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Mon-Fri: 5 a.m.-8 p.m.

Cedar Creek

Controversial amendment to appear on ballots next March

Voters will decide on changes to state's education system

Franklin Free Press

In addition to choosing their party nominees for the general election, Alabama voters will decide next March 3 whether to approve a constitutional amendment that would change the Alabama State Board of Education from an elected body to one whose members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Alabama Senate.

SB397, sponsored by Sen. Del Marsh (R-Anniston), cleared the Senate and House this session and will be presented to voters in the upcoming primary election as a constitutional amendment.

The measure would rename the Alabama State Board of Education as the Alabama Commission on Elementary

and Secondary Education and would change the position of State Superintendent of Education to Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Alabama voters will decide next March 3 whether to approve a constitutional amendment that would change the Alabama State Board of Education from an elected body to one whose members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Alabama Senate.

Additionally, the amendment would eliminate the 'Common Core' academic standards adopted by Alabama, and the newly formed commission would be responsible for adopting "course of study standards" that would be in compliance with national standards. According to www.ballotpedia.org, the commission would

See 'AMENDMENT,' Page 8



Dr. Mark Love

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Wiley Beam received his 50-year pin from Brother Jackie Fowler at a special reception held by Russellville Masonic Lodge #371 on June 29.

Masonic Lodge 371 installs new officers at annual ceremony

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

Russellville Masonic Lodge #371 conducted its annual installation of offi-

The slate of officers for 2019-20 includes: Terrell Hatton (Treasurer), Doug Reed (Junior Deacon), Drew Mansell (Senior Deacon), Alan Putman (Senior Warden), Michael Fish (Worshipful Master), Heath Isom (Junior Warden), Noah Daugherty (Tyler), Milford 'Mousey' Brown (Chaplain) and Scott Adcock (Secretary).

The annual installation was held Tuesday, July 2, at the lodge. On June 29, the lodge hosted a special reception for Brother Wiley Beam

See 'LODGE,' Page 8











Quarter Loin Pork Chops \$1.69 lb. **Center Cut Pork Chops** \$2.69 lb.

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

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Cesar Zatarain Avalos, Russellville, age 19

Died Sunday, June 30, 2019. Funeral mass held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church. Interment in Spruce Pine Cemetery. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Donald G. "Putt Putt" Cash, Northport, AL, age 76 Died Tuesday, July 2, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Liberty Hill Cemetery.

Marilyn Faulkner, Haleyville, age 76

Died Tuesday, July 2, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Shady Grove Cemetery at Liberty Hill.

Sebastian Christopher Hollis, Newborn

Died Wednesday, June 26, 2019. Graveside service held at Old Line Cemetery in Hodges. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.

David Bruce Kirby, Russellville, age 68

Died Saturday, June 29, 2019. The family was planning to hold a private service. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Harold Andrew McClellan, Russellville, age 85

Died Tuesday, July 2, 2019. Funeral arrangements had not been announced at press time. Akins Funeral Home was assisting the fami-

Lantham Keith Nix, Tuscumbia, age 54

Died Wednesday, July 3, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Ramsey Cemetery.

Alex Manual Pedro, Russellville, age 15

Died Sunday, June 30, 2019. Funeral held at Akins Funeral Home. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

Ann Sartin, Russellville, age 69

Died Wednesday, July 3, 2019. Memorial service held at Spry Memorial Chapel.

James Hurshel Winsted, Tuscumbia, page 80

Died Monday, July 1, 2019. The family was planning to hold a private service at a later date. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.

Deborah Gail Yancey, Phil Campbell, age 64 Died Tuesday, July 2, 2019. Funeral held at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. Interment in St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery.

Bluit "Ed" Young, Mt. Hope, age 98

Died Thursday, July 4, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Mt. Hope Methodist Church Cemetery.

Grimes to serve as president of new EL group

Submitted to the FFP

RUSSELLVILLE—Russellville City Schools superintendent Heath Grimes has been elected president of the newly formed statewide Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) affiliate organization Alabama Leaders Advocating for English Learners.

This is a tremendous honor for Grimes, who will be heading up this group of educators from across the state who are striving to improve on and strengthen the way English language learning is taught, funded and prioritized in Alabama's school systems.

Grimes was the one who first spearheaded an effort to get a group together that could share ideas and help one another when it comes to ELL.

"There are seven systems in Alabama that have more than ten percent English language learners, and Russellville is at twenty percent," Grimes said. "As the number of EL students grows, we as educators needed a way to collaborate and share ideas so that we can make sure these students are getting the best education possible.

Grimes said ALA-EL will be a way for educators to find adequate and equitable funding for EL programs, have accountability for EL education and provide professional development for those looking to improve their teaching techniques in this area by seeing what others are doing that works.

He said he hopes his role as president of the group will be beneficial to RCS as they stay connected and ahead of the curve with EL education. "I'm extremely honored to not only be part of this

organization but to help lead this group of educators in improving this specific area of education," Grimes said. "Our teachers and administrators at RCS have been working on our EL education for years now, and they are doing a tremendous job. We are happy to have a place to share what we're doing and to learn from others as well.'

As a CLAS affiliate, ALA-EL will be under the umbrella of CLAS, which will provide many services and benefits that a stand-alone group would not readily have.

Grimes hopes his role as president will benefit RCS as they stay connected and ahead of the curve with English Learning education.

"I'm extremely honored to not only be part of this organization but to help lead these educators in improving this specific area of education," he said. "Our teachers and administrators at RCS have been working on our EL education for years now, and they are doing a tremendous job. We are happy to have a place to share what we're doing and to learn from others as well.'

CLAS executive director Dr. Vic Wilson said CLAS provides a greater opportunity to reach a network of educators across the state to increase membership, assist with professional development, provide conferences and assist the group with idea development and execution.

"As far as I know, this is the first statewide group dedicated to EL education, and it's something that is definitely needed," Wilson said. "The knowledge we have at CLAS and the knowledge these educators in the group have can help create a narrative and bring awareness.

The formation of this group will help secure better resources, better opportunities and an overall better education for EL students. I am excited to have this group as our newest CLAS affiliate."

In addition to serving as the newly elected president of ALA-EL, Grimes is also serving a second term as the president of SSA District 8, serves on the Shoals Regional Council for Leadership Alabama, serves on the Alabama Leadership Initiative Selection Committee and is currently working on completing his doctorate.

"This is definitely a busy time in my life, but I truly enjoy being part of these organizations as well as being fully committed to our system at RCS," Grimes said. "I am thankful for the opportunity to be in positions of leadership and am happy to serve in the roles that have been chosen by my peers, all with the goal of providing excellent education in our district and our state.

Below is the full list of ALA-EL Board of Directors Officers and Regional Inservice Representatives that were elected at the first meeting:

Officers:

President: Heath Grimes

President-Elect: Michael Douglas

Treasurer: Leah Dobbs-Black Secretary: Mitzi Dennis

CLAS Executive Board Member: Stefanie

Regional Inservice Representatives:

District 1: Casey Reed

District 2: Ressa Cheetam

District 3: Ann Marie Batista District 4: Kristi Garcia

District 5: Lari Valtierra

District 6: Kim Mattox

District 7: Scott Coefield

District 8: Lizzette Farsinejad

District 9: Demetrica May

District 10: Kristen Genty

District 11: Kelly Cobb

Eight local eateries receive satisfactory ratings

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

Each of the eight Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of June 24-28 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 manage-

ment 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 97, received by the Weatherford Centre, 303 4th Avenue SE, Red

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

•McDonald's #23035, 606 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, 89. (Mold in fountain heads).

 Backwoods Grill & Fish Camp, 2937 Hwy. 43, Phil Campbell, 90. (Spray nozzle below floe rim).

•Dismals Canyon Fountain and Deli, 901 Hwy. 8,

Phil Campbell, 90. (No date on crockpot of taco soup, sliced tomatoes, lettuce and hotdogs sitting out at 71 degrees).

•El Patron Tex-Mex LLC, 13665 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 92. (Various cold holding violations, steak being held in prep cooler at 50 degrees, cut tomatoes 61 degrees, chicken 44 degrees, walkin-cooler holding cheese dip at 60 degrees).

•Pilgrim's Place, 1314 North Jackson Ave., Russellville, 93. (Large container of slaw being held at 68 degrees in walk-in-cooler, BBQ butts 46 degrees).

Of the 17 inspections done in Colbert County from June 24-28, all received scores falling in the range of satisfactory.

The high score of 100 went to Southern BBQ, 425 Avalon Ave., Sheffield.

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

Arts Council kicking off 'Roxy's Christmas Spectacular'

Submitted to the FFP

To celebrate Christmas in July, the Franklin County Arts & Humanities Council is showing the movie The Greatest Showman at the Roxy this Friday, July 12 at 7 p.m. Admission is FREE.

This movie, inspired by the imagination of P.T. Barnum, features Hugh Jackman. The Greatest Showman is an original musical that celebrates the birth of show business and tells of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation.

The Arts Council is also kicking off "The Roxy's Christmas Spectacular," which will be held December 5-8. Public performance tickets will go on sale this Friday, July 12 at 6 p.m. prior to the movie. Main floor seats are reserved. The costs are: Orchestra \$15 (first 10 rows/all sections); Mezzanine \$10 (Rows 11-19/all sections); and Balcony \$6 (General Admission).

Auditions for "The Roxy's Christmas Spectacular" will be held at the Roxy on Sunday, August 11 starting at 1:30 p.m. for children (ages 6-12); 3:30 p.m. for females (ages 13 and up); and 5:30 p.m. for males (ages 13 and up). There will also be a makeup day for auditions on Monday, August 12 starting at 5:30 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes prior to audition time.

Follow the Facebook Page "The Roxy's Christmas Spectacular" for up-to-date information.

Honey Do: Like a rock

Whether you are needing a place to set the grill, building a walkway to the garden or setting a post, bagged and premixed concrete is a great tool. If the project is done right, you will have completed a project that will last for years with no upkeep except to trim the grass around it.

Here are a few basic tips for get-

ting it right.

1) USE THE RIGHT PRODUCT. Quikrete brand concrete has more than 200 products with the homeowner in mind, for tons of different applications. Basic concrete is great for walkways and patios, while fastsetting concrete is better for filling holes around various kinds of posts.

For laying block or brick, choose mortar mix, which has no gravel. There are also several products for resurfacing floors and driveways.

The great thing about pre-mixed concrete is that all you need is water. The trick is to get the proper

consistency of finished product and eliminate dry spots.

2) PROPER MIXING. The great thing about pre-mixed concrete is that all you need is water. The trick is to get the proper consistency of finished product and eliminate dry spots. This is very important, as dry

spots are weak spots in the finished project.

If you are using the whole bag, mix it in a wheelbarrow. Dump the dry mix in and add water. The sloping sides allow you to move the product



Doug Green

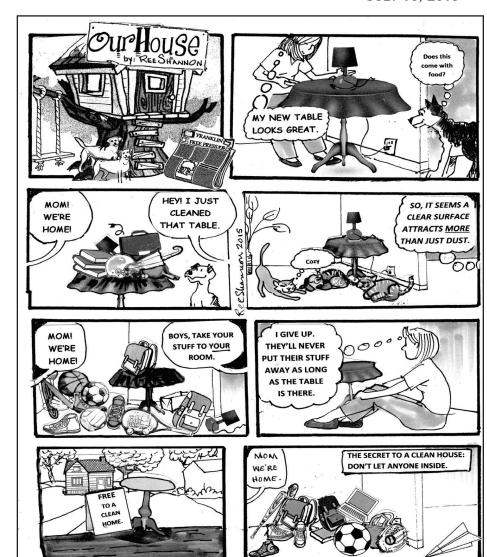
around with a hoe or shovel, ensuring that the product is saturated and you can easily move and dump the concrete when it's ready to pour.

For small amounts of concrete, a bucket will do fine. It may be easier to mix the product if you put water in the bucket first and add the dry concrete mix a little at a time.

Using a sturdy, plastic cup, cut off the bottom and fill it with wet concrete. Remove the cup, and the cone should settle down to about half its size. If the slump is less than it should be, mix a little more water into the batch; a larger slump is too wet and requires additional dry mix.

Wash your wheelbarrow and tools before the concrete has a chance to harden, and spray all unpainted surfaces with silicone to avoid rust. (Or give it a quick spray with rust-preventative paint.)

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



FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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Letters to the editor

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Tips for back-to-school budgeting

There are still a few weeks of summer left, but it's never too early to get started on that back-toschool budgeting. Here are a few guidelines as you get everything together for your child's first day back in the classroom.

1. Make a budget...and stick to it.

Whether you're heading to Target this afternoon or a week from now, you need to make sure all your back-to-school costs are included in your monthly budget. And if you're not in the habit of making a monthly budget, well, this is a great opportunity to get a little practice! Check out EveryDollar.com. It's our free budgeting tool, and it'll help you make a budget you can actually stick to!

2. Focus on needs, not wants.

Your eight-year-old might want the fancy Lightning McQueen backpack, but that doesn't mean they need it—especially if it's \$20 more than a basic backpack. I'm not saying you can't make back-to-school shopping fun, but don't overspend just because your kid throws a fit in the backpack aisle.

Some of the best deals are online. Start with Amazon, and see what you might be able to order without even leaving home. You might consider buying pencils, paper and other items that you don't necessarily need to see before you buy. You might save money, and you'll definitely save time!

3. Keep it simple.

Remember, you just need the basics to get started—not everything you'll need for the entire school year. If money is tight, buy the minimum your child needs right now, then work the rest into your budget over the next few months.

4. Talk with your kid's teachers.

If you haven't received a list of items your child needs for the upcoming year, be sure to touch base with the school and reach out to the teacher. Most schools are pretty good about covering this type of information at orientation or open house, so hopefully you'll have what you need from them well before you head out to shop.



Cruze

5. Look around online.

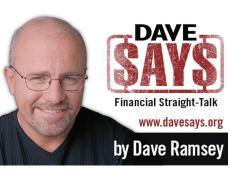
Some of the best deals are online. Start with Amazon, then do some research and see what else you might be able to order without even leaving home. You might consider buying pencils, paper and other items that you don't necessarily need to see before you buy. You might save money, and you'll definitely save time!

It's not too late to make sure you're doing backto-school shopping the right way. Make a budget, keep your priorities in check, and don't let the little ones talk you into buying stuff they don't really need. Use the back-to-school season as a great opportunity to get your finances in order before the holiday season hits in a few months!

About Rachel Cruze

As a #1 New York Times best-selling author and seasoned communicator, Rachel Cruze helps Americans learn the proper ways to handle money and stay out of debt. She's authored two best-selling books: Love Your Life, Not Theirs and Smart Money Smart Kids, which she cowrote with her father, Dave Ramsey. You can follow Cruze on Twitter and Instagram at @RachelCruze and online at rachelcruze.com, youtube.com/rachelcruze or facebook.com/rachelramseycruze.

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Helping friends

Dear Dave,

I'm on Baby Step 2 of your plan, and I'll be debt-free except for my home by the end of the year. I have a friend who is very irresponsible with his money, and he often asks to "borrow" cash between paychecks.

I don't want to be cruel, but things are getting out of hand with his requests for money.

James

Dear James,

I think you should tell your friend the truth. Let him know you've decided to get control of your money, you're trying to get out of debt, and you simply don't have cash to spare. Be sure to do it with a kind spirit, but sometimes you've got to look at the big picture in these situations.

You're not really helping someone if you participate in their misbehavior and enable bad habits. Sometimes, you have to love someone enough to tell them no.

Let your friend know how hard you're working to get your finances in order and how it's making a big difference in your life. Maybe you could offer to show him the steps you've taken so far and let him know he could be successful doing this, too. You might even try to show him how to make a monthly budget and act as his guide and accountability partner if he's willing to accept this kind of help.

In some cases, helping someone means offering what you know they need instead of what they want. But

you're never really helping someone who's incompetent with money by simply handing them cash.

Good luck, James!

Dave

The perfect time?

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are both 46, and we have two teenagers in middle school. We were told recently that now is the perfect time for us to buy long-term care insurance. How do you feel about this in our situation?

Thomas

Dear Thomas,

No, now is not the perfect time for you guys to buy long-term care insurance. Research shows there's about a one percent chance of folks your age needing long-term care insurance, and I generally don't recommend insuring against things that have such a miniscule chance of happening. Keep in mind that many factors, such as your current health and family history, could play into your decision of exactly when to buy long-term care insurance.

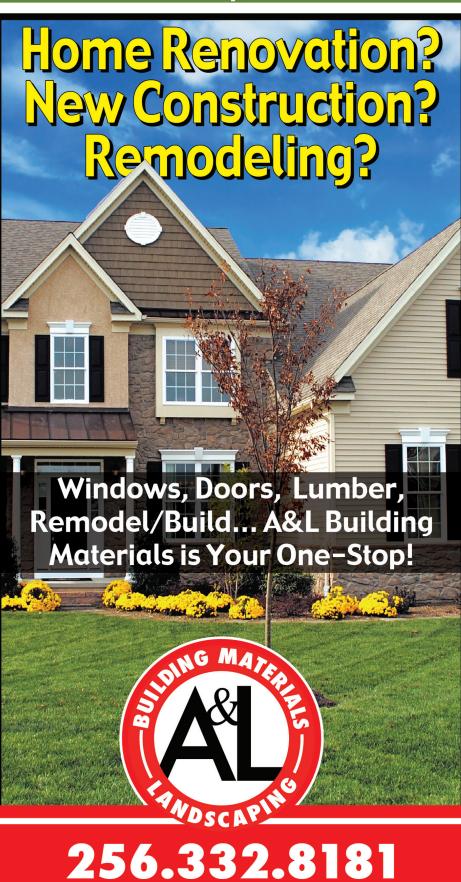
However, I do strongly urge people to find a good long-term care policy no later than age 60. At that point, the chances of something unfortunate happening begin to rise each and every year. You could think of it as a gift to yourself and your family. Nursing home costs are astronomical these days, and care of that sort can deplete your nest egg very quickly!

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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Russellville City School Education Foundation.

256.332.0540 for details.

What's Happening

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

A merican 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 Shoals Area Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will meet in the Sheffield Room at Park Place (501 N. Montgomery Avenue in Sheffield) this Thursday, July 11 at 2:30 p.m. We will begin a study "Anointed to Heal" by Larry and Audrey Eddings. We believe that God heals spiritually, physically and emotionally. Prayer for healing will be offered. All are welcome.

o celebrate Christmas in July, the Franklin County Arts & Humanities Council is showing the movie *The Greatest Showman* at the Roxy this Friday, July 12 at 7 p.m. Admission is FREE. This movie, inspired by the imagination of P.T. Barnum, features Hugh Jackman. The Greatest Showman is an original musical that celebrates the birth of show business and tells of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation. The Arts Council is also kicking off "The Roxy's Christmas Spectacular," which will be held December 5-8. Public performance tickets will go on sale this Friday, July 12 at 6 p.m. prior to the movie. Main floor seats are reserved. The costs are: Orchestra \$15 (first 10 rows/all sections); Mezzanine \$10 (Rows 11-19/all sections); and Balcony \$6 (General Admission). Auditions for "The Roxy's Christmas Spectacular" will be held at the Roxy on Sunday, August 11 starting at 1:30 p.m. for children (ages 6-12); 3:30 p.m. for females (ages 13 and up); and 5:30 p.m. for males (ages 13 and up). There will also be a makeup day for auditions on Monday, August 12 starting at 5:30 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes prior to audition time. Follow the Facebook Page "The Roxy's Christmas Spectacular" for up-to-date information. Sponsorship information will be mailed out this week.

The Welch Reunion will be held this 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 this 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.

This Saturday, July 13, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., the Russellville Bicentennial Committee will present the third in the Saturday history series called "The Way We Were: Historical Demonstrations, Exhibits and Portrayals." Demonstrations will include basket weaving, chair caning, churning, knife-making and knitting. There will also be exhibits of antiques and historical artifacts, as well as wagon rides for the children. Other Saturday events will be on August 10 and September 14. All events are free and will be at the Russellville Canteen at 217 Washington Avenue. For more information, call Doris Hutcheson at 256-332-4085 or Chris Ozbirn at 256-332-8827.

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!

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, Tuscumbia. 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.

Cherry Hill Baptist Church will host Vacation Bible School on Saturday, July 20 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The church is located six miles east of Russellville. Everyone welcome!

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.

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

Russellville Middle School will hold registration for the 2019-20 school year according to the following schedule: Eighth grade - Wednesday, July 24 from 8-11 a.m.; Seventh grade - Wednesday, July 24 from 1-4 p.m.; Sixth grade - Thursday, July 25 from 8-11 a.m. Students must come during their designated time frame only.

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. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 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. Organized at Richmond, VA in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the period from 1861-1865 is preserved. Come celebrate our heritage!

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 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. Young ladies entering the 10th and 11th grades have the opportunity to be "DYW Little Sisters." For more information, contact Susan Hargett at 256-710-9239 or Katernia Cole-Coffey at 256-332-8880, or check information on our Facebook page at Distinguished Young Women of Northwest Alabama, or email dshargett @aol.com. Other information and sign up is available at www.DistinguishedYW.org.

5-Points R.V. Resort 256-456-5550 Full Hook-Ups: Water Electric Sewer

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 August 6. All members and friends are urged to attend.

Russellville Masonic Lodge #371, located at 416 Coffee Avenue, will be selling fish plates during the Franklin County Watermelon Festival on Friday, August 16 from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday, August 17 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Eat in air conditioned comfort or take out! Plates cost \$12 and may be pre-ordered by calling 256-810-1970.

Russellville Masonic Lodge #371 will be selling Boston butts during Watermelon Festival weekend. Butts are \$30 and may be pre-ordered by calling 256-810-1970. Pick-up will be Saturday, August 17 from 8-10 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge on Coffee Street.

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.



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'AMENDMENT,' from page 1

also adopt new educator certification and professional development programs as well as assessment and accountability standards.

If approved by voters, the amendment would give Gov. Kay Ivey the authority to decide who represents the state on the commission and would take away the right of voters to elect those posi-

Jeff Newman, who represents northwest Alabama's District Seven on the State Board of Education, sees an irony in what the legislature is asking Alabama citizens to do by voting 'yes' for this amendment.

"It's strange to me to ask people to vote to give up their right to vote," Newman said. "I like Gov. Ivey and think she's doing a great job, but on this issue I think people need their right to vote. I've personally always been about keeping my vote. I won't always be on the board. But I do want to be able to vote for the people who represent me and

"I believe people need that voice and connection, so I'm a strong believer in having elected offi-

Franklin County's legislative team of Sen. Larry Stutts (R-Tuscumbia), Rep. Jamie Kiel (R-Russellville) and Rep. Proncey Robertson (R-Mount Hope) all voted in favor of the legislation to place the issue on the March 3 ballot. In fact, the Senate voted 30-0 in passing the legislation on May 16, 2019.

On May 31, 2019, the House approved its version of the bill by a 78-21 margin, largely along party lines. Three Republicans did vote against the bill, including Rep. Andrew Sorrell (R-Muscle Shoals). Sorrell remains unconvinced that changing to an appointed state board will effectuate positive changes in education.

Kiel believes the vote will be a public referendum on whether people are satisified with Alabama's educational system at the state level.

"The people need to decide whether they like the direction of our education system at the state level

as it is, or if they want a change," Kiel said. "And I believe this would be a fundamental change in the way we decide policy and direction in our education system. But ultimately, the people need to decide whether they make this change or not.

'We had Common Core standards in place for nine years now, and I don't think we've seen a drastic change in results in that time. So people need to decide whether they want a change in Common Core."

"It's strange to me to ask people to vote to give up their right to vote," Newman said. "I like Gov. Ivey and think she's doing a great job, but on this issue I think people need their right to vote. I've personally always been about keeping my vote. I won't always be on the board. But I do want to be able to vote for the people who represent us."

The proposed amendment provides that the governor would appoint at least one member from each of Alabama's seven Congressional districts and a total of nine members.

A recent survey of 1,000 Alabamians showed overwhelming opposition to the amendment, with 89 percent voicing support for keeping an elected state school board. The survey, done through Survey Monkey, was stacked with a large amount of educators, though, as 44 percent of respondents were teachers and an additional 31 percent were employed by a school system in a nonteaching position.

According to www.ballotpedia.org, there are 51,877 teachers in Alabama public schools.

While 62 percent of survey respondents believe education in Alabama is going in the wrong direction, they don't believe taking away the right to elect a state school board to be the panacea for educational improvement.

Fifty percent of respondents said they had confidence in Ivey to appoint qualified people on the state commission, but only 17 percent said they had confidence in the Alabama Senate to confirm "competent appointees."

As for Common Core, 69 percent of survey respondents said the Alabama College & Career Ready standards, also known as Common Core, should not be replaced.

Russellville City Schools superintendent of education Heath Grimes agrees.

"These standards are the same ones used across the nation embedded by the leading educators," Grimes said. "It is not a federal mandate. It's something that was created because they are the best standards for when a student moves from state to state due to military jobs, employment transfers, etc. Those situations make these standards very important to provide for consistency in grade-level alignment.

"They are the best standards created in our country, and they are the highest expectations of standards that Alabama has ever had. Doing away with those would leave us without standards, would cost taxpayers millions of dollars to create new ones or force us to revert to lower standards that existed prior to Common Core. A-plus and other leading educational entities who fight for strong education in Alabama have spent years working to make sure these standards are not replaced, and I have worked alongside with them."

The proposed amendment will appear on ballots as follows: Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to change the name of the State Board of Education to the Alabama Commission on Elementary and Secondary Education; to provide for the appointment of the members of the commission by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate; to change the name of the State Superintendent of Education to the Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education; to provide for the appointment of the secretary by the commission, subject to confirmation by the Senate; and to authorize the Governor to appoint a team of local educators and other officials to advise the commission on matters relating to the functioning and duties of the State Department of Education.

'LODGE,' from page 1



to celebrate the presentation of his 50-year pin. Beam received his pin from Bro. Jackie Fowler who represented the Alabama Grand Lodge F&AM in the pinning ceremony.

"This was a worthy honor for a great man and a great Mason," Fish said.

The pinning ceremony was designed to recognize the brother's years of hard work and dedication to the Lodge and to his community.

COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured at right (L to R) are the new Masonic Lodge 371 officers for 2019-20: Terrell Hatton (Treasurer), Doug Reed (Junior Deacon), Drew Mansell (Senior Deacon), Alan Putman (Senior Warden), Michael Fish (Worshipful Master), Heath Ísom (Junior Warden), Noah Daugherty (Tyler), Milford 'Mousey' Brown (Chaplain) and Scott Adcock (Secretary).

PAGE 9 JULY 10, 2019

Teaching democracy

Rick Neighbors For the FFP

We have a need to be right in this country. This need is so strong that it blocks us from learning from each other. We can't help ourselves. That's the way we have been trained. It impacts our lives in ordinary and profound ways, whether in the midst of an argument of who said what or to the larger issues of politics, education, religion, abortion, health care and children in

The genesis of this cultural desire to be right is found is our education system. The foundation of our schools is based on right and wrong. Students are rewarded with higher grades for giving answers to questions deemed to be correct. Getting right answers becomes the output of school. This process of being right affirms who we are and inflates our sense of self-worth. Unfortunately, this process may actually interfere with learning.

What is the point of raising your hand to gain the reward of getting the correct answer? It doesn't teach you anything; you already knew the answer. It simply massages your ego, but it doesn't inspire a genuine learning experience.

Our cable news channels have become predictable in their coverage, especially in the political arena. An issue is proposed in terms of right and wrong. Two talking heads argue a topic in terms of right and wrong, each asserting differing views while refuting the position of the other—a soap opera, masquerading as informed debate, where neither the pundits nor audience are enlightened. Mindless entertainment where no one learns. Only reinforcement of being right to unenlightened positions.

Our founders warned us about always wanting to be right. During the debate of the ratification of the Constitution, both Madison and Hamilton praised the Constitution's "spirit of moderation," contrasting it to "those who are ever so much persuaded to their being right in any controversy." Deleted from Washington's final draft of his Farewell address was the caution that "the conflicts of popular factions are the chief, if not the only inlets of usurpation and tyranny.'

Just as we learn how to eat and dress ourselves, democracy has to be learned. To be learned, democracy has to be taught. To be taught, someone has to teach. Where are our teachers that stand before a classroom and proclaim that all people are created equal? Who is teaching that we are an ongoing experiment in self-rule, defining democracy with each generation? Without this generational definition, democracy can not last.

Ignorance will suffocate the will to seek liberty.

Preparation is the key

QUESTION: I work in the automotive industry, but my passions are really health and fitness. I want to work my way over to personal training, but I don't want to do it in the normal gym setting. I'm interested in developing a complete, online program and working one-on-one with clients. I'm trying get out of debt right now, so it will be a while before I can start saving money for my business idea. Do you have any suggestions for taking positive steps forward in the meantime where this business idea is concerned?



Ken Coleman

ANSWER: I think you've got some clear action items right in front of you. I'm talking about things that won't take any money or interfere

with getting out of debt and building an emergency fund.

You're not in a position to leave your current job right now, so you need to start by doing some research on how to get this dream career going. Take time to study other sites and programs similar to what you'd like to do. Critique them and combine your own unique ideas and fitness knowledge to start laying the groundwork for a one-of-a-kind program. Develop it while you're still at your current job.

After your research and development phase, the next step might be to start a Facebook page or YouTube channel, and post some content on those platforms. You might find some clients this way, and it would enable you to start a fitness career slowly, after hours, and still maintain your fulltime job and income. Remember, the health and fitness plan is all side-hustle right now. Keep your head down and stay diligent when it comes to getting control of your finances, too, so you have a clear idea of how much you'd have to make in your fitness business to take it full time.

Ken Coleman is host of The Ken Coleman Show and the top-rated EntreLeadership Podcast, and author of One Question: Life-Changing Answers from Today's Leading Voices. You can follow him on Twitter at @KenColeman, on Instagram at @ KenColemanShow, and online at kencolemanshow.com or facebook.com/ KenColemanShow.

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Yard Sale this Saturday, July 13, from 7 am-until at 47 Wedgewood Drive Russellville. Little bit of everything!

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Badge of honor



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Russellville Police chief Chris Hargett (far right) with Russellville city council members (from left) Gary Cummings, Jamie Harris, Arthur Elliott, William Nale, David Palmer and mayor David Grissom. Hargett presented the men with commemorative badges celebrating the City of Russellville's 200th birthday this year.

RPD, RFD present council with Bicentennial badges

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council approved advertisement for a dispatcher position at its July 1 meeting.

The vacancy came after the resignation of Kelsey Bullock as dispatcher. That move was also approved at the meeting.

Russellville Police Department chief Chris Hargett presented mayor David Grissom and the council with commemorative badges recognizing the City of Russellville's Bicentennial in 2019. All members of the RPD also received the special badges to wear with their dress uniforms.

"We wanted to give them to the council and mayor as appreciation for all they do for us," Hargett said. "It was just a small way to say thank you for all they do."

Russellville Fire Department chief Joe Mansell also presented Grissom and the council with special Bicentennial badges that will be worn by the RFD with their dress uniforms.

In other action, the council:

•Heard a report from Dick Rowland about efforts to encourage citizen participation in the 2020 census. Rowland said his census committee members had researched the number of electric customers in Russellville and believes the city's population, with the inclusion of Hispanic residents, may be nearly twice that of the reported population of approximately 9,500 from the 2010 census

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council is set for Monday, July 15, with work session at 6 p.m. and meeting to follow.



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SPORTS

07.10.19

Bama, Clemson highlight tough schedule for SC

Last week we broke down schedules in the SEC West, ranking each team's 2019 slate from most to least challenging. This week we'll do the same for the SEC East.

South Carolina

Clemson and Alabama have been playing keep-away from the rest of college football with the national championship for the past four

college football with the national **Sports Editor** championship for the past four years. They're clearly in a class by themselves heading into 2019, and they'll be the consensus

Mike Self

heading into 2019, and they'll be the consensus top two teams (in some order) in virtually every preseason poll.

Only two teams in the nation will face both of those reigning superpowers this season; Texas A&M is one, and South Carolina is the other. The Gamecocks will welcome Alabama to Columbia on September 14 for the first time in nine years, and they'll wrap up the regular season with their annual rivalry game against Clemson (also in Columbia) on November 30. In between, South Carolina has a back-to-back on October 12 and 19 against division favorites Georgia (on the road) and Florida (at home), plus a tough trip to College Station on November 16.

Also, the season opener versus North Carolina in Charlotte on August 31 makes the Gamecocks one of only three SEC teams with multiple non-conference games on the schedule this year

against Power 5 opponents. Florida

Granted, this isn't the early 1990s, and Miami and Florida State aren't what they used to be. But opening with the 'Canes in Orlando (on August 24, a week before everyone else gets started) and closing with the 'Noles in Gainesville (on November 30) makes Florida's non-conference schedule a little more perilous than most.

The Gators should be favored at home over Auburn on October 5, but that game is immediately followed by road trips to LSU and South Carolina. Then, after the bye week, comes the Georgia game in Jacksonville on November 2. All things considered, that's a pretty tough fourgame stretch.

Georgia

It's a back-loaded slate for the Bulldogs in 2019. A visit from Notre Dame on September 21 highlights the non-conference schedule, and Georgia should be a decisive favorite in all three of its October games (at Tennessee on October 5, then home to South Carolina and Kentucky the next two weeks).

The bye week follows, and it couldn't come at a better time. The Bulldogs will face five Power 5 opponents in November, starting with chief East Division challenger Florida in Jacksonville on November 2. Rivalry games on the road can

See 'SCHEDULE,' Page 18

Getting Defensive



Long-time head coach Michael Jackson says the pieces are in place for his team to have an elite defense this season. At Red Bay, that's *really* saying something.

Mike Self Franklin Free Press

The standard for elite defenses at Red Bay has been set pretty high. So when Michael Jackson says the Tigers have a chance this season to be as good on that side of the ball as they've been since he arrived, that's saying an awful lot.

"I'm thinking this defense has the potential to be as good as we've had," said Jackson, who has guided Red Bay to a 42-14 record in five seasons as head coach. "We have a chance to have a really good defense. This is one of the best groups we've ever had, and this group has been playing for a while. The strength of our team will be our defense, and I can break it down even further—I feel really good about our front six, in any game. Our four guys up front and our two linebackers are all returning starters."

In fact, the top three tacklers (and five of the top eight) are returning from a 2018 defense that held opponents to 18.8 points and 219.8 total yards per game. Solid numbers, to be sure, but not in the

same stratosphere as the 2015 Red Bay defense, which shut out six of ten regular-season opponents and surrendered only 6.4 points per game—the fewest in the state, across all classifications.

"I'm thinking this defense has the potential to be as good as we've had," said Jackson, who has guided Red Bay to a 42-14 record in five seasons as head coach. "We have a chance to have a really good defense. This is one of the best groups we've ever had, and this group has been playing for a while. The strength of our team will be our

That record-setting defense, which led the Tigers to a region championship and an 11-1 record, is the proverbial mark, and Jackson believes this year's battle-tested unit is ready to take aim. It starts in the front six, where junior defensive ends Logan Scott and Alex Kennedy and junior middle linebacker Cam McKinney are all preparing for their third season as starters at the varsity level.

"We're very excited to have Alex, Logan and

See 'DEFENSIVE,' Page 14



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PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

After rushing for an average of 114.2 yards per game and 14 touchdowns as a junior, King is back in 2019 to lead a speedy and talented collection of skill players on offense.

'DEFENSIVE,' from page 13

Cam on that defensive front," Jackson said. "They all started as freshmen [in 2017], and now they're going into their junior year as three-year starters. That's one of the reasons we're so excited about this defense—that experience. That's a big factor. These guys have been through the wars there."

The 6'1, 240-pound McKinney has been Red Bay's leading tackler in each of his first two varsity seasons, totaling 192 stops during that span. The 6'2, 245-pound Scott finished second on the team last season with 70 tackles; he bench-presses 360 pounds and, according to Jackson, "might be the strongest kid in Franklin County."

Jackson is hoping to get a fully healthy season at the other end spot out of the 6'1, 205-pound Kennedy, who made 45 tackles a year ago despite missing a handful of games with an injury.

"That would do wonders, because the only game we lost last year with Alex playing was the playoff game," said Jackson, whose team went 9-3 in 2018 and lost to Ohatchee in the second round of the Class 2A playoffs. "He didn't play in the two regular-season losses [at Addison and border rival Belmont in mid-September] because he was injured at the time."

Joining Scott and Kennedy on the defensive line are tackles Levi Blanton and Braden Parker. The 6'4, 245-pound Blanton finished third on the team as a freshman last season with 63 tackles, and the 6'0, 245-pound Parker is ready to assume a fulltime role after getting his feet wet at the varsity level in 2018 as an eighth-grader.

Gavin Edgmon, a 5'9, 190-pound junior who made 42 tackles last season, will play alongside McKinney as the other linebacker in the Tigers' 4-2-5 scheme, and senior Briley Mills will rotate in along the defensive front.

Jackson believes his front six has all the ingredi-

ents necessary to turn Red Bay's defense into a dominant force.

"They've got strength, they've got athleticism, and they're huge," he said. "I really like that. They'll have a chance to match up with anything we see as far as that goes."

Jake Pounds (a 5'8, 160-pound senior) and Hunter Burks (a 6'1, 180-pound junior) will hold down the Rover spots after totaling 46 tackles between them in 2018. Junior Hunter King (5'10, 160) takes over for departed three-year starter Kolby Bragwell at free safety, with Kiser Jackson (a 5'8, 140-pound junior) and Elijah Luster (a 5'11, 175-pound sophomore) expected to start at corner. Sophomore Coby Jackson will also see snaps in the secondary.

Whereas size, strength and physicality are the order of the day for Red Bay's defense, the Tigers will rely more on speed and athleticism on the offensive side of the ball-starting at quarterback, where fleet-footed junior Jalen Vinson takes the reins following the graduation of a three-year starter in Bragwell.

The 6'2, 175-pound Vinson was the team's leading receiver a year ago, catching 15 passes for 324 yards and three touchdowns despite suffering a broken wrist midway through the season. He also rushed for 115 yards and a score on 20 carries-numbers that figure to rise exponentially now that he's running the show at quarterback.

Jackson has also been pleased with the progress Vinson has made this summer as a

"Jalen's had a really good summer. He's thrown the ball well," Jackson said on Sunday. "He's gone to four or five extra camps at just about every college in the state of Alabama, just to get some extra

See 'DEFENSIVE,' page 15



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

The explosive Vinson (10), Red Bay's leading receiver a year ago, will now put his game-changing speed and improving arm talent to use as the Tigers' starting quarterback.

'DEFENSIVE,' from page 14

throwing in. We're really excited about what he does. He brings a different threat level to the quarterback position for us. He can do a lot of things. He's very athletic, and his speed is gonna be a factor, along with his continued improvement at throwing the football.

"I think we're gonna be a lot more multiple this year on offense than we've ever been."

Red Bay (which rushed for 252.4 yards per game last season while throwing for 63.7 yards per game) will always lean heavily toward the run under Jackson, but the Tigers became especially one-dimensional last season after the injury to Vinson severely limited their vertical passing attack. The continued progression of 5'8 junior speedster Mason Holt (who caught 11 passes for 173 yards and a touchdown last season) and the return of Arden Hamilton (a 6'2, 165-pound senior who did not play in 2018) should provide a little more juice to the passing game.

Colyn Humphres, a versatile 5'9, 158-pound senior, will again play a pivotal role on offense after rushing for 455 yards and four touchdowns on 82 carries last season while also catching seven passes for 138 yards and a score.

"We've got to put our skill guys in space so we can be more multiple with what we're doing," said Jackson, whose team averaged 27.5 points per game last season. "Most of our skill guys on offense are returning. We're very excited about some of the things we did in the spring, as far as opening up and doing some RPO [Run/Pass Option] stuff. It looked really good, and we're excited about building on that."

The Tigers may be a little more spread- and speed-oriented this season than they were last year, when injures forced them to almost exclusively play a power style of football, but the offensive anchor will still be prolific tailback Colbie King. The 6'0, 165-pound King averaged 114.2 rushing yards per game as a junior in 2018, finishing the season with 1,371 yards and 14 touchdowns on 234 carries. The presence of more weapons around him should prevent opposing defenses from focusing all their attention on King—or, at the very least, make them pay if they do.

"He's just gotta keep working everyday and continue to challenge himself," Jackson said of King, who averaged 5.9 yards per carry last season and also had an 86-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. "He's gotten stronger. He's had a really good month this month. Really, when we get to August, we just need him to step in to that role and be that senior running back who's gonna lead the way for us. We're gonna need his production."

Caleb Seeley (a 6'0, 205-pound senior whom Jackson calls "one of the stronger kids on the team") will play a significant role as the starting H-back. Senior Dylan Hester (6'1, 204) is back for his third season as the starting center on an offensive line that also features returning starters in senior guard Levi Raper (6'1, 185) and junior tackle Connor Sides (6'1, 240). Senior Dakota Vinson, a converted defensive lineman, is expected to lock down the other guard spot, with competition at the other tackle spot still ongoing.

See 'DEFENSIVE' page 1

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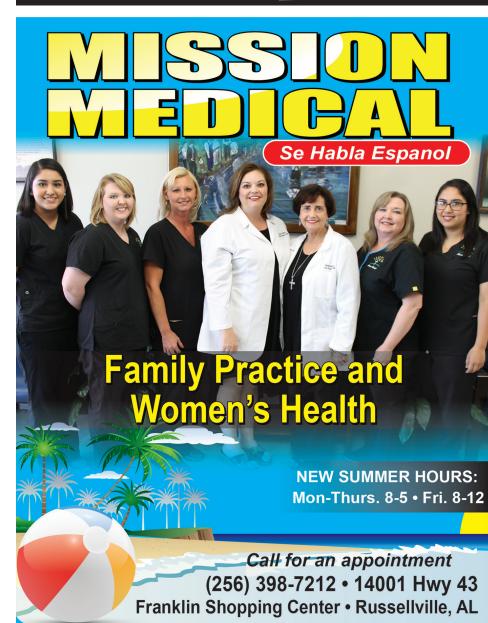
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JULY 10, 2019



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Entering his sixth season at Red Bay, Jackson has guided the Tigers to a pair of region titles.

'DEFENSIVE,' from page 15

Hunter King, who ran for 297 yards on 60 carries a year ago, will serve as the primary backup behind older brother Colbie at tailback, and players like McKinney, Kennedy and Scott will all see snaps on offense when the Tigers go with their heavy package. For the most part, though, Jackson believes his team has enough depth and experience [25 juniors and seniors are on the roster, and 17 of them have started before] to avoid playing guys both ways.

"Right now there's no guys playing on both sides, no guys starting on both sides," Jackson said Sunday. "We've got a handful of guys who have that experience and can play on the other side of the ball when they have to. But going into the start of the season, as long as we're healthy, we've got enough depth with those 25 older guys back that we shouldn't have to play too many guys both ways."

The Tigers finished in a three-way tie with Addison and Colbert County atop the Class 2A, Region 7 standings last season. They wound up as the No. 2 seed and beat Winston County 16-14 in overtime in the first round of the playoffs before falling 42-6 at Ohatchee in round two.

Jackson has been preaching to his players the importance of winning the region and earning the

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'DEFENSIVE', from page 16

No. 1 seed—though he knows it won't be an easy task.

"I think our region is as strong as any 2A region in the state," Jackson said. "Colbert County, Sheffield and Addison—those three teams were strong last year. They were all playoff teams last year, and I expect all of those teams, because of what they have returning, to be as good or better than they were. It's gonna be a challenging region.

"What we talk about as our first goal has always gotta be those region games, being the top team and winning the region. We play really good at home. I think we've got an eight-game winning streak at home. We didn't lose last year at home. The key is getting those home playoff games. We lost the region championship because of the tiebreaker last year, and we didn't get those first two games at home. That could have changed the way the whole playoffs played out."

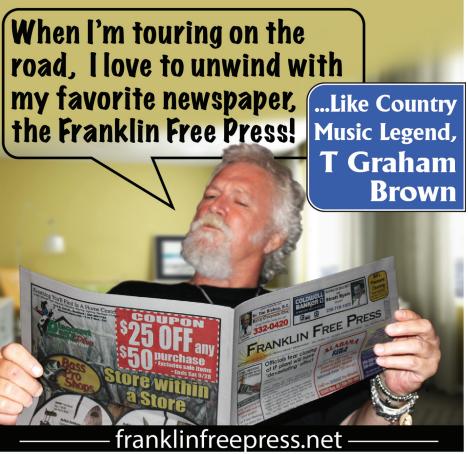
Jackson likes the challenges and opportunities presented by Red Bay's non-region schedule, which features games at Colbert Heights (August 23), versus Phil Campbell (August 30), versus Belmont (September 20) and at Class 4A Wilson (November 1).

"We feel good about the competition we're playing," Jackson said. "The goal is to win the region. That's the number one thing. And we want to win the non-region games because of the tiebreaker situation. This is the first time I can really preach that, because those tiebreakers don't usually come into play—maybe once every ten years. But they did for us last year."

With 25 upperclassmen on the roster, eight starters back on both sides of the ball and largely the same excellent staff in place (Jamie Purser, defensive coordinator; Richard Maggerise, defensive skill players; Jade Pounds, secondary assistant; Anthony Pounds, defensive line; Jason Vinson, offensive line; and Kelby Hallmark, receivers), all the pieces are in place for the Tigers to make their first deep playoff run under Jackson. Health, as always, will be key.

"Staying healthy and being able to play to the strengths of this team—that will determine how far we go," Jackson said. "If we're able to play to our strengths instead of getting banged up and being limited, I like our chances. There's been a couple of years in the past where we had good teams, but we got in a situation where we couldn't do a whole lot of things with the group we had, because of injuries."





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'SCHEDULE', from page 13

always be dicey, and Georgia will travel to face Auburn (on November 16) and Georgia Tech (on November 30). There's also a home game against Missouri and a visit from Texas A&M—the first meeting between the Bulldogs and the Aggies since the latter joined the SEC in 2012.

Vanderbilt

The season opener at home against Georgia on August 31 and a rare visit from LSU on September 21 (with a trip to Purdue in between) will make the opening month a challenging one for the Commodores (who, incidentally, haven't faced LSU since 2010).

Things soften up considerably in October, but a closing stretch that includes road trips to South Carolina, Florida and Tennessee will be challenging, to say the least.

Tennessee

The Vols' schedule has been one of the most brutal in the country on an annual basis for years now, but it seems like Jeremy Pruitt and company might be catching a relative break in 2019. BYU, which visits Knoxville on September 7, will be the toughest non-conference opponent, and five of the first six games are at Neyland Stadium.

Granted, playing Georgia (at home on October 5) and Alabama (in Tuscaloosa on October 19) with no bye week in between isn't exactly a walk in the park, but now isn't a bad time to draw Mississippi State (which visits Knoxville on October 12) as your other cross-divisional opponent. On the whole, the schedule looks more manageable than usual.

Missouri

The non-conference schedule (which is highlighted by a visit from West Virginia on September 7 and also includes games at Wyoming on August 31 and versus Troy on October 5) isn't a pushover by any means, but the draw of Ole Miss (on October 12 at home) and Arkansas (on Friday, November 29 in Little Rock) from the West is as friendly as it gets these

Georgia-Florida-Tennessee in consecutive weeks in November is a triplewhammy, but at least the Gators and the Vols are coming to Columbia.

Kentucky

The opener with Toledo in Lexington might be the toughest test on what looks to be a rather soft non-conference slate. [In-state rival Louisville, fresh off a 2-10 disaster in 2018, is kind of a mess right now and essentially must start from scratch under new head coach Scott Satterfield.] Kentucky also avoids all the big boys from the SEC West, drawing Mississippi State (on September 21 in Starkville) and Arkansas (on October 12 in Lexington)

Florida, Missouri and Tennessee all visit Lexington, leaving trips to South Carolina (on September 28) and Georgia (on October 19) as the toughest road games on the slate. Kentucky almost certainly won't win 10 games again this year, but it won't be because of the schedule.



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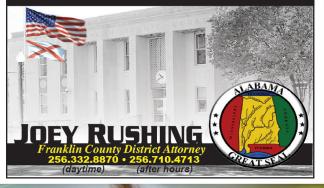




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