Britton said there needs to be a re-focusing of what it means to be a Democrat, and committee member Rick Neighbors has prepared an English and Spanish version of a card to distribute to voters explaining what the Democratic Party really stands for.

"If we are going to convince people to vote for the things we represent, we need to tell them about them and communicate with people," Neighbors said.

Britton said he was concerned that some national Democrats have taken liberties to try and define the Democratic Party in a way that represents their extremism and not the true values of the party.

"We've allowed some extremists to define our party, and that needs to be changed," Britton said.

For more information on the Franklin County Democratic Party, visit their webpage at franklincountydems.wordpress.com or like their page on Facebook by searching "Franklin County Democratic Party."

Students receive scholarships from Northwest-Shoals

Submitted to the FFP

MUSCLE SHOALS – Luke Patrick of Russellville received a Foundation–Gist–Orben Gist Memorial Scholarship from Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC).

Luke is the son of Cassandra Rimmer Patrick.

While at NW-SCC, Luke will pursue a degree in Automotive Technology.

Reyna Wingo of Phil Campbell received a Faculty and Staff Scholarship from Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC).

Reyna is the daughter of Jane Wingo.

While at NW-SCC, Reyna will pursue a degree in Nursing.



Luke Patrick



Reyna Wingo

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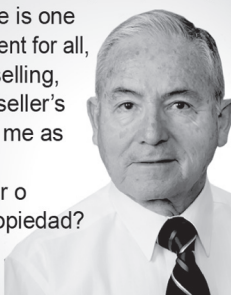
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'VOTE,' from page 1

was proud of the turnout.”

The June 26 vote, which was strictly advisory in nature, came about several employees made verbal requests for a 'no-confidence' vote after concerns they did not have a voice with administration. The requests for the vote were made to McBride and to Dana Clement, the post-secondary UniServ director for the Northern District of the AEA, McBride said.

Colagross said she has meetings with the entire faculty and staff each semester, as well as periodic meetings to discuss college initiatives and student success. Colagross also said she wasn't given an opportunity to respond to the recent employee concerns in person.

“A letter was delivered to my office regarding concerns, but the day I received the letter it had already been sent to the Alabama Community College Board of Trustees and Chancellor,” Colagross said. “Unfortunately, the concerns were not brought to me by the faculty and staff in person or in writing prior to this letter.

“When the letter was brought to me, I had a faculty/staff meeting on each of our campuses to address the concerns identified in the letter. I have had an open-door policy for anyone who has requested to meet with me and will continue to do so.”

Additionally, there was faculty backlash about Colagross' plan to hire three dean-level positions, with the accompanying \$54,000 in raises, after recent work force reductions. But Colagross defends the administrative positions as being consistent with what the college has done in the past.

“Northwest-Shoals Community College has historically employed multiple vice-presidents and/or senior level deans in instruction, student services and finance, or a college wide vice-president to oversee all operations,” Colagross said. “As president, I believe it is important to maintain a stable administrative team that is comparable to other community colleges in the state and nation.

“Additionally, the college's accrediting body, Southern Association for Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, expressed that Northwest-Shoals Community College should consider revising the current administrative structure to properly reflect the organization of its sister institutions.”

McBride said the 'no-confidence' vote results would be delivered to Alabama Community College System chancellor Jimmy Baker's office.

“Trying to open dialogue with the administration—that's our goal,” McBride said. “We haven't seen any results yet, but I am hopeful. In addition to staff feeling they are not being treated fairly, much of which has to do with salaries, there are a number of minor issues that are just not being heard. Minor issues add up to big issues if they are not dealt with.

“We are hoping that the chancellor will listen and that will encourage our administration to open dialogue with us here. And that was our goal—to have our concerns heard and that we need open dialogue. Everything takes time, and it's a process, so we are waiting.”

Colagross disputed claims that faculty and staff have not received raises in recent years.

“The faculty and staff, excluding me, received a 2.5-percent raise for the 2018-19 academic year,” Colagross said. “In the 2019-20 academic year, all faculty and staff, once again excluding me, will receive a four-percent raise. Additionally, each faculty or staff member receives periodic step raises based on years of service up to 27 years. Further, when faculty earn additional degrees, they receive an increase in rank which includes an increase in pay.

“According to Alabama Community College Board of Trustees policy, there is no type of merit raise available to employees.”

Baker scoffed at the 'no confidence' vote in releasing a statement last Wednesday that downplayed the entire process.

“A vote of no confidence organized in this manner has no bearing on an individual's job security, and the vote that occurred today represented the voices of less than 18 percent of Northwest-Shoals Community College faculty and staff,” Baker said in the statement. “In the short time Dr. Colagross has been president at NW-SCC, she has proven her leadership in the face of adversity and has demonstrated her open-door policy in addressing concerns of her faculty and staff.

“Just last week, meetings were held at the Phil Campbell and Shoals campuses to address concerns.”

According to some employees who attended last week's meetings, though, they don't believe their concerns were addressed and there were even allegations that administration videoed employees who spoke at those meetings.

Colagross was appointed acting president of NW-SCC in October of 2017 and was appointed to the position permanently last year. She is a 1979 graduate of Cherokee High School and a 1983 graduate of the University of North Alabama. Colagross has been part of the NW-SCC faculty since 1992, when she was hired as a developmental studies instructor in math and English.

Shortly after she was hired, Colagross sat down with the *Franklin Free Press* and discussed the future of the Phil Campbell campus.

“I've worked here a long time, and the Phil Campbell campus will remain an

important part of this college,” Colagross said.

NW-SCC psychology professor Ken Brackins serves as president of the Phil Campbell campus chapter of the AEA. Brackins has heard concerns from fellow faculty and staff about the long-term future of the Phil Campbell campus, and he said those concerns were part of what led to last Wednesday's vote.

“The college has a total of 492 faculty and staff, and 18 percent of the employees voted negatively,” Colagross said. “That tells me that the majority of Northwest-Shoals employees share my vision of greatness for our college.”

“We want to be able to have more input as it relates to the continued viability of the college at both campuses,” Brackins said. “We are concerned about seeing that continued viability in both places and about some of the decisions being made, and we'd like to be at the table there.”

Colagross said she views the results of Wednesday's vote as a sign that the majority of employees “share her vision” of what it takes to make the college great.

“I respect the opinions of those that did turn out and believe that the employees of Northwest-Shoals have every right to express those opinions,” Colagross said. “Having held the positions of adjunct faculty, full-time faculty, division chair, dean, vice-president and now president at Northwest-Shoals Community College, I believe it is important that all areas of the college must be heard clearly.

“The college has a total of 492 faculty and staff, and 18 percent of the employees voted negatively. This information tells me that the majority of Northwest-Shoals employees shares my vision of greatness for our college, and we will continue to move in a positive direction to support our students and contribute to the economic livelihood and workforce development of northwest Alabama.”

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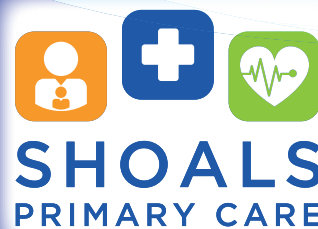
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Brutal Auburn schedule does Gus no favors

The 2019 SEC football season is already unusual in at least one aspect—all 14 head coaches from last season are still in the fold.

There's a good chance that won't be the case by the end of the year.

A middling conference record of 21-19 over the last five years and an offense that sank to 11th in the league in yards per game last season has placed Gus Malzahn squarely on the hot seat at Auburn.

Granted, Malzahn is only 19 months removed from beating both Georgia and Alabama when they were No. 1 in the country on his way to winning the toughest division in college football, but 19 months might as well be 19 years as far as most fans are concerned.

Fair or not, Malzahn appears to be in dire need of a strong showing in 2019. Unfortunately, the Tigers' schedule doesn't exactly scream ten-win season.

Auburn opens in Arlington on August 31 against Oregon, a likely Top 15 team with a Heisman candidate at quarterback in Justin Herbert. The draw from the SEC East (at Florida on October 5 and home to Georgia on November 16) is as tough as it gets, and there are divisional road games at Texas A&M (September 21) and LSU (October 26).

Cap it all off with a visit from Alabama on November 30, and Auburn could potentially be an underdog in half of its regular-season games.

The Tigers typically do their best work when expectations are low, but asking a first-year starting quarterback (whether it ends up being junior Malik Willis, red-shirt freshman Joey Gatewood or prized 2019 recruit Bo Nix) to run that gauntlet without losing four or five games is a tall order.

Auburn's schedule certainly looks like the most challenging in the SEC West, but the Tigers are by no means the only team preparing for a meat-grinder. Here's how we rank the remaining six teams in the division in terms of schedule strength, from toughest to easiest.

Texas A&M

Nobody in the country—Auburn included—has a tougher road schedule than the Aggies, who will visit Clemson on September 7 and then close the regular season with back-to-back trips to Georgia and LSU in late November. Factor in Alabama's visit to Kyle Field on October 12, and A&M is likely looking at no fewer than four games against Top 10 opponents this season.

LSU

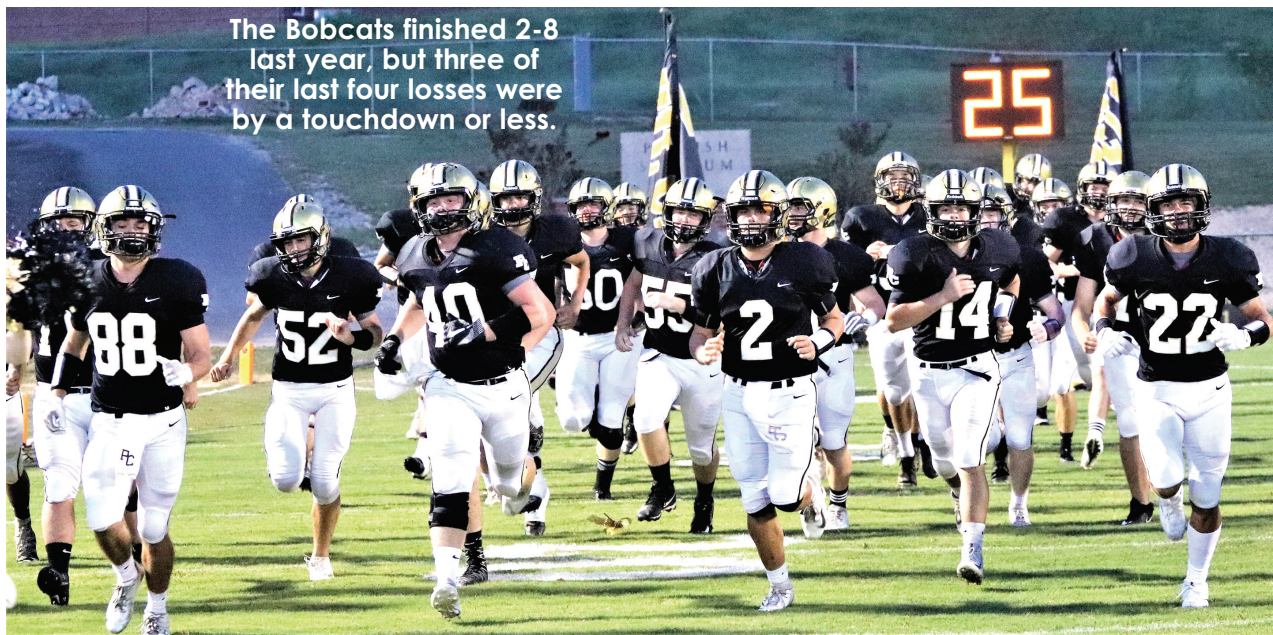
The Tigers surprised practically everyone by winning ten games a year ago, but duplicating that feat against a tough 2019 schedule will be

See 'SCHEDULE,' Page 18



Mike Self
Sports Editor

From the ground up



The Bobcats finished 2-8 last year, but three of their last four losses were by a touchdown or less.

Kevin Barnwell is a spread guy. Always has been. But the second-year head coach is convinced that building Phil Campbell back into a winner starts with a renewed commitment to a physical running game.

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

To hear Phil Campbell football coach Kevin Barnwell tell it, *everybody* wants a piece of Trey Leindecker.

"It's kind of funny," Barnwell said last Wednesday morning. "He's the fastest guy on the team, so at all of our workouts, guys are always coming up and saying, 'I wanna race Trey.' I joke with him and tell him, 'Trey, I know exactly how you feel. I always had that target on my back, too.'

"Being the fastest guy on the team, everybody is trying to catch him. He's got that target on his back everyday."

Opposing defenders found themselves looking at Leindecker's back quite often toward the end of last season, when the speedy sophomore broke loose for 476 yards and seven touchdowns on 66 carries over the team's final four games. During that stretch, Leindecker gashed Lauderdale County for 108 yards and a career-high four touchdowns on just 11 carries in a 52-46 loss; ran for a season-high 152 yards and two more scores in a 32-26 loss to East Lawrence; and ripped off a 58-yard touchdown sprint early in a Week 9 game against Colbert Heights.

Now preparing to build off that breakout performance as a junior in 2019, Leindecker is a marked

man—even at practice, apparently, where his teammates are literally lining up to see if they can keep up.

"We've got Austen [Baker] and Luke [Barnwell]; they're getting close to him," Kevin Barnwell said. "In fact, Austen beat him in a race the other day, and I told them Twitter blew up immediately. It was everywhere.

"They're having fun. It's a fun group to be around. They like to compete and have fun."

"We have to get better with our under-center game so we can run the ball down people's throats when we need to," Barnwell said, **"rather than snapping it [in the shotgun] to the quarterback and basically running the single wing. We've gotta establish the ground game and work to where we can run some plays under center, be physical at the point of attack, and attack downhill."**

If the Bobcats are to do a little more of both this season than they did a year ago, when a series of close losses (including three by a touchdown or less) down the stretch left them at 2-8, they'll have to find a way to maximize the production of a talented group of skill players led by Leindecker and Baker, another junior.

"We've got two guys who I feel can be as good as anyone around in Trey and Austen Baker,"

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PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

DOUBLE DUTY - In addition to sharing snaps at quarterback on offense, Raper (2) will also call the shots on defense as Phil Campbell's starting middle linebacker.

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Barnwell said. "The sky's the limit for Trey. He's gonna be as good as he wants to be. Those two are really good running backs, and there's a lot of things we can do with them. We can do some split-back with them, we can get in the I, we can run a lot of different stuff where we can get them the ball. That's what we're gonna try to do, is get those two guys quality touches.

"We've got four or five kids who, maybe they're not the most athletic people around, but they're winners. We've got kids who are winners, and we want to get touches to the guys who are committed to the program and committed to doing what it takes to win. Those are the guys we're gonna try to establish."

Leindecker and Baker will be joined in the backfield rotation by Imer Ordonez (a big, strong senior who could also see significant snaps on the O-line) and promising sophomore Blain Goodson.

"Blaine is a tough, hard-nosed kid who started last year as a ninth-grader," Barnwell said. "I told him then, 'You're not always gonna be 14 or 15 years old.' He's starting to grow up now. He's a good athlete who's getting tougher everyday and working hard. He's gonna be a guy we can eventually get some touches to who can make things happen."

Factor in the combination of Luke Barnwell and fellow junior Ridge Raper at quarterback and a receiver group that will at times feature Barnwell, Leindecker and/or Baker along with sophomore Mason Swinney, and there is cause for optimism.

"We've got some skill players who, if they stay healthy, can make some plays," Kevin Barnwell said.

A year ago at this time, Barnwell was

preparing for his first season as head coach and working frantically to install his version of the up-tempo spread offense. Luke Barnwell, the team's starting quarterback, sustained a separated throwing shoulder in the season opener against Red Bay, and that set the Bobcats back a bit. Barnwell battled through the injury for much of the year and played well at times, throwing for 295 yards and three touchdowns in the shootout loss to Lauderdale County.

"We've got four or five kids who, maybe they're not the most athletic people around, but they're winners," Barnwell said. "We've got kids who are winners, and we want to get touches to the guys who are committed to the program and committed to doing what it takes to win. Those are the guys we're gonna try to establish."

"It was encouraging, and the kids love playing that style," Kevin Barnwell said of his team's brief offensive surge last October. "The problem with that up-tempo spread style is, if you have one or two key injuries, everything looks totally different."

There's another issue as well—the weather. Wet conditions can cause major problems for a team intent on moving the ball through the air.

"Those last two games, it rained the entire time," said Barnwell, whose team closed out the 2018 season with low-scoring losses to Colbert Heights (21-14) and rival Hackleburg (22-12). "When you're out there trying to throw the football, it makes throwing and catching it a challenge."

With all of those factors in mind (and a talented collection of ball-carriers at his disposal), Barnwell has shifted his emphasis

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'GROUND,' from page 14

this summer to the ground game.

"We have to get better with our under-center game so we can run the ball down people's throats when we need to," Barnwell said, "rather than snapping it [in the shotgun] to the quarterback and basically running the single wing. We've gotta establish the ground game and work to where we can run some plays under center, be physical at the point of attack, and attack downhill. We've gotta figure out ways to establish the line of scrimmage with our offensive line rather than allowing the defensive line to re-establish the line of scrimmage."

Barnwell didn't want to get too specific on the style of offense his team will be running in 2019, but the overall mindset and ultimate goal are no secret.

"Can I plead the fifth on that?" he asked with a laugh. "We want to be able to run downhill. That's the thing. There are gonna be times when it's raining or we have an injury or two, and we're gonna have to run downhill. We have to establish the downhill running game. We have three running backs who can run the ball downhill, possibly four or five guys who can give us some quality reps running the ball.

"I'd love to be in a system where we have six plays, and we just run those same six plays. Unfortunately, here, we don't have five-star athletes at every offensive line position. So we have to find ways to get those guys the ball, and that's what we're working toward."

Talent and play-making ability at the skill spots is nice, but Barnwell believes the key to unlocking Phil Campbell's full potential on offense lies with the guys up front. Senior Kaleb Solis and juniors Johnson Leeth (an All-County selection by the *Free Press* in 2018) and Eli Smith are all returning starters, and they'll be counted on to lead an O-line group that could also include Ordonez, sophomore Joseph Moreno, and juniors Isaiah Oliver and Kendrick Baker, among others.

"Johnson Leeth, Eli Smith and Kaleb Solis—those are our three best linemen," Barnwell said. "We're trying to figure out who else we've got up front. Imer Ordonez is a guy who can fit in there, and Joseph Moreno is a young guy who could come in and play. Isaiah Oliver is a guy who's committed to the program. We'll probably have to play him on the O-line, but we really like him as a D-line guy. He got after it in the spring. He's gonna help us there.

"We just have to focus as a group up front on learning our assignments. I'm watching film of the spring game right now, and we missed so many assignments, it's ridiculous. I'm about to pull my hair out. There's no excuse for missing assignments like that. We just have to do a better job of getting guys to understand what we're doing."

Barnwell said his team is farther along now than they were at this time last summer, but he knows that cleaning up those mistakes along the line of scrimmage is paramount if the offense is to be productive.

"The kids can call a play now without me and understand what we're trying to do," he said on Wednesday. "Our kids understand things a little bit better. We've got some guys who are pretty football-savvy, but we're nowhere near where we need to be. We're still struggling at the line of scrimmage. We're so far away still from where we need to be.

"It's a work in progress, very similar to last year. We're very confused at the line of scrimmage. We've gotta fix those issues and get to the point where we're not making those silly mistakes."

Barnwell said that the school's new assistant principal, Kelby Daniel, is slated to join the football staff and help offensive line coach Darby Allison work with the guys up front, many of whom are still getting their feet wet at the varsity level.

"We don't have a lot of experience up front," Barnwell said, "but that's something we're working toward. Hopefully we'll get that shored up."

Phil Campbell Bobcats 2019 Schedule

Date	Opponent	2018 Result
8/30	at Red Bay	L, 36-8
9/6	vs. Lexington*	L, 35-12
9/13	vs. Clements*	W, 15-7
9/20	at Vina	W, 47-2
9/27	vs. Phillips	L, 28-12
10/4	at Westminster Christian*	L, 40-7
10/11	at Lauderdale County*	L, 52-46
10/18	vs. East Lawrence*	L, 32-26
10/25	at Colbert Heights*	L, 21-14
10/31	vs. Hackleburg	L, 22-12

*-Class 3A, Region 8 opponent

Another remedy, Barnwell believes, is streamlining the playbook a bit and keeping things as simple as possible. It's better to be really good at one thing than mediocre at many, or so the theory goes.

"That's the danger sometimes, especially with me being a younger head coach," Barnwell said. "You watch all this film and try to do all this differ-

ent stuff, but we want to spend our practice time getting good at what we *can* do. Even now, we're probably still trying to do too much. We're trying to cut it down a little bit and simplify a few things, throw out some things that might have been clutter and were keeping us from being successful.

"We're gonna be very multiple with what we do. We're trying to marry a few things together where we can be multiple and attempt to give defensive coordinators a lot to prepare for. In doing that, we're really trying to simplify things so we're not confusing ourselves. You don't want to be one of those coaches who says, 'I've got 17 plays to attack the C gap.' We want to establish what we can do and get good at it, rather than doing too much."

The Bobcats do have the luxury of having two savvy, tough-minded, dual-threat options at quarterback in Barnwell and Raper. After filling in for an injured Barnwell early last season, Raper shifted to receiver and became the team's most reliable pass-catcher. Whether or not he's the one taking the snaps on offense this season, Raper will most definitely be running the show on the other side of the ball, where he's expected to start at middle linebacker.

Kevin Barnwell said he's not opposed to employing a two-quarterback system.

"I'm gonna use both, and really and truly Luke can really catch the ball, too," the coach said. "I think we can possibly put him in some space and

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Luke Barnwell

'GROUND,' from page 13

throw him the ball a little bit, too. Ridge is a good power runner in between the tackles. He's a heady guy who's football-savvy, and of course Luke is getting better with that as well. Luke had trouble at the end of last year, just because he stayed injured the whole year. It was a frustrating year for him.

"Ridge is gonna be our Mike linebacker. We're gonna ask a lot out of Ridge Raper. As our Mike linebacker, he's gonna be the quarterback of the defense. We've either got to get him in really good shape, or we've gotta find a way to get him off the field at some point and get him a break."

The renewed commitment to running the football notwithstanding, Phil Campbell does have some exciting options at receiver as well.

"Austen Baker, we'll split him out some, and Trey, too. We'll split both of them out," Barnwell said. "Mason Swinney is gonna be a good player for us, a good receiver. He just started football stuff. He didn't play in the spring game [against Lynn] because of a hamstring injury, but we feel like he can really be an impact player."

"Andrew Green is transferring in from East Franklin, so he'll be with us now on a day-to-day basis. That's gonna help, as far as us getting him in the weight room and him getting stronger and faster. And John Randle Herring is another guy with lots of potential. We just have to find a way to help all these guys reach their full potential."

Raper won't be the only Bobcat to see significant snaps on both sides of the ball in 2019. Solis, Oliver, Ordonez and Jackson are all part of the D-line rotation, and Herring could shuffle between end and linebacker. Raper will man the middle, with sophomore Boone Swinney also in the mix and Austen Baker and sophomore Austin Douthit

both potentially shifting down from safety to line-backer.

Green, Goodson and senior corner Ben Williams will all play key roles in the secondary.

"We'll have to do a good job of limiting our reps and rotating guys in and giving them a break," Barnwell said.

"One of our kids the other day said something about, 'We'd like to do this, get in the playoffs, etc.' To me, that's an outcome," Barnwell said. "There are so many variables that can happen that can limit you from achieving that outcome, but that doesn't mean you didn't have a successful season. That's what I'm trying to emphasize to our guys. I'm telling them, 'Let's be better today than we were yesterday.' In fact, you can narrow it down even more and say, 'Let's be better on this play than we were on the last play.' Let's just continuously improve and see where it goes. Let's focus on getting better, and we'll total it all together at the end and see where we are."

For a program that hasn't had a winning season since 2001 and hasn't won a playoff game since the year before that, progress could be marked in a number of ways. In order to achieve bigger, though, Barnwell is imploring his players to think smaller.

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"If we say our goal is to win twelve games and we win eleven, we feel like we're a failure when in reality that's not the case. That's why I want our guys to focus on the process instead of the outcome. Let's be dedicated, let's be a team, let's be a family, let's get better. Let's just continuously improve.

"If you set a goal to make the playoffs and win your first-round game, what happens when you do that? What now? Is that it? If you set a goal like that and you do achieve it, are you finished? We don't want our kids to get complacent either. We don't want them to feel like they're a failure for not reaching a goal or feel like they've arrived if they do reach a goal. That's why we just want to focus on continually getting better."

After traveling to Hubbertville for a preseason jamboree on August 23, Phil Campbell will open the regular season with a game at rival Red Bay on August 30. The Tigers will provide an immediate measuring stick for the Bobcats to see how far they've come in the physicality department.

"Red Bay is gonna be physical," said Barnwell, whose team lost last year's season opener to the Tigers 36-8. "As long as Coach [Michael] Jackson is there, they're gonna be good and they're gonna be physical. Last year they manhandled us at the line of scrimmage. They did what they wanted to do. We have to figure out a way to stop that. Lauderdale County did the same thing to us. Several teams did that to us. We've got to figure out ways to keep that from happening.

"We have a good nucleus of kids who have bought in and worked hard to change their bodies and get stronger and more physical. But we've still got a long way to go."

After the trip to Red Bay, Phil Campbell will open play in Class 3A, Region 8 with home games against Lexington and Clements before stepping out of region play to take on Vina (on the road) and Phillips (at home).

The second half of the season begins with back-to-back region road games at Westminster Christian and Lauderdale County, followed by a visit from East Lawrence. The Bobcats will close region play at Colbert Heights before hosting Hackleburg in the regular season finale on Thursday night, October 31.

"Colbert Heights is gonna be good again," Barnwell said. "As long as Taylor Leathers is there, they're gonna be good. It's the same thing with Coach Jackson and Red Bay. Lauderdale County is gonna be Lauderdale County. Last year we looked like a junior high team standing beside them. East Lawrence is gonna be better, because James Moore does a great job over there. He's got those kids working hard and believing. Clements is getting better and working hard. Lexington has always been a hard-nosed team. We'll have to play that slobber-knocker style game with them, too.

"Then you've got Westminster Christian, who lost to Piedmont on a blocked extra point [27-26 in the state quarterfinals]. It's gonna be a very competitive region."

For now, though, Barnwell is far more concerned with *how* the Bobcats play than with who they play.

"Our goal is to not let anyone be any more hard-nosed than we are," he said. "And we're almost there on that. Last year, our guys plugged and plugged and plugged, and that says a lot about their character. I was proud of them for that.

"There were some games where we could have rolled over early, but our guys didn't do that. They kept clawing and clawing and clawing, and that's something we can build on."

Phil Campbell will participate in 7-on-7 competitions at Lynn on July 9 and at Hamilton on July 11 before heading to Decatur for an FCA 7-on-7 Camp on July 23.

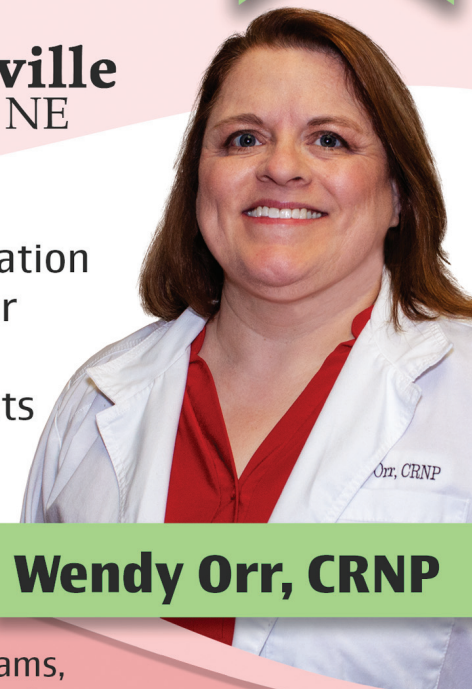


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'SCHEDULE', from page 13

no easy task. A road game against a potential preseason Top 10 opponent in Texas on September 7 looks like the only early test, but the back half of the schedule is fraught with danger: Home to Florida on October 12, home to Auburn on October 26, at Alabama on November 9 and home to Texas A&M on November 30.

Ole Miss

A trip to Memphis on August 31 and a home date with Cal on September 21 highlight a reasonably challenging non-conference schedule, but the draw from the SEC East (home to Vanderbilt on October 5 and at Missouri the following week) could be much worse. There are road trips to Alabama to close September and Auburn to open November, plus the Egg Bowl is in Starkville this year. LSU will visit Oxford on November 16.

Arkansas

Arkansas is the only team in the West that doesn't face a Power 5 opponent in non-conference play, but the Hogs have nowhere to hide once league play begins. They'll face Texas A&M in Arlington on September 28, and the back half of the schedule features road trips to Tuscaloosa (on October 26) and Baton Rouge (on November 23).

Arkansas faces Kentucky (in Lexington on October 12) and Missouri (in Little Rock on November 30) from the SEC East.

Mississippi State

The schedule opens on the soft side with three straight non-conference games (the last of which will be a visit from Kansas State on September 14) followed by a home date with Kentucky. Things toughen considerably after that, starting with back-to-back road trips to Auburn and Tennessee (with a bye week in between). There's also a road game at Texas A&M on October 26.

State isn't likely to beat LSU or Alabama under any circumstances, but at least both of those games are in Starkville this season (on October 19 and November 16, respectively.) The Egg Bowl is also at home.

Alabama

The Tide's usual showcase opener has been replaced this season by a game in Atlanta against Duke on August 31. There's a rare road trip to South Carolina on September 14, but Alabama's first real test probably won't come until an October 12 game at Texas A&M. Three straight home games follow, with a bye week right before LSU visits Tuscaloosa on November 9. There are late-season road trips to Mississippi State (on November 16) and Auburn (on November 30).

As always, Alabama's schedule appears softer than those of its SEC West brethren due to the absence of one particular opponent—Alabama. Next week we'll break down the schedules in the SEC East.

The Russellville Golden Tiger football program will host a Youth Camp and Ladies Football Clinic on Monday, July 22 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The youth camp is for kids in grades K-8, and ladies age 15 and up are invited to be a part of "Ladies Night Out," where they will have the opportunity to learn football facts and phrases, get an idea of the daily routines of Golden Tiger players and coaches, take part in a Q&A session with coaches and participate in light drills with the youth campers. Dinner will be provided, and prizes will be given away. Go online to goldentigers.net for more information.

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