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08.21.19

RFD receives \$2,500 grant through State Farm program

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Fire Department recently received a \$2,500 grant from State Farm's Good Neighbor Citizenship Grants program that will be used to promote fire safety across Russellville and Franklin County.

State Farm agent Rhett Bradford, a former firefighter with the Russellville Fire Department, along with local agent Lee Nickels and Red Bay State Farm agent Ronald Thorn, presented the funds to members of the RFD last week.

RFD fire marshal Justin Green said the money will be used to purchase

See 'GRANT,' Page 9



From left: Fire chief Joe Mansell, State Farm agents Ronald Thorn, Lee Nickels and Rhett Bradford, fire marshal Justin Green and Randy Seal.



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John Pilati, son of former Free Press publisher Jimmie Pilati, with Archives director Chris Ozbirn.

Pilati's contributions to Archives honored with special plaque

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

When Chris Ozbirn began her efforts to create the Franklin County Archives, she didn't find many supporters.

Most of the local history records were stored in the Russellville Public Library, and Ozbirn found little support among some city leaders to allow those to be relocated into an independent archives center.


But Ozbirn found one important ally in Jimmie Pilati.

Pilati, the former publisher of the *Franklin Free Press* who died January 26, had a passion for genealogy, and she was immediately on board with Ozbirn's dream.

See 'ARCHIVES,' Page 9

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Floyd Ray Durham, Phil Campbell, age 70
Died Thursday, August 15, 2019. Funeral held at Union Hill Congregational Methodist Church, Phil Campbell. Interment in the adjoining cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Haleyville assisted the family.

Beverly Ann Harvey, Russellville, age 74
Died Sunday, August 11, 2019. Graveside service held at Luketown Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Melton G. Prince, Russellville, age 79
Died Thursday, August 15, 2019. Funeral held at First United Methodist Church in Russellville. Interment in Franklin Memory Mausoleum. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

Pauline Voyles Sutton, Russellville, age 86
Died Thursday, August 15, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Phil Campbell City 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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County school system to add second SRO

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County School system will soon have its second School Resource Officer (SRO) after the Franklin County Commission and Franklin County Board of Education give their approval to a contract between the two entities.

The contract was approved at the commission's August 19 meeting and was expected to receive approval at the board of education's August 20 meeting.

The new SRO will be an employee of the commission, though the Franklin County School system will reimburse the county the approximately \$40,000 in salary.

The addition of SROs in Franklin County Schools was a campaign promise of Franklin County superintendent of education Greg Hamilton. The school system added its first SRO, Brent Wells, last year, with his salary and benefits

split between the county and the school system.

Hamilton said the system's financial situation has improved to allow a second SRO, and he hopes to eventually see one at each of the county's nine schools.

"I want to thank the sheriff's department and the county commission for its help and support," Hamilton said. "Their department is providing the gun, taser, uniform, and vehicle and fuel. We are paying salary and benefits, but they are providing a lot as well. I can't tell you how much the sheriff's department works to keep our schools safe. Anytime we ask, they're willing to help."

"We've been fortunate due to our financial situation not only to secure one, but two," Hamilton said. "I would like one on every campus. We need nine, but two is better than zero and a step in the right direction."

Interviews for the new SRO were conducted by sheriff Shannon Oliver. According to Oliver's letter

to the commission, Regina Cantrell will be hired effective August 22 as the new SRO pending approval from the Franklin County Board of Education. She will leave a position at SRO for Sheffield City Schools.

Hamilton said he trusted in the sheriff to recommend a qualified candidate who has the necessary child development training Hamilton believes is required for the job. Both SROs will receive additional training in the summer. The deputies may also work regular shifts for the Sheriff's Office during the summer unless needed for a special event in the schools.

"I want to thank the sheriff's department and the county commission for its help and support," Hamilton said. "Their department is providing the gun, taser, uniform, and vehicle and fuel. We are paying salary and benefits, but they are providing a lot as well. I can't tell you how much the sheriff's department works to keep our schools safe.

"Anytime we call on them, they're willing to help."

Five local eateries receive satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Five of the seven Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of August 5-9 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.

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

Gasmart West scored a 74, with several violations, including: No drying device at kitchen hand sink, hose attached without backflow prevention, dishes not being sanitized, dish machine not dispensing sanitizer, no date on chicken alfredo, white beans, turnip greens and no proof of food safety

course.

The highest score was 96, received by Foodland of Russellville, 14001 Hwy. 43, Suite 11, Russellville.

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

- Phil Campbell Chevron, 3515 Broad Street, Phil Campbell, 80. (No drying device at hand sink, dishes not being sanitized and meatloaf being held at 116 degrees).

- Pupuseria y Taqueria Las 3 Fronteras, 519 St. Clair St., Russellville, 93. (Spray bottle not labeled).

- Hodges Senior Center, 1942 Hwy. 172, Hodges, 94. (No proof of employee reporting agreement).

- Belgreen High School, 14220 Hwy. 187, Russellville, 95. (Slices/trays of cake sitting out without protection).

- Piggly Wiggly Deli #93, 518 4th Ave. SW, Red Bay, 96.

Of the 21 inspections done in Colbert County from August 5-9, 19 received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 100 went to Calvary Learning and Ministry Center, 1305 W. 12th St., Sheffield.

Sheffield Tobacco and Deli, 100 West 5th St., Sheffield, scored a below satisfactory 81. (Unapproved insecticide, lettuce and tomatoes out of temperature and warmer out of temperature). A to Z Foodmart, 723 E. 2nd St., Sheffield, scored a below satisfactory 83. (Signs of rodents present, unapproved insecticide, mold in fountain heads).

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

County schools adopting 'Hands on Liberty' program

Submitted to the FFP

Franklin County second-grade students and teachers will be participating and implementing a new curricular program from the Liberty's Legacy Learning Foundation of Huntsville. The program is called *Hands on Liberty*.

Hands on Liberty is a ten-week character education and civics program. Students begin with a kickoff hosted by Libby Liberty. Libby introduces the program, gives an interactive lesson about her history and leads them in our theme song, *You in the USA*.

Over the next ten weeks, second-grade teachers will use the resources provided in the resource kit to incorporate lessons including symbols and monuments, great Americans, immigration, branches of the government, voting, etc.

The program is flexible and can easily be implemented in around 45 minutes per week.

During the ten-week period, students will discuss character traits of good citizens. Each class will then nominate and vote on people (usually adults) in their community that they believe reflect these characteristics. To wrap up the program, students come back together for the Hands on Liberty Graduation to honor the outstanding citizens that each class selects as their Helping Hand Hero.

"We appreciate Rep. Kiel's support of this character-building program and his support of Franklin County Schools, as well as those individuals and local businesses that contributed to make this program possible," Hamilton said.

Representative Jamie Kiel has been instrumental in obtaining support for the program's implementation. Kiel also helped fund the *Hands on Liberty* program at Russellville City Schools and at Colbert County Schools. The program began with a kickoff gala at Colbert Heights Elementary on

August 20 and at Belgreen School for Franklin County students on August 16.

Franklin County Schools superintendent of education Greg Hamilton and instructional coordinator Wesley Thigpen believe this program will be very beneficial for our students in developing character and civic awareness. The teachers are excited to have this resource that will enhance the second-grade curriculum. The program is completely sponsored through voluntary donations of community members and businesses of Franklin County and through Kiel's assistance in obtaining a community development grant.

"We appreciate Rep. Kiel's support of this character-building program and his support of Franklin County Schools, as well as those individuals and local businesses that contributed to make this program possible," Hamilton said.

The graduation date is set for October 30 at noon in the Belgreen High School Auditorium.

Honey Do: Coat weather?

I know, I know...it's like 112 degrees outside. But the kids are back in school, and soon the weather will begin to cool a bit and you'll want to be outside. That makes this a great time for a little coat of paint to freshen up the interior of your home.

Don't get too excited. I don't mean paint all the walls in the whole house. How about the inside of a door that's a little worn, or a high-traffic wall that has suffered some abuse over the summer?

Remember that great idea you had to make the living room come alive

I don't mean paint all the walls in the whole house. How about the inside of a door that's a little worn, or a high-traffic wall that has suffered some abuse? Even subtle changes like adding color to a piece of furniture can change the mood of an entire area of your home.

with an interesting accent wall?

These days it's all about color. The only rule is individuality, and the only limit is imagination.

Even subtle changes like adding color to a piece of furniture or a picture frame can change the mood of an entire area of your home. Pieces found at yard sales make great paint projects. Paint is a very inexpensive way to enhance your decor and freshen up your home.

Don't forget (like anybody could), the holidays will be here quickly, and there will be decorating to do and company to entertain. How proud you will be when they notice your efforts.

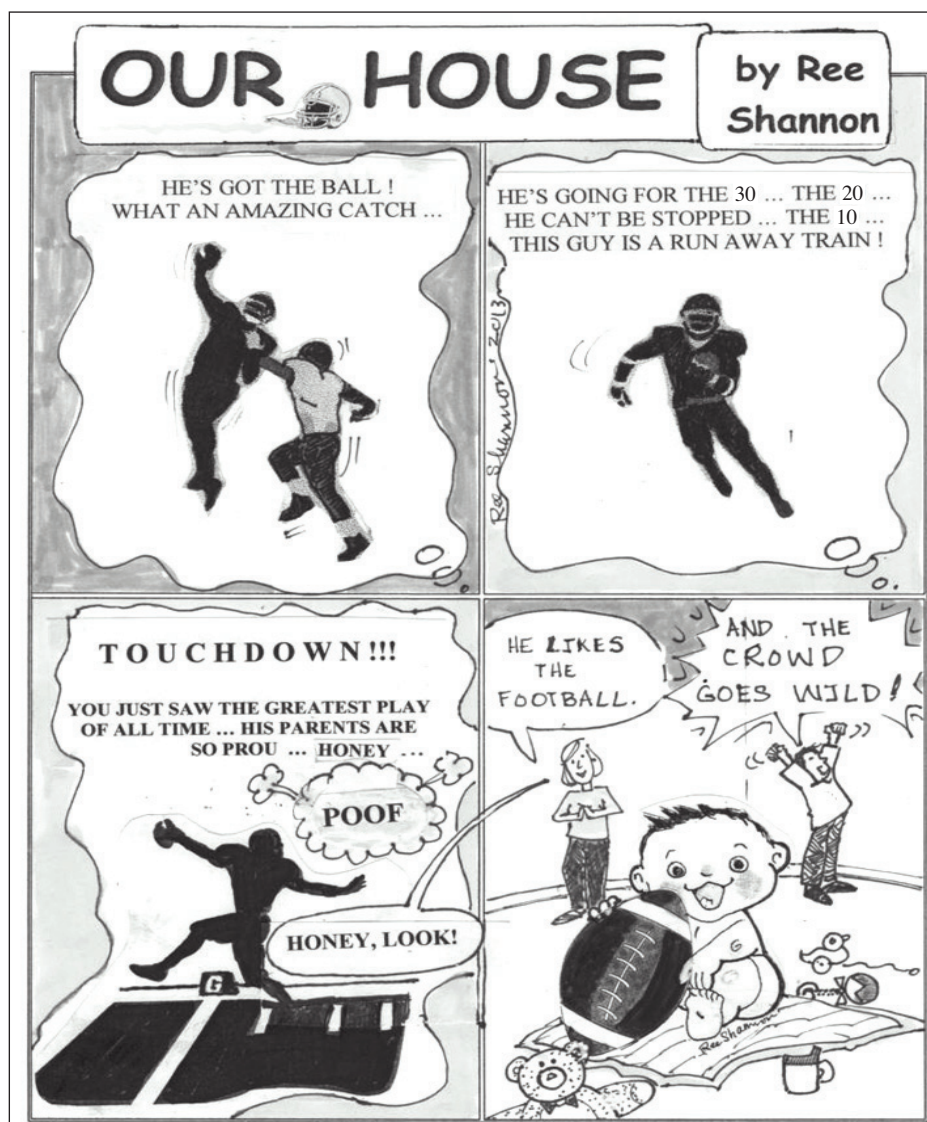
Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green

Letters to the Editor

We love to hear from you! Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoons, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at franklinfreepress.net!



FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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

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

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Correction Policy

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

Letters to the editor

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

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Going back to school on a budget

I remember as I was growing up, I always thought school was free. I mean, I understood that private school costs money, but I went to public school, and I didn't think a whole lot about the expenses associated with it.

Now that I'm older, I realize how much parents actually spend on their kids when they go back to school. In fact, the National Retail Federation reports parents plan to spend \$696 on back-to-school supplies this year. Isn't that crazy?

There are the obvious school supplies like notebooks, markers (my favorite!) and backpacks. And as a kid, I always needed new clothes and shoes. But there's not-so-obvious ones that nickel-and-dime you to death.

One of my coworkers told me that he had to buy football gear for his son that totaled \$260. Understandably, it gave him a bit of sticker shock. There's nothing wrong with paying for this kind of thing if you have the money, but you still need to have a plan for *how* you're going to pay for it.

As the school year is gearing back up, it's important to make a list of things you need to budget for. So, think about these categories and come up with a dollar amount you plan to spend in each one:

- School supplies
- Uniforms
- Sports equipment
- Fall clothes and shoes
- Meal plans
- Fees for clubs, sports, band and other extracurricular activities

I'd like to point out that this is a great time of year to teach your kids that money isn't in infinite supply. Teach them the value of working within a

budget! They don't *need* the trendy name-brand shoes or the flashy notebook that costs more. You're setting your kids up to win when they understand money can—and often does—run out.

Now, if you've already busted your back-to-school budget, here's what you can do:

Get your budget back on track.

Where can you cut back this month to make up for the overspending? Is there anything lying around the house you can sell? Can you pick up some extra hours at work?

Plan for future school expenses. Once school is back in session, there will be other costs that come up. School pictures, yearbooks, field trips and more extracurricular activities are just around the corner. And now you know how to get ahead of them!

I know paying for all these school expenses can feel overwhelming, but if you plan ahead and pay with cash, you'll feel a lot better when September rolls around!

About Rachel Cruze

As a #1 New York Times best-selling author, host of *The Rachel Cruze Show*, and *The Rachel Cruze* podcast, Rachel helps people learn the proper ways to handle money and stay out of debt. She's authored three best-selling books, including *Love Your Life, Not Theirs* and *Smart Money Smart Kids*, which she co-wrote with her father, Dave Ramsey. You can follow Cruze on Twitter and Instagram at @RachelCruze and online at www.rachelcruze.com, youtube.com/rachelcruze or facebook.com/rachelramseycruze.



Rachel Cruze



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by Dave Ramsey

Why do I need a will if I'm young?

Dear Dave,
Why do I need a will if I'm still young and haven't acquired a lot of wealth?

Laura

Dear Laura,
In a case like yours, you don't need a *complicated* will. But you do need an inexpensive, basic will. The larger and more complicated your estate is, the more you'd spend on estate planning and a will in order to ensure everything is properly addressed—and to keep the government's hands off everything.

Let's say you're in your early- to mid-twenties and single. You have a car and a bank account, and that's it. In this kind of scenario, it's going to be easy to work through your estate. But it's going to take your parents—or whoever's left—a whole lot longer to get those few simple transactions taken care of if you don't have a will in place.

The other thing you'll always want to have in your will package is a healthcare power of attorney directive. This includes things like who's going to make medical decisions for you if you're unable to make decisions for yourself. As a part of this, you'd want to fill out the paperwork on whether to disconnect life support systems in the event of a coma.

Having these things laid out ahead of time and sharing them with your family and close friends is a very thoughtful and mature thing to do for those who would be left behind in the event of your death.

These things aren't fun to think about, but doing it will take a huge burden off the people you love. And all this becomes even more important if you have children, because the state will step in and decide what happens to them if you don't.

Having these things laid out ahead of time and sharing them with your family and close friends is a very thoughtful and mature thing to do

for those who would be left behind in the event of your death. They're already going to be distraught and grieving, and you don't want to make it worse by leaving them with a lot of important, difficult decisions to make.

Dave

Keep the house

Dear Dave,
My wife and I are on Baby Step 2, and the only debt we have is \$90,000 in student loans. We bring home about \$90,000 a year. In addition to this, we have almost \$60,000 in equity in our home. We also have a toddler, plus another baby on the way. Do you think we should sell the house and rent for a few years while using the money from the sale of the house to pay down our student loan debt?

Chris

Dear Chris,
No, I wouldn't sell your home in this situation. You're going to be out of debt in a couple of years or so, anyway. You'll just have to lean into it and make sure you're living on a strict, written budget. I'm talking about no vacations and no eating out. You shouldn't see the inside of a restaurant unless you're working there. And the new kid's crib may have to come from a garage sale, but so what? Mine did, too. Want to know something else? I survived without having a rich kid's nursery, and so did *my* kids.

There's a price to be paid anytime you decide to get serious about gaining control of your money and cleaning up a financial mess you've made. You're going to have to work like maniacs and have no lives for a while. That might even mean picking up a part-time job at night or on weekends. You've got a tough couple of years ahead of you, but I think it's worth the tradeoff.

Keep your house.

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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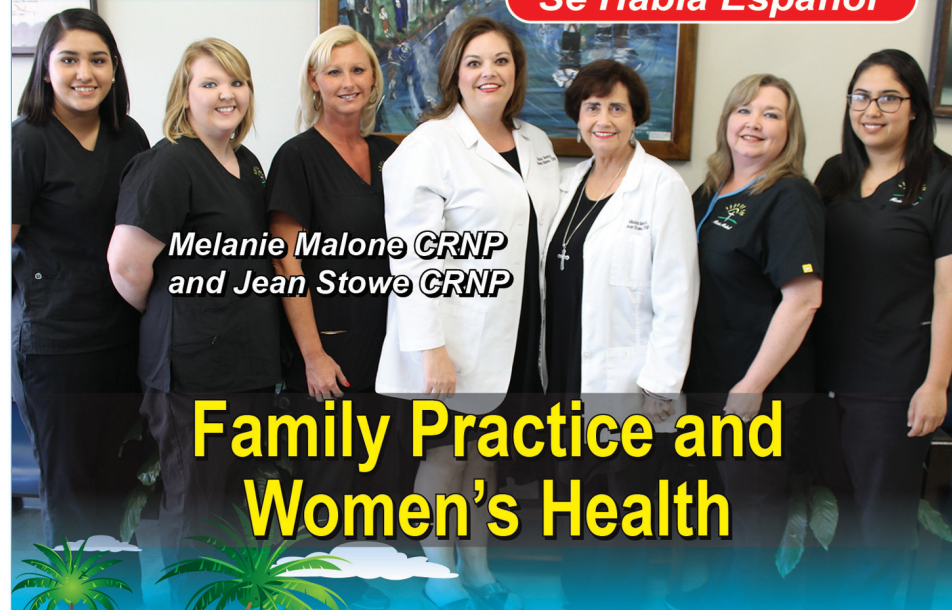
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What's Happening

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

The Russellville Parks & Recreation Department is holding registration now through August 31 for volleyball, flag football and fall soccer. Volleyball is open to girls in grades 3-6. Registration fee is \$35. Flag football is open to boys and girls ages 5-12. (Must be 5 years old to register.) Age divisions are six-and-under, eight-and-under, 10-and-under, and 12-and-under. Registration fee is \$35. Fall soccer is open to boys and girls ages 3-12. Age divisions are Bidy Body (ages 3-5), eight-and-under, 10-and-under, and 12-and-under. Registration fee is \$35. For more information, call 256-332-8770.

The book *Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud and the Last Trial of Harper Lee* will be discussed at the August 21 10 a.m. meeting of the Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club. The club meets at Coldwater Books, 101 West Sixth Street, Tuscumbia. For more info, email nancy537481@yahoo.com.

First Free Will Baptist Church (16140 Hwy. 43) will hold a Diaper Giveaway this Saturday, August 24 from 9 a.m. until they're gone.

There will be a Poker Run to benefit Bobby and Jade Young this Saturday, August 24, with KSU at 11:30 a.m., from Stell's Sports Grill (4127 Sportsplex Drive, Muscle Shoals). First stop will be Stagger Lee's, second stop My Place in Littleville, third stop Oasis Lounge in Littleville, final stop Stell's Sports Grill. \$15/bike, \$5/rider. Come out and have fun and support this great cause!

DivorceCare, a special help seminar and support group for people experiencing divorce and separation, will be held on Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church Colbert Heights. DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include "Facing My Anger," "Facing My Loneliness," "New Relationships," "KidCare" and "Forgiveness." Meetings will be held at 6000 Woodmont Drive, Tuscumbia, AL. For more information, call First Colbert Heights at 256-383-8016.

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!

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church (5667 Hwy. 79, Phil Campbell, AL 35581) will host a Singing/Homecoming Service with the group Southern Image on Sunday, September 1. Service begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch in the fellowship hall and a singing with Southern Image at 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact Bro. Larry Landers at 205-993-4438.

The 100th annual Labor Day Celebration will be held on Monday, September 2 at Tuscumbia's Spring Park. The parade in downtown Tuscumbia begins at 10 a.m. Line-up for the parade will be at Deshler High School at 9 a.m. Grand Marshal is Tuscumbia mayor Kerry Underwood. Festivities in the park begin at 11 a.m., including the second annual Car and Truck Show with live music. Local and state elected officials and candidates will be speaking. Come celebrate with all working families for a day of fun, music, prizes and good fellowship. Sponsored by the Shoals Area Central Labor Council.

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 September 3. All members and friends are urged to attend.

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 September 5. 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!

American Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, September 12 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre in downtown Russellville on Saturday, September 14 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.

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.

What's Happening

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On Friday night, September 20, from 6-8 p.m., a concert to kick off the Red Bay Founders Fest will be held at Red Bay's Heritage Park featuring Resound and the Red Bay FFA String Band, with a fireworks show immediately to follow. Light concessions will be on hand. On Saturday, September 21, a one-day tribute to the town's heritage will have visitors headed to Red Bay for a day of free family fun. Situated under the shade trees of Bay Tree Park, the annual Red Bay Founder's Fest will have contests, sidewalk sales and live music. The day-long event kicks off with the Queen's Train Ride at 8:30 a.m., from the beauty pageant winners that will be held on September 15 at Red Bay High School, and live music cranks up at 9 a.m. A contest in the gazebo to see who has the best fried pie entries with the best tasting and most unusual will take home a cash prize. There are a variety of contests for festival-goers to participate in, including a buck dancing contest held at the main stage, a quilt contest, a coloring contest and a photography contest, which will be on display at the Weatherford Library. Additional activities include arts and crafts and an antique car-truck-motorcycle-tractor show. The Red Bay Museum will be open for tours and for the viewing of "Making Alabama," a Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit. The merchants will offer sidewalk sales, specials and door prizes throughout the day. A variety of delicious festival food will be available, and the giveaways are another crowd favorite. Prizes will be awarded to the largest family, longest distance traveled to the event, and youngest and oldest attendees. Also, Life South will hold a blood drive at Red Bay City Hall. Bay Tree Park is located near 2nd Street in downtown Red Bay. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call Tracie Clark at 256-356-4473, ext. 3.

The Newburg Masonic Lodge #388 meets the first Thursday of every month. The Russellville Masonic Lodge #371 meets the first and third Tuesday of every month. The Franklin County Shrine Club meets the second Tuesday of each month. The Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 256 meets every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Russellville Masonic Lodge. Spruce Pine Masonic Lodge #608 meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Phil Campbell Masonic Lodge #880 meets the first and third Thursday of each month. Burleson Lodge #143 meets the second and fourth Monday of each month. Belgreen Lodge #428 meets the first and third Monday of each month. All meetings start at 7 p.m.



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Show me the money!



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

The Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee manned a booth at this past weekend's Franklin County Watermelon Festival. The committee held a drawing for a \$50 gift card from Walmart. Above, Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee chairman Eddie Britton, left, presents Bill Jackson with the gift card.

County Commission vacates stretch of Edgar Branch Road

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission approved vacating a portion of Edgar Branch Road at the commission's August 19 meeting.

Commissioners had previously tabled the proposal in order to determine whether the road was still being used by emergency response personnel to respond to calls.

Franklin County Emergency Management Agency director Mary Hallman-Glass told the commission the volunteer fire departments and ambulance service do not use the road and have not for several years.

In other action, the commission:

- Approved expenditure of \$2,500 for a flyover of Franklin County for the Revenue Commissioner's Office. The last flyover was done in 2013. The county will pay \$2,500, and a grant of \$10,000 will pay for the balance of the flyover costs.
- Approved hiring Denise Cheatham on a temporary basis from October through January of 2020 to work through tax season. Cheatham is retiring from her full-time position with the Revenue Commissioner's office.
- Approved the resignation of Hunter Butler from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and advertising for a Corrections Officer/Dispatcher position.
- Approved the hiring of Dennis Riner as a temporary Corrections Officer/Dispatcher.
- Approved a contract with Franklin County Board of Education for two school resource officers.
- Agreed that each commissioner would meet with Franklin County engineer David Palmer to discuss road projects needs in their districts that could be funded with gas tax revenues. Palmer said the tax, which is currently six cents a gallon but will increase to 10 cents a gallon, will generate approximately \$400,000 in the first year for Franklin County.
- Approved an agreement for emergency repair of CR 524 due to erosion at a cost of \$39,000. The 500-foot portion is north of CR 73.
- Approved an agreement for emergency repair of CR 524 due to erosion and slide damage at a cost of \$8,549. The .2 mile stretch is west of CR 41.
- Approved a bid from Donnie Franks for \$700 for a surplus 2005 Ford F150 truck from the Franklin County Animal Control Office.
- Agreed to solicit fuel bids for unleaded 87 octane with 10 percent Ethanol gasoline and diesel fuel No. 2 for fiscal year 2019-20.

See 'ROAD,' page 11

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'ARCHIVES,' from page 1

Pilati's efforts in helping create the Franklin County Archives will forever be memorialized after the court records room was named the Jimmie Woodruff Pilati Court Records Room at a dedication ceremony on August 13. John Pilati attended the ceremony to represent his mother's memory at the dedication.

"When I first started this journey, three people really believed in and backed me," Ozbirn said. "Jimmie Pilati walked in the library one day, and I told her my dream since 1988 and my efforts to make it happen. She said it was the best thing she'd heard about in a long time. We needed help with the Russellville Library Board, so she stood with me and told them what we wanted to do."

Ozbirn formed the Seekers of the Past, a group of citizens dedicated to creating and supporting the Franklin County Archives, and Pilati was one of its original members.

"Anything she could do to help, she would do," Ozbirn said. "She



believed in me and what we were doing here for Franklin County. If she was still here and was able, she'd be here working like the rest of us."

Pilati was active for many years as a library volunteer, Friends of the Library member and a regular volunteer and visitor at the Franklin County Archives until illness prevented her from doing so.

"To honor her, we ordered a plaque to name our big record room after Mrs. Pilati. I know she's watching over us tonight and would be pleased," Ozbirn said.

'GRANT,' from page 1

smoke alarms for local residences as well as the purchase of 700 English-Spanish language fire prevention safety charts to be distributed to local residents.

"We appreciate State Farm and Russellville mayor David Grissom and the city council for allowing us to apply for this grant," Green said. "We thank all State Farm agents in Franklin County. Hopefully, these safety materials and devices will allow everyone to make it out of their home safely in an emergency situation."

The State Farm Good Neighbor Grant program focuses on three areas: Safety, education and community development. Safety grant funds are directed toward auto and roadway safety, teen driver education, home safety and fire prevention, disaster preparedness and disaster recovery.

Grant applications for 2020 will be available Sunday, September 1, 2019, through Thursday, October 31, 2019.

Bradford said he hopes to see a grant awarded to local fire departments annually in Franklin County.

"The funds go across Franklin County and assist so many people and kids with fire safety," Bradford said. "We like to see these dollars coming to our community. We know it will help a lot of people. Our hope is kids will take information they receive and learn from fire safety trailer presentations and take it home to their parents. That's a way into the house to get the fire safety discussion going."

"I will contact State Farm every year and recommend approval of these grant monies," Bradford said. "The funds go across Franklin County and assist so many people and kids with fire safety. We like to see these dollars coming to our community. We know it will help a lot of people."

"Our hope is kids will take information they receive and learn from fire safety trailer presentations and take it home to their parents. That's a way into the house to get the fire safety discussion going."

Green said information is sent to all Franklin County Schools each year about the availability of the fire safety trailer presentations.

"When they contact us, we set up a date and go to that school," Green said. "Every school in Franklin County is contacted about this important program."

For more information about the State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship Grant program, visit www.statefarm.com.



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!

Summer Fun Winners!



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

The Free Press announced 15 winners in our Summer Fun Contest. Each winner was presented with a gift basket full of summer fun goodies and treats. We had more than 100 correct entries. Congratulations to our winners, including: Chandler Reed (pictured above with FFP editor Mike Self), Rita Colburn, Terri Saint, Amy Brown, Cecil James, Vanessa Saxton, Lisa Fuller, Kay King, Carol Landers, JoAnn Williams, Caitlyn Johnson, Erick Morales, Don Kilpatrick, Billy Fretwell and Patricia Rutledge.

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YARD SALES

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Thurs./Fri. Aug. 22/23. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 411 Norton Ave., Russellville. Baby clothing, lots of misc. items. Come see us!

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Fri./Sat. August 23/24. 7 a.m.-until. 1212 Scott Ave. NW, Russellville. Clothing

for all ages, tools, toys, household items, furniture and more. All priced to sell!

Multi-Family Yard Sale this Saturday, August 24. 8 a.m.-until. 442 Highway 44, Russellville. Turn south on 44 off Hwy. 24 across from Texaco Station. Two miles on left. Past Southern Energy Homes. Bedroom furniture, fire pit, fireplace screen, clothing (men, women and children).

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25 words per ad; Pets For Sale only \$10 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Free of Charge: Lost & Found, Giveaways, and Items Under \$100 (Private Parties Only). 15-word limit; Commercial Classified Rates: \$25 for Businesses, 15 words or less for six weeks. Ads exceeding word limit add \$10 per additional 15 words. The number in parentheses represents the number of times the ad has appeared. Call us at 256-332-0255 to place, cancel or renew your ad. Payment is required in advance of publication for ads.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Franklin County Commission will accept applications for the following position: **Corrections Officer/Dispatcher** in the Franklin County Commission Office until 5:00 PM on Friday, August 30, 2019.

An application and job description may be picked up, faxed or emailed upon request from the Franklin County Commission Office, located at 405 N. Jackson Ave., Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Franklin County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the employment or the provision of services.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

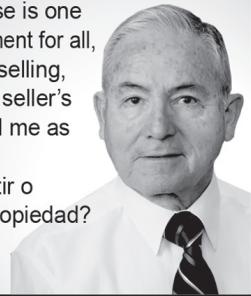
The Franklin County Commission will accept applications for the following position: **Property Clerk** in the Franklin County Commission Office until 5:00 PM on Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

An application and job description may be picked up, faxed or emailed upon request from the Franklin County Commission Office, located at 405 N. Jackson Ave., Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

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Will be able to inspect units and bid on those dates.

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- (81) - Tasha Hamilton
- (48) - Randal Vandiver
- (54) - Billy Streetman
- (101) - Marie Parker
- (102) - Stephanie McDonald
- (103) Derick Kerr
- (106) - Lisa Clark

Job Opening

Russellville Gas Board (RGB)

Position: Helper (Full-Time)

Responsible for: General labor to assist with any function of the operation and maintenance of the Board's facilities as assigned or required. Must have current Alabama Driver's License. Must be able to pass OPS drug test. Bilingual (English/Spanish) speaking preferred. For all inquiries regarding this position or to apply for this position, please contact the Russellville Gas Board by phone at (256) 332-2020 or in person at 1296 Walnut Gate Rd, Russellville, AL 35654 (RGB Office). Applications for this position will be accepted for until Friday 8/30/2019 at 3 PM.

Job Opening

Russellville Gas Board (RGB)

Position: Pipefitter (Full-Time)

Responsible for: Performance of a variety of duties to construct, install, and maintain the facilities of the Board; installation and maintenance of customers gas utilization equipment; and perform routine operation and maintenance duties. Must have Journeyman Gas Fitter qualification. Must be able to pass OPS drug test. Bilingual (English/Spanish) speaking preferred. For all inquiries regarding this position or to apply for this position, please contact the Russellville Gas Board by phone at (256) 332-2020 or in person at 1296 Walnut Gate Rd, Russellville, AL 35654 (RGB Office). Applications for this position will be accepted for until Friday 8/30/2019 at 3 PM.

Big crowds brave the heat at 39th annual Watermelon Festival

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The 39th annual Franklin County Watermelon Festival concluded Saturday evening with an energetic show from the Absolute Journey Tribute. The concert capped two days of live music, including Dixie Mafia and Kozmic Mama earlier Saturday. Friday night's entertainment included Rewind, Joseph Baldwin and Shootin' You Straight.

The weekend weather was beautiful but hot, and the crowds were large starting late Friday afternoon. A number of watermelon-themed contests were held, with the following winners:

- Most Unusual Watermelon: Joe McCalpin, first place.
- Seed Spitting: Kevin Strickland, first place; Miguel Bonilla, second place; Tonya Capalla, third place.
- Best Dressed: Aymar Bonilla, first place; Damaris Bonilla, second place.
- Best Tasting Watermelon: Jimmy Martin, first place; Peggy Martin, second place; Johnny Belue, third place.
- Largest Watermelon: Nick McCalpin, 223 pounds, first place; Charles Bentley, 213 pounds, second place; Jo McCalpin, 45 pounds, third place.
- Largest Franklin County Watermelon: Rhett and Reed Jackson, 203 pounds, first place; Bonnie Radachi, 54 pounds, second place; Anna Burgett, 32 pounds, third place.



COURTESY PHOTO

Rhett, Reed and Steven Jackson with their winning watermelon, the largest grown in Franklin County this year, at 203 pounds

'ROAD,' from page 8

- Approved the use of Dr. Rick Wooten's office for drug and alcohol testing at a cost of \$50 for DOT panels, \$35 for a 14-panel test and \$25 for a breath alcohol test.
- Reappointed Franklin County Safety Committee members Mary Hallman-Glass (chairwoman), Leah Mansell, Gene Ward, Mark Latham, Bill Cheatham and Michael Ponders.
- Set a purchase order cutoff of September 4, 2019, for all departments.



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Over/under in the SEC East

Last week in this space, we made a few predictions on over/under win totals for every team in the SEC West, using our system of locks, losses and swing games. This week, we move on to the SEC East. But, before we do, here's a quick review of our methodology, just in case you're late to the party.



Mike Self
Sports Editor

With the help of ESPN's Football Power Index (which runs countless simulations on every game and then assigns each team a percentage for each of those games based on their probability of winning), we grouped every game on every SEC team's 2019 schedule into one of three categories: Locks, losses and swing games.

For our purposes, a lock is any game that a certain team has higher than a 75 percent chance to win (according to the FPI). When the FPI gives a team less than a 25 percent chance to win a certain game, we classify that game as a loss. And if a team's chances of winning a certain game fall between 25 and 75 percent (according to the FPI), then we classify that game as a swing game. [We call them that because the outcome of these presumably up-for-grabs games will "swing" a team's season in one direction or the other.]

Remember that projected win totals come courtesy of Fan Duel and are for the regular season only. Also remember that we're operating under elementary school playground rules: No pushing. Let's dive right in.

Florida
Projected regular season win total: 9
Locks: 3 (vs. UT-Martin, vs. Towson, vs. Vanderbilt)
Losses: 0

Swing games: 9 (vs. Miami, at Kentucky, vs. Tennessee, vs. Auburn, at LSU, at South Carolina, vs. Georgia, at Missouri, vs. Florida State)

The Skinny: For a team with a projected win total of nine (tied for the third-highest in the SEC), Florida has a remarkably high number of swing games on its schedule—nine, easily the most of any team in the conference. The vast majority of those games will have to swing in the Gators' direction if they are to go over the number.

The good news for Florida is that three of those swing games (vs. Miami, at Kentucky, vs. FSU) very nearly fell into the "lock" category, based on the win-probability figures put forth by the FPI. But that still leaves a few legitimate toss-ups (vs. Auburn, at South Carolina, at Missouri), plus a big rivalry game with UT and games against LSU and Georgia in which the Gators project to be clear underdogs.

Bottom line: There are a lot of games on the

See 'SEC,' Page 18

READY TO RUMBLE



PHOTO/KG Seeley (68) and Holt (9) are two of 17 returning starters for Jackson's Tigers.

High school football returns, as Colbert Heights welcomes battle-tested Red Bay to The Mountain for a Week Zero clash

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Heading into Friday night's season opener against Red Bay at Amos Mitchell Stadium, Colbert Heights head coach Taylor Leathers has a plan for how his young team can compete for 48 minutes with the more battle-tested Tigers.

"We have to be physical," said Leathers, who has guided the Wildcats to a 21-13 record and a pair of playoff appearances in his first three seasons on The Mountain. "We want to control the football, control the clock and effectively run the football against them—whether that means three yards or thirty yards. We want to run the football effectively. A lot of times, a three-yard run is a win. You put a couple of those together with a four-yard gain, and you've got a first down."

"We're really gonna try to dictate the game based on time of possession. We want to limit their possessions. That's the approach we're gonna take this season in general."

It's an approach that Red Bay coach Michael Jackson and his team are more than a little familiar with. An injury to leading receiver Jalen Vinson mid-way through last season prompted the Tigers to employ the same strategy in a pair of critical wins over region rivals Sheffield and Colbert County.

"We know that game pretty well," said Jackson, who is 42-14



Leathers and the youthful Wildcats are aiming for a third straight playoff berth this season.

See 'READY,' Page 16

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Your must-see guide to the 2019 season

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

The 2019 high school football season kicks off this week, so it's time for us to give you our annual guide to the must-see matchups involving teams from the *Free Press* coverage area.

We'll give you a headliner for all 11 weeks of the regular season, plus a bonus battle you might also want to consider adding to your itinerary. Every game is worth watching, of course, but these are the ones you definitely don't want to miss. Let's dive right in.

Week Zero (August 23)
Red Bay at Colbert Heights

The Skinny: Red Bay has won four of five meetings since this non-region rivalry became a season-opening fixture in 2014. The Tigers' only loss during that span came on their last visit to The Mountain, 14-6 in 2017.

With Kolby Bragwell now at Shelton State and Carson Shaw switching to tailback, both teams will be counting on first-year starters at quarterback. Combine that with two old-school head coaches (Michael Jackson and Taylor Leathers) who have ground-and-pound, smash-mouth football in their DNA, and passing plays should be few and far between at Amos Mitchell Stadium on Friday night.

If you're going to the game, don't be late; it may well be over by 9 p.m.
Bonus Game: Tharptown at Shoals Christian

The Skinny: The trip to Florence could be worthwhile for Wildcat fans. Over the past two seasons, Tharptown has gone 2-0 versus the Flame while averaging 39.5 points per game; the Wildcats are just 1-16 with an average of 6.4 points per game against everyone else.

Week One (August 30)
Russellville at Deshler

The Skinny: The Golden Tigers won a double-overtime thriller at home last year, 40-34, improving to 14-5 against their rivals from Tusculumbia since the turn of the century. Deshler, which won 35-3 at Howard Chappell Stadium in 2017, is aiming for back-to-back home wins over Russellville.

For what it's worth, both teams open the season ranked in the Top 10 of their respective classifications [the Golden Tigers are No. 10 in 5A, while

See 'GUIDE,' page 15

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PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Miguel Flores and Russellville will kick off their season at rival Deshler on Friday, August 30. The Golden Tigers won last year's meeting 40-34 in double-overtime.

'GUIDE,' from page 14

Deshler is No. 9 in 4A] after winning nine games a year ago.

Bonus Game: Phil Campbell at Red Bay

The Skinny: The Tigers dominated last year's game at the line of scrimmage and rolled to a 36-8 rout, winning the Battle of the Big Cats for a 13th consecutive season.

Week Two (September 6)

Corner at Russellville

The Skinny: The Yellow Jackets jumped out to an early two-touchdown lead at home last season before Russellville rallied to win 24-13, sparking a 6-1 showing and a runner-up finish in Class 5A, Region 7. Corner, meanwhile, closed strong last year, winning five of its final six games to earn a playoff berth.

Golden Tiger coach John Ritter expects the Yellow Jackets to be a contender again this season, so the winner of this game could well emerge as the primary challenger to third-ranked Jasper for the region crown.

Bonus Game: Hatton at Red Bay

The Skinny: The Hornets haven't stung Red Bay in a long, long time, losing 23 straight meetings. The Tigers kept the streak going last season with a 32-6 rout in Hatton.

Week Three (September 13)

Colbert Heights at Lauderdale County

The Skinny: The Wildcats have turned the tide in this rivalry under Leathers, winning two straight over the Tigers—and, not coincidentally, going on to earn the right to host a first-round playoff game in both years. Colbert Heights held on for a 40-34 win on The Mountain last season, but Lauderdale County still leads the series 8-5 since 2000.

Bonus Game: Addison at Red Bay

The Skinny: The Tigers were cruising along at 3-0 last season before traveling to Addison and getting thumped 39-12. They'll look for revenge in this critical early-season Class 2A, Region 7 showdown at The Fred, where they are 24-5 in five seasons under Jackson.

Week Four (September 20)

Belmont (MS) at Red Bay

The Skinny: Belmont snapped a six-game losing streak in this border battle last season with a 21-14 win over the Tigers. Red Bay will look to reassert itself in the rivalry and ride some momentum into its mid-season bye week.

Bonus Game: Colbert Heights at East Lawrence

The Skinny: Since letting a playoff spot slip through their fingers with a stunning loss at East Lawrence in 2016, the Wildcats have won two straight over the Eagles by an aggregate score of 62-8. Now they'll return to the scene of the crime in Caddo for the first time since that 30-24 gut-punch three years ago.

Week Five (September 27)

Phillips at Phil Campbell

The Skinny: The Bobcats had won two in a row and seemed to be building momentum last season before laying an egg in Bear Creek in a 28-12 defeat that sent them tumbling to six straight losses and a 2-8 finish. They'll look to settle that score this year at home.

Phil Campbell leads the all-time series 23-18-5, but Phillips holds a commanding 9-2 edge since 2000.

Bonus Game: Colbert Heights at Cherokee

The Skinny: In a rivalry marked by streaks, the Wildcats currently have things going in the right direction. After winning 28-14 at home last year, they've now beaten Cherokee 13 straight times.

Week Six (October 4)

Russellville at Lawrence County

The Skinny: Don't expect Russellville's most heated rivalry to simmer simply because tailback Zaye Boyd (who played for both schools) has graduated. The Golden Tigers lead the all-time series 21-5, including a 10-1 mark since 2000.

Bonus Game: Red Bay at Sheffield

The Skinny: Last year, the Tigers turned their season around by beating the Bulldogs 24-12 at home, sparking a win streak that reached six games before ending with a second-round playoff loss. The rematch in Sheffield figures to carry major region implications.

Week Seven (October 11)

Phil Campbell at Lauderdale County

The Skinny: Behind 295 passing yards from Luke Barnwell and five total touchdowns from Trey Leindecker, the Bobcats erupted for 46 points last year against Lauderdale County—and still lost, when the Tigers scored the winning touchdown in the final seconds to secure a 52-46 victory. What sort of fireworks will this year's meeting produce?

Bonus Game: Red Bay at Colbert County

The Skinny: The Tigers stunned the Indians 12-7 last season, ultimately leading to a three-way tie (along with Addison) atop the final region standings. Now Red Bay travels to Leighton for the first time since 1961.

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Week Eight (October 18)

Jasper at Russellville

The Skinny: The Vikings ended Russellville's bid for an unbeaten season with a 42-13 rout in Jasper last October, claiming the region title and ultimately reaching the state quarterfinals before finishing 11-2. With a boatload of talent returning (not to mention some reinforcements arriving via transfer from Dora), the Vikings are once again the prohibitive favorites in Region 7.

The Golden Tigers are 6-3 against Walker/Jasper since 2000, including a 4-1 mark in Russellville.

Bonus Game: East Lawrence at Phil Campbell

The Skinny: If the Bobcats are to contend for a playoff spot this season, they'll have to beat the Eagles for the first time since 1987. East Lawrence has won all three meetings since 2000, including a 32-26 win in Caddo last year.

Week Nine (October 25)

Phil Campbell at Colbert Heights

The Skinny: There is a ton of mutual respect between head coaches Kevin Barnwell and Taylor Leathers. There may not, however, be room for both in the playoffs this season, depending on how the Class 3A, Region 8 race shakes out. The Wildcats survived last year's meeting 21-14 on a late punt return touchdown by Carson Shaw, extending their win streak in the series to eight.

Bonus Game: Russellville at Dora

The Skinny: The Golden Tigers won at home last year 41-26 in the first meeting between the two teams since 1987. The final region game of the season could very well have an impact on playoff seeding.

Week Ten (October 31/November 1)

Hackleburg at Phil Campbell

The Skinny: Barnwell, a Hackleburg alum, would love to see his Bobcats snap a 16-game losing streak in the series. The Panthers prevailed 22-12 on a rainy Thursday night in Hackleburg last season.

Bonus Game: Red Bay at Wilson

The Skinny: The Tigers stepped up in classification and beat the 4A Warriors 28-20 last season, but they haven't won at Wilson since 2007.

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'READY,' from page 13

with four playoff appearances and two region titles in five seasons at Red Bay. "That's the way we played the last seven games last year—taking care of the ball and limiting the other team's ability to score, especially when they've got a lot of weapons on offense. We kept the ball for basically the whole first quarter in both of those games [against Sheffield and Colbert County]."

Jackson, who has a career record of 113-76 in 17 seasons as a conservative, run-oriented head coach at three different schools, understands the value of playing keep-away as well as anyone. He also knows better than most what it takes to make it work.

"I'm familiar with this team," Leathers said of the Tigers. "This is my fourth season, and it feels like we've played this same team for four years. One thing I do know is, they've got a lot of returners on both sides of the ball, guys we've played against for years. They're an older team, an experienced team, a veteran team."

"The most important thing about playing that style is, you have got to be good on third and fourth down," said Jackson, who spent nine seasons at Buckhorn and three at Russellville before taking over the Tiger program in 2014. "I've done this kind of offense forever, and it comes down to third and fourth down. Against Colbert County [in a 12-7 upset of the Indians last October], we were five for five on fourth-and-less-than-three. You have to make some calculated decisions, and you have to be good on third and fourth down. Otherwise you can hurt yourself with that type of mindset, because it doesn't go well when you're getting behind the chains."

The task of keeping the Colbert Heights offense on schedule will fall at least in some part to sophomore quarterback Andrew Tedford, who is taking over under center after primarily playing at slot receiver a year ago. Leathers has moved junior Carson Shaw, last year's starting quarterback, to tailback, where he will team with fellow junior running back Gage Pugh—a Cherokee transfer—to form the backbone of the Wildcats' ball-control attack.

Shaw ran 14 times for 78 yards in a 34-18 loss to Red Bay last August and finished the season

with 896 rushing yards and 13 touchdowns. He also threw for 1,088 yards and six scores and—according to Leathers—will still play quarterback in certain passing situations.

Regardless of whether Shaw is taking the snap or taking a handoff, Jackson said the Tigers' veteran-laden defense will make containing him a top priority.

"We know what kind of player he is and what kind of stuff they're gonna do when he's at quarterback," Jackson said of Shaw, who threw a pair of touchdown passes in last year's loss to Red Bay. "Preparing for a really good athlete at running back is also a different thing we have to adjust to. They're gonna be running different schemes if he's at running back. It's kind of a wide-open situation with what they're gonna do, and we'll have to adjust on the run."

"It's the first game of the year, and with us not seeing them and them not playing a spring game, it's kind of up in the air. We'll have to adjust as we go."

The same is true for Leathers and his staff, particularly with the fleet-footed Vinson taking over as the Tigers' quarterback following the graduation of three-year starter Kolby Bragwell.

"As far as what Coach Jackson is doing now offensively, we have no idea," said Leathers, who is 1-2 against Red Bay since arriving at Colbert Heights in 2016. "Playing this Week Zero game, the first game of the year, with neither of us playing a jamboree, we'll do more in-game coaching on Friday than we'll do in any other game all season. We'll do a lot of pre-game coaching, too, but the first time we'll get to see what they look like on offense is when they line up for their pre-game routine on Friday. And sometimes they don't show what they're gonna do even then."

"We know what they've done in the past, and we're gonna prepare for that. Coach Jackson has always liked to run power football, Power I. Two-tight-end Power I is something they get in and gave gotten in a lot, so we'll be prepared for that. He has done some things with the jet. He likes the jet sweep and likes motion, so we'll discuss those things. We'll talk about those routes they've run the past few years and coach those up. But in terms of us being able to chart, 'Hey, this is what



PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW

Humphres (17) is back after rushing for 455 yards in 2018—59 of which came in a season-opening 34-18 win over Colbert Heights.

they like to do at midfield,' or 'This is what they like to do on third down,' those are things we can do later in the year. We don't have that luxury now."

In terms of personnel, however, Leathers will see a lot of familiar faces when the Tigers arrive at Amos Mitchell Stadium on Friday night. Jackson's team boasts 25 seniors and juniors—17 of whom have starting experience at the varsity level.

Senior tailback Colbie King, who rushed for 113 yards on 18 carries in the win over Colbert Heights last year and finished his junior season with 1,371 yards and 14 touchdowns on 234 attempts, will once again anchor the Red Bay ground game. Coordinator Jamie Purser's defense, meanwhile, is loaded with veteran playmakers—particularly in the front six, where linebacker Cam McKinney (6'1, 240) and ends Logan Scott (6'2, 245) and Alex Kennedy (6'1, 205) are all entering their third season as varsity starters.

That trio accounted for a total of 209 tackles last season, when all three were sophomores.

"I'm familiar with this team," Leathers said on Sunday night. "This is my fourth season, and it feels like we've played this same team for four years. One thing I do know is, they've got a lot of returners on both sides of the ball, guys we've played against for years. They're an older team, an experienced team, a veteran team. It also looks like they'll be playing a lot of one-way players, and I think that will be a big factor in the game."

"When we sit down with our players to watch the Red Bay film from last year, we'll put the laser pointer on all those linebackers and all those D-linemen and point out all those returners—'These



Edgmon (40) and McKinney (5) will once again try to hem in Shaw (3), who ran for 78 yards in last year's loss at Red Bay.

'READY', from page 16

guys are back, these guys are back.' Our players are gonna know that. At the end of the day, they do have a lot more one-way guys than us, and they do have bigger players in some spots and kids with more experience than us. The important thing for our guys is, how do you respond to that this week? How are you gonna play in the game? What kind of mentality are you gonna have, knowing what you're up against?

"We're really trying to embrace that 'So what, now what?' mentality this year. You're gonna get tired of hearing me say that. We carried that thing all the way through the spring and summer, and we're gonna keep carrying that through this season. 'So what, now what?' That's what we're gonna take into the game with us on Friday night."

The Wildcats' chances of pulling the upset may hinge largely on how well their front five (returning starters Trey Robinson at center, Logan Simpson and Cory Martinez at guard, and Ethan Seal at right tackle, plus freshman newcomer Avery Hood at left tackle) holds up in the trenches. Red Bay's front six on defense is loaded with size, strength and playmaking ability beyond the junior trio of McKinney, Scott and Kennedy.

Sophomore defensive tackle Levi Blanton (6'4, 245) finished third on the team with 63 tackles last season as a ninth-grader, and he'll be joined on the interior by 6'0, 245-pound freshman Braden Parker. 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.

Jackson said this summer that this Tiger defense has the potential to be elite, but he wasn't exactly tossing around the superlatives on Sunday night.

"We don't talk about that too much," he said. "Coach Purser is coaching those guys hard everyday. We've still got room for improvement on defense. We're trying to make strides each and everyday. We still have to let a couple of those new guys keep getting better and better and figure out how they fit in with our scheme. But the effort from those guys and the way they practice has been really good."

A year ago, Red Bay rode the season-opening win over Colbert Heights to a 9-3 record, while the Wildcats recovered from an 0-3 start to go 6-5. Both teams finished second in their respective regions and hosted a first-round playoff game.

Both teams have playoff aspirations again this year, though Friday night's opener will certainly be more of a discovery process for Colbert Heights than it will be for the far more seasoned Tigers.

"We're excited to kick things off," Leathers said. "We've got a young group of guys, you know, and we're really excited to see how they're gonna respond and how they're gonna compete in a game situation. We scrimmaged under the lights last Friday night, but you can't really get a great look with the limited amount of juniors and seniors we have. When we have our best on offense, we don't get a great look with what's left, and it's the same thing with our scout-team offense trying to replicate Red Bay or an opponent of that caliber. It's really difficult. We'll find out on Friday night how we'll be able to match up with a real-deal varsity football team."

"I want to see our players play with relentless effort every snap. I want to see them give a hundred percent every play. I feel like if we're giving everything we've got on every play, that's what we ask our players to do."

Red Bay, meanwhile, has four straight home games coming up, so a win on The Mountain Friday night could propel the Tigers to a strong start and a special season.

"I'm gonna look for the maturity level that I think this team can get to," Jackson said on Sunday. "That's what I'm excited about—seeing where these guys are at compared to last season. When I watched film of the last time we went to Colbert Heights [a 14-6 loss in 2017], we've got seven or eight guys from that game who are playing in this game Friday night. Five of those guys were freshmen then. So I look for our maturity level to be higher, just playing in that atmosphere and being a little bit more relaxed and having fun. That's what I'm gonna look for."

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"The keys for us, first of all, will be to adjust to anything they do offensively that's different than what they've done in the past. Offensively, for us, it's about eliminating the non-forced errors. That's gonna be huge. This is the first game, and we do have some new guys out there, so we have to limit the unforced errors—penalties, missed assignments, that sort of thing. If we limit that, I think we'll have a chance to be successful."



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

After finishing as the Tigers' top receiver last season, Vinson (10) is now in line to run the show as the team's starting quarterback. He's taking over for three-year starter Kolby Bragwell, who led Red Bay to a 22-10 record from 2016-18.

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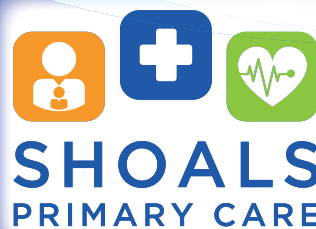
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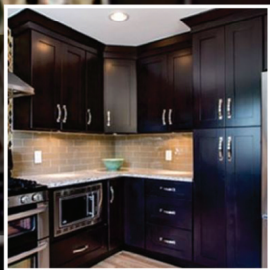
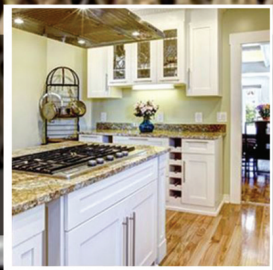
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schedule that Florida *could* lose. How many of them become actual losses likely depends on whether or not quarterback Feleipe Franks can take the next step and how quickly the Gators can replace four O-linemen who combined for 141 career starts. The skill talent on offense is better than it's been in years, and the defense is always good, but a 10-2 record against this meat-grinder of a schedule seems like an awful lot to ask.

FFP Prediction: Under 9 wins

Georgia

Projected regular season win total: 11

Locks: 8 (at Vanderbilt, vs. Murray State, vs. Arkansas State, vs. South Carolina, vs. Kentucky, vs. Missouri, vs. Texas A&M, at Georgia Tech)

Losses: 0

Swing games: 4 (vs. Notre Dame, at Tennessee, vs. Florida, at Auburn)

The Skinny: Georgia has more locks on its schedule (according to the FPI) than any team in the league outside of Tuscaloosa, though calling the A&M game on November 23 a lock seems like a bit of a stretch. [The Aggies are a preseason Top 10 team, after all.] It's interesting to note that the FPI basically classifies the road game at Auburn as a toss-up, giving the Bulldogs a 54.7 percent chance to win.

Both of those crossover games are part of a challenging final stretch that also includes what should be the de facto division title game against Florida, a home date with Missouri and a road trip to face rival Georgia Tech. It's entirely plausible that Georgia loses two games *in November alone*, so picking them to go all season without dropping a single one feels like a dicey proposition at best.

Granted, the Bulldogs (with Heisman contender Jake Fromm at quarterback, a veteran O-line and a loaded backfield) are better than every team on their schedule, but the better team doesn't always win—particularly when that team has a few holes to fill on defense and virtually no experience at receiver. Eleven is probably right on the number, but a 10-2 finish seems more likely than 12-0. Going undefeated is just plain hard.

FFP Prediction: Under 11 wins

Kentucky

Projected regular season win total: 6.5

Locks: 4 (vs. Toledo, vs. Eastern Michigan, vs. UT-Martin, vs. Louisville)

Losses: 2 (at Mississippi State, at Georgia)

Swing games: 6 (vs. Florida, at South Carolina, vs. Arkansas, vs. Missouri, vs. Tennessee, at Vanderbilt)

The Skinny: A soft schedule makes seven wins very feasible, but Kentucky could be in for a rude awakening on the heels of last year's 10-3 season. Guys like national Defensive Player of the Year Josh Allen and all-time leading rusher Benny Snell don't grow on trees *anywhere*, let alone in Lexington.

Factor in the virtual non-existence of the passing game, the departure of all four starters in the secondary and the expected improvement of teams like Arkansas and Tennessee in year number two under their respective head coaches, and we see the Wildcats scrambling to make a bowl game.

FFP Prediction: Under 6.5 wins

Missouri

Projected regular season win total: 7.5

Locks: 4 (at Wyoming, vs. West Virginia, vs. SE Missouri State, vs. Troy)

Losses: 1 (at Georgia)

Swing games: 7 (vs. South Carolina, vs. Ole Miss, at Vanderbilt, at Kentucky, vs. Florida, vs. Tennessee, at Arkansas)

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South Carolina vs. UNC	South Carolina	_____
Duke vs. Alabama	Alabama	_____
Northwestern at Stanford	Stanford	_____
Virginia Tech at Boston College	Boston College	_____
Boise State vs. Florida State	Boise State	_____
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Missouri at Wyoming	Missouri	_____
Houston at Oklahoma	Oklahoma	_____
Tiebreaker Score:	Oregon _____	Auburn _____
Your Name:	_____	
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The Skinny: That over/under total seems low, especially considering that Missouri's games against Ole Miss (74.6 percent win probability, according to the FPI) and Arkansas (74.9 percent) very nearly qualified as locks, too. The Tigers may well be betting favorites in their first eight games and in their final two as well, depending on how things go.

The defense really struggled last season as the pass rush petered out and an exposed secondary surrendered far too many big plays. But the arrival of grad transfer Kelly Bryant at quarterback should ensure that an offense with plenty of play-making options at the skill spots keeps humming—to the tune of at least eight wins.

FFP Prediction: Over 7.5 wins

South Carolina

Projected regular season win total: 5.5

Locks: 4 (vs. North Carolina, vs. Charleston Southern, vs. Vanderbilt, vs. Appalachian State)

Losses: 3 (vs. Alabama, at Georgia, vs. Clemson)

Swing games: 5 (at Missouri, vs. Kentucky, vs. Florida, at Tennessee, at Texas A&M)

The Skinny: The triple-whammy of facing Bama, Georgia and Clemson means that South Carolina will almost certainly have to win two of those five swing games to go over the number and reach bowl eligibility. Unfortunately the FPI gives the Gamecocks a win probability of less than 50 percent in four of those games, with Kentucky being the only exception.

The passing game should be productive again, but that alone may not be enough against one of the three or four toughest schedules in the entire country—particularly if Jake Bentley can't cut down on the turnovers. The defense slipped last year, and the running game has largely been AWOL since Will Muschamp arrived.

The road trip to Knoxville on October 26 could tell the tale.

FFP Prediction: Under 5.5 wins

Tennessee

Projected regular season win total: 6.5

Locks: 5 (vs. Georgia State, vs. BYU, vs. Chattanooga, vs. UAB, vs. Vanderbilt)

Losses: 1 (at Alabama)

Swing games: 6 (at Florida, vs. Georgia, vs. Mississippi State, vs. South Carolina, at Kentucky, at Missouri)

The Skinny: Tennessee made some strides defensively last year under Jeremy Pruitt, but issues along the line of scrimmage completely sunk the offense. The Vols brought in a pair of five-star recruits to address those deficiencies up front and rejuvenate the running game. That—along with a schedule that looks relatively manageable, for a change—should help Tennessee take a step or two forward in 2019.

The Vols probably aren't ready to win at Florida just yet, and they're not beating Georgia or Alabama, but everything else is on the table. Home wins over Mississippi State and South Carolina alone would be enough to push Tennessee over the number.

The Vols probably aren't ready to win at Florida just yet, and they're not beating Georgia or Alabama, but everything else is on the table. Home wins over Mississippi State and South Carolina alone would be enough to push Tennessee over the number.

FFP Prediction: Over 6.5 wins

Vanderbilt

Projected regular season win total: 5

Locks: 3 (vs. Northern Illinois, vs. UNLV, vs. ETSU)

Losses: 5 (vs. Georgia, vs. LSU, at South Carolina, at Florida, at Tennessee)

Swing games: 4 (at Purdue, at Ole Miss, vs. Missouri, vs. Kentucky)

The Skinny: Derek Mason and company would probably object to the inclusion of the Tennessee game in the loss category, and rightfully so; Vanderbilt has beaten the Volunteers three straight times. But even if that streak ends, Vandy could still squeeze over the number by winning three of those four swing games.

Don't sleep on the Commodores' talent at the skill positions. Ke'Shawn Vaughn led the SEC in yards per carry (7.9) by a mile last season and was the most explosive big-play back in the league. Receiver Kalijah Lipscomb led the conference with 87 catches, and tight end Jared Pinkney (50 grabs for 774 yards and seven touchdowns) is a major weapon. All three of those guys are preseason All-SEC selections.

If Mason can move the defense back toward respectability, and if Ball State transfer Riley Neal is the answer at quarterback, then Vandy could be more competitive than most people expect.

FFP Prediction: Over 5 wins

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**Russellville
Golden Tigers**

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Russellville Golden Tigers

Head Coach: John Ritter (second season at Russellville)

Record at RHS: 9-2 (6-1 in Region 7)
Career record: 42-25 in six seasons
Playoff appearances: Five (2-5 record)
Previous head coaching stops:
•Red Bay (2012-13)
•West Morgan (2015-17)

Assistant Coaches (Offense)

Brett Voss - Quarterbacks/OC/Asst. Head Coach
Richard Maggerise - Running Backs
Mason Willis - H-Backs
Chris Boatwright - Inside Receivers
Corey Flanagan - Outside Receivers
Derek Blagburn - Offensive Line
Peyton Balentine - Offensive Line

Assistant Coaches (Defense)

Chris Balentine - Coordinator
Barry Reach - Defensive Line
Tim Townley - Inside Linebackers
Ronnie Ritter - Outside Linebackers
Ben Phillips - Linebacker Assistant
Paul Czervionke - Cornerbacks
Trey Stanford - Safeties/Special Teams Coord.

Positional Preview: Quarterbacks

Senior Jacob Bishop, a Muscle Shoals transfer who rushed for 131 yards and two touchdowns on just four carries while throwing for 79 yards on 4-for-6 passing in the spring game in a 35-14 win over Shelby County, solidified himself as the starter this summer, with sophomore Gabe Amick settling in as the backup.

"Jacob has really taken on that role as the starting quarterback," Ritter said last month. "We feel good about what he brings to the offense. But it's very, very nice to have a backup like Gabe, who has the potential to start week in and week out if something should happen."

"Gabe has had a phenomenal, phenomenal summer. He's grown by leaps and bounds. The beautiful thing about that situation is, Gabe is just a tenth-grader. He's still a pup. He's developed and honed in on his skills so much because we've given them equal reps. It's not like one of them gets more reps than the other."

Ritter said Bishop compares favorably with former starter Lucas McNutt, who threw for more than 1,000 yards and 13 touchdowns last year and rushed for 691 yards and eight scores while leading an explosive offense that averaged 40.2 points and nearly 400 total yards per game.

"They do have similar skill sets," Ritter said. "Jacob throws the ball better than Lucas, and Lucas was probably a little faster than Jacob. The one thing they have in common is, they're both leaders, and that's what you want at the quarterback spot. You want that guy taking the snaps to be a leader on your football team. Lucas was a leader for us last year, and he did a lot of things and made a lot of plays simply because he was a gutsy player. He might not have been the best quarterback, but that kid was a winner."

"You can say the same thing about Jacob. He's a winner and a phenomenal kid. He does a lot of things that really fit well and complement what we want to do with our RPO (run-pass option) stuff and with our option football stuff."

Running Backs

The Golden Tigers will rely on a committee approach to replace 2,000-yard rusher Zaye

Boyd. Senior Austin Ashley has the most game experience after rushing for 195 yards and three touchdowns on 48 carries last season in relief of Boyd. Airreon "Boots" McCulloch flashed home-run potential as a freshman in 2018, averaging 11.6 yards per carry on just seven attempts, and junior Caleb Matthews is another candidate to receive carries in what should once again be a run-heavy attack.

That trio combined to rush for 118 yards on 15 carries in the spring game against Shelby County.

"All three of those guys bring three different styles to the table," Ritter said in May. "They all do different things well. Ashley sees the cut that needs to be made and does a great job setting up his blocks on that inside zone. Boots is a stretch guy who's really good at getting to the edge and can make you pay when he gets there. Matthews is kind of a hybrid guy. He runs between the tackles better than the other two, even though he's the same size. He's just wired differently mentally. He runs the power and the counter really, really well."

"The goal is to rotate those guys, not only to keep them fresh but also to make sure our play-calling reflects what they do well."

Receivers

Devin Buckhalter's big-play ability will be missed, but Ritter likes the depth his team is developing at this position. Returning starters Rowe Gallagher and Cole Barnett (who combined to catch 19 passes for 256 yards and three touchdowns as sophomores in 2018) lead a talented group that also includes freshman Bryant Hyde (who caught a touchdown pass in the spring game), speedy senior J.D. Price and rising youngsters T.J. King, Trey Glass and Daniel Juan-Francisco.

"Rowe and Cole both started last year and played every snap," Ritter said last month. "The one thing different this year as opposed to last year is we've got guys who can push them. We didn't have that last year. Bryant Hyde is gonna be on the field the majority of the time on Friday nights, because he can do so many things. He plays all three positions [X, Y and Z], he knows them all well, and he makes plays."

"J.D. Price is another guy who can make explosive plays. He has that ability, and we need him to step into that role this year."

The Golden Tigers also plan to make use of 6'3, 205-pound sophomore Nathan Brockway and 6'0, 215-pound junior Blake Pruitt as receiving threats at the H-Back/tight end position. Brockway caught two passes for 53 yards in the spring game, and Pruitt hauled in a 32-yard reception.

Offensive Line

Ritter said in the spring that this may be the deepest group of O-linemen he's had in his seven years as a head coach. That depth is already being tested this fall, as an injury to junior Luis Domingo has opened up a starting spot at left guard for fellow junior Dakota Andres. Andres will play alongside junior left tackle Edgar Amaya (6'4, 290), who is entering his third season as a starter up front.

Senior Trenton Hollimon (who missed all of last season due to an injury) is healthy again and will start at center, with senior Johnathan Vargas (last year's center) sliding out to right tackle. Senior Noah Pounders (6'3, 290) will start at right guard, with junior Trevor Franklin and 6'3, 275-pound freshman Grayson Murray providing depth along the line.

Russellville's 2019 Schedule (with record vs. opponent since 2000)

Date	Opponent	Record since 2000
8/30	at Deshler	14-5 (lost 3 of last 4 there)
9/6	vs. Corner*	1-0
9/13	at Hayden*	1-0
9/20	vs. West Point*	7-0 (total points 308-76)
9/27	vs. Haleyville	1-0 (RHS 37-14 all-time)
10/4	at LCHS*	10-1 (RHS 21-5 all-time)
10/11	at Hamilton*	1-0 (RHS 26-16 all-time)
10/18	vs. Jasper*	6-3 (4-1 in Russellville)
10/25	at Dora*	1-0
11/1	vs. Central	1-0 (RHS 8-0-1 all-time)

*-Class 5A, Region 7 opponent

2018 Schedule and Results

Week 1	at Deshler	W, 40-34 (2 OT)
Week 2	at Corner*	W, 24-13
Week 3	vs. Hayden*	W, 48-13
Week 4	at West Point*	W, 53-20
Week 5	at Haleyville	W, 35-19
Week 6	vs. LCHS*	W, 53-32
Week 7	vs. Hamilton*	W, 65-34
Week 8	at Jasper*	L, 13-42
Week 9	vs. Dora*	W, 41-26
Week 10	at Central	W, 62-34
Playoffs		
Round 1	vs. Center Point L,	8-22

Record: 9-2 (6-1 in Class 5A, Region 7)
Points per game: 40.2
Points allowed per game: 26.3
*-Class 5A, Region 7 opponent

Defensive Line

There is solid depth on the other side of the line of scrimmage as well, where senior Jose Gaspar and juniors Omarion Jackson and Angel Moreno (all of whom played significant snaps a year ago) lead a D-line group that also includes reserves Will Calhoun (a junior), Junior Rodriguez (a sophomore), Eduardo Vargas (a junior) and Matt Williams (a 6'5, 320-pound senior).

Linebackers

The linebacker corps may well be the strength of the entire team, with senior Jamal Hubbard (team-leading 119 tackles in 2018) returning as a third-year starter on the outside and senior Albaro Francisco (102 tackles) and junior Brooks Scott (107 tackles) back to anchor the middle.

Senior Jaxon Hallmark is in line to replace departed senior Nate Green at the other outside spot, and Ritter expects rising youngsters Cody Logan, Gavin Slay, Brody Logan and Carson Hyde to push the veterans for playing time while providing quality depth. The hard-hitting Slay, in particular, shined in the spring game while sharing time with Hubbard and Hallmark at outside 'backer.

"Jamal and Jaxon Hallmark are two more guys who played a ton last year," Ritter said, "and Gavin Slay in the spring game looked the best out of the three of them. We've got four guys inside who are gonna rotate, and we've got four guys outside as well."

Defensive Backs

Rounding out what should be a stout defense is a secondary led by veteran corners Ashaad Williams (70 tackles and a team-leading five interceptions in 2018) and Caden Watts (84 tackles and three picks), both juniors.

"Ashaad and Caden both played in eleven games last year and pretty much played every snap of every game," Ritter said last month.



*Best of Luck to All
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Russellville City School Board of Education. Front row from left: Judy Pounders, Greg Trapp, Superintendent Heath Grimes. Back row from left: Bret Gist, Jerry Groce, Greg Batchelor.

Russellville City Schools 2019-20 Calendar

Sept 2: Labor Day
 Sept 20: Homecoming - Half Day
 Oct 14-15: Fall Break
 Nov 11: Veteran's Day
 Nov 27-29: Thanksgiving
 Dec 20: Student Half Day

Dec 23-Jan 3: Christmas Break
 Feb 17: President's Day
 March 30: Apr 3: Spring Break
 April 10: Spring Holiday
 May 22: Half Day/Last Day

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'RUSSELLVILLE' from page 22

"They're two of the best corners in our area. I'll put Caden Watts and Ashaad Williams up against any receiver we face. If they'll do what they're coached to do and play fast, they've got a lot of ability."

Sophomore Ashton Boyd and junior Marcus Crumpton, a converted safety, provide solid depth on the perimeter.

"Of course, Caden and Ashaad are our main guys there, and we want them to play as much as possible," Ritter said in July. "But we've moved Marcus Crumpton to corner, and Ashton Boyd will rotate in there for us as well. Ashton has had a phenomenal summer. With Marcus, we moved him [to corner] late, so he's just starting to pick up how we want that position to be played."

Ritter said last month that rising juniors Grayson Eady and J.D. Bishop "have kind of distanced themselves a little bit" as the leading candidates to start at safety, with sophomore Emitt Green and freshman Conner Warhurst also distinguishing themselves.

"We feel really good about those four guys at safety," Ritter said.

Ritter still expects the defense, which returns eight players with starting experience, to carry a heavier load early this season while the offense adjusts to life without McNutt, Boyd and Buckhalter.

"I do, just because we have so many guys [on defense] who have played live-action," Ritter said. "We're gonna have to play some young kids on offense and play some guys in different roles. They'll need to gain more experience. Those defensive guys have gotten a lot more live game action. If you count the preseason game, a lot of those guys have played in 12 varsity football games, and there's no substitute for that experience. You can't simulate that. This summer stuff has been great, because it allows these young kids to see the speed of the game. But at the end of the day, when you put on those shoulder pads and knee pads and put that mouthpiece in, it's different. When you've got 8,000 people in the stands for a Friday night game...that's an environment you can't simulate."

"So our defense is gonna have to carry us early, but we're okay with that. That's what we hung our hat on at Red Bay, at Deshler [where Ritter was an assistant coach on a Super Six team in 2014] and West Morgan—having a very good defense."

Specialists

Miguel Flores, who took over place-kicking duties early last season, returns to kick extra points and field goals. Amick will be the holder, with Jacob Davis serving as the long-snapper. Eady will handle the punting responsibilities.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Blake Pruitt rambled for 32 yards on this catch in the spring game against Shelby County, one of 11 plays by Russellville's offense that gained at least 20 yards. The Golden Tigers totaled 486 yards on 44 snaps, an average of 11.0 yards per play, and rolled to a 35-14 win.

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From left: David Palmer, William Nale, Mayor David Grissom, Gary Cummings, Arthur Elliott, Jamie Harris



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Colbert Heights *Wildcats*

Head Coach: Taylor Leathers* (fourth season at Colbert Heights)

Record at CHHS: 21-13 (14-6 in Region 8)

Career record: 21-13 in three seasons

Playoff appearances: Two (2-2 record)

Previous head coaching stops: None

Assistant Coaches

Lonnie Robinson - Defensive Coordinator, LBs

Nathan Sawyer - O-Line/D-Line, S&C Coordinator

Scott Hunter - Receivers/Safeties/Tight Ends

Isaac Fuller - RBs/Corners, Special Teams Coord.

Jon Russell - JV, Friday Night Support

Phillip Willingham - JV, Friday Night Support

Cody Counce - JV, Friday Night Support

Nick Salvano - Athletic Trainer (Huntsville Hosp.)

Tommy Johnson - Head Athletic Manager

*-Leathers serves as OC and QBs coach

Positional Preview:

Quarterbacks

Leathers made the bold move this offseason of switching athletic junior Carson Shaw from QB (where he threw for 1,000 yards and ran for 1,000 yards last season) to tailback in an effort to juice up the Wildcats' rushing attack. Taking over under center (at least on a part-time basis; Shaw will still see snaps at quarterback in passing situations) is sophomore Andrew Tedford, a converted slot receiver.

"Andrew started at slot as a freshman last year. He has great leadership abilities, and he's a great competitor," Leathers said of Tedford, who caught 11 passes for 190 yards last season. "He's a very heady kid, very smart, and he makes good decisions. He's the type of kid that sticks out to you as a coach because he wants to go the extra mile. He's always putting in extra work, always wanting to improve his craft. We feel like he's our best-suited quarterback leading into the season.

"We're really excited to see what Andrew will bring to the offense."

Running Backs

Leathers believes that shifting Shaw (who rushed for an average of 81.5 yards per game and 13 touchdowns in 2018) to tailback—and pairing him with Cherokee transfer Gage Pugh in what could be a dynamic backfield tandem—will enable the Wildcats to better dictate pace and tempo with a ball-control running game.

"Carson, of course, as our quarterback last year, ran for over 1,000 yards and threw for over 1,000," Leathers said this summer. "A lot of people would look at that and say, 'You're gonna take that kid and move him?' Well, we are. There will still be certain situations where Carson will be our quarterback. When we get into situations when we want to pass the football more, Carson will be our quarterback. We'll be using two different styles in certain situations—maybe in two-minute situations or before the half. Carson will go to quarterback, and we can spread the ball around.

"I think he'll do really well. Carson is extremely talented. With this offense, by moving him to running back, it's really gonna showcase his ability to do that as well. He was a very effective runner from the quarterback position, and he'll also be very effective from the running back position. It just goes to show his versatility as a player and what he brings to our team.

"We're gonna have two really solid running backs we're excited about there."

The other featured back in the mix is Pugh, a junior who comes to Colbert Heights from county rival Cherokee. Leathers envisions him forming a

potent one-two punch with Shaw as they run behind an offensive line that returns four starters from a year ago.

"I like the direction of our offense, with this systematic approach," Leathers said in July. "We know what Carson can do. He's a talented player. And I've seen Gage play at Cherokee. He's another extremely talented running back. When you have two players in your program who can run the football effectively...I think that run-first approach, that physical approach, is gonna benefit us while allowing us to maintain the versatility of shifting to Carson playing quarterback, spreading things out, and still being able to run or throw the football."

Junior Blane Holt is also in the mix for carries at running back.

Receivers

Senior Skyler Gault, who averaged 18.2 yards per catch on his five receptions in 2018, will start at tight end, with sophomore Dayton Wilkinson shuffling between TE and receiver and junior WR Daniel Folsom providing depth.

"We've used a tight end a lot in the past, and we'll continue to use a tight end," Leathers said. "We've got three guys right now who I feel like are good receiver/tight end type players. In some formations, we'll go with a two-tight end set. We'll also use some one-tight end formations."

Offensive Line

This should be an area of strength for the Wildcats, with four starters returning from a year ago. Sophomore Trey Robinson anchors the line at center and will be flanked by senior Logan Simpson at left guard and sophomore Cory Martinez at right guard. Junior Ethan Seal will man the right tackle spot, with freshman Avery Hood stepping in at left tackle. Sophomore Gabe Burns provides depth.

Defensive Line

On the defensive side of the ball, the Wildcats will continue to run a 4-4 scheme under veteran coordinator Lonnie Robinson. Senior Patrick Holt will anchor the four-man front at the nose, with Martinez and Robinson slated to play the three-technique at tackle.

Senior Jasper Dickens and Wilkinson will both play end, and Josh Chambers is also in the mix for snaps on the D-line.

Linebackers

Shaw is trading places defensively as well, transitioning from situational starter at corner to full-time starter at outside linebacker in what should be a very strong unit. Shaw (48 tackles last year) will be joined on the outside by sophomore Austin Scott, who made 32 tackles as a freshman in 2018.

Simpson (53 tackles last year, including 6.5 for a loss) returns as "the captain of the defense," according to Leathers, at middle linebacker, and he'll be joined on the inside by Blane Holt. Hood may also factor into the mix, and Leathers said last month that freshman Caden Hyde could carve out a role somewhere in the linebacking corps.

Defensive Backs

Folsom and Pugh have won the starting jobs at cornerback, and Gault will anchor the secondary as the last line of defense at free safety.

"He's got good speed," Leathers said of Gault. "We're looking for him to be our prevent-the-big-play guy."

Specialists

Freshman Tristan Cheatham will handle the kicking duties.

Colbert Heights' 2019 Schedule (with record vs. opponent since 2000)

Date	Opponent	Record since 2000
8/23	vs. Red Bay	4-11 (lost 7 of last 8)
8/30	vs. Wilson	0-1 (CH 4-10 all-time)
9/6	vs. Westminster*	0-1
9/13	at Lauderdale Co.*	5-8 (won 2 straight)
9/20	at East Lawrence*	2-1 (won 2 straight)
9/27	at Cherokee	14-3 (won 13 straight)
10/4	vs. DHCA	0-1
10/11	vs. Lexington*	7-10 (won 2 straight)
10/18	at Clements*	9-2 (won 6 straight)
10/25	vs. Phil Campbell*	8-1 (won 8 straight)

*-Class 3A, Region 8 opponent

2018 Schedule and Results

Week 0	at Red Bay	L, 18-34
Week 1	at Wilson	L, 27-41
Week 2	at Westminster*	L, 20-50
Week 3	vs. Lauderdale Co.*	W, 40-34
Week 4	vs. E. Lawrence*	W, 18-6
Week 5	vs. Cherokee	W, 28-14
Week 6	at DHCA	L, 22-23
Week 7	at Lexington*	W, 42-25
Week 8	vs. Clements*	W, 28-21
Week 9	at Phil Campbell*	W, 21-14
	Playoffs	
Round 1	vs. Saks	L, 0-56

Record: 6-5 (5-1 in Class 3A, Region 8)

Points per game: 24.0

Points allowed per game: 28.9

*-Class 3A, Region 8 opponent

Young 'Cats look to make history

Most coaches suffer from extreme tunnel vision. It comes with the job. Start talking to them about the potential for historical achievements and record-setting accomplishments, and you'll be lucky to even finish the sentence.

Coaches, as a rule, dismiss such thoughts on instinct alone, preferring instead to focus on the next opponent, the next game, the next play, the next practice rep. *The process.* Any discussion of breaking records or taking the program into uncharted territory is deemed to be too results-oriented, a distraction at best.

Taylor Leathers doesn't see it that way.

Tell Leathers, now preparing for his fourth season as the head football coach at Colbert Heights, that the Wildcats need seven wins this season to tie the program record for most wins (24) in a three-year span, that they have a chance to string together three consecutive playoff berths for just the third time in school history, and he doesn't dismiss it.

He *embraces* it.

"That's great. I love hearing numbers like that," said Leathers, who went 4-6 in his first season on The Mountain but has since guided Colbert Heights to a 17-7 record that includes an 11-2 mark in region play. "We've finished region runner-up two years in a row. I haven't seen the history on that. We've hosted a first-round game two years in a row, and we did it last year with an inexperienced team. This year we've got a young team, a very thin team in terms of depth. But our goals haven't changed.

"We talk about always being a playoff team. That's gonna be our goal."



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Phil Campbell **Bobcats**

Head Coach: Kevin Barnwell
(second season at Phil Campbell)

Record at PCHS: 2-8 (1-5 in region play)

Career record: 2-8

Playoff appearances: None

Previous head coaching stops: None

Assistant Coaches

Jonathan Raper - Outside Linebackers

Lucas Gilbert - Defensive Backs

Jordan Benford - Strength & Conditioning/QB/OC

David Palmer - Defensive Coordinator

Trevor Allison - Defensive Line

Darby Allison - Offensive Line

Kelby Daniel - Offensive Line

Montrae McCullough - Receivers

Randy Pike - Receivers

Jacob Hamilton - Linebackers

Positional Preview:

Quarterbacks

The Bobcats enjoy the luxury of having two savvy, tough-minded, dual-threat options at QB in juniors Luke Barnwell and Ridge Raper. Barnwell, the team's starter in 2018, sustained a separated throwing shoulder in the season opener against Red Bay and battled through the injury for much of the year. He played well at times, throwing for 295 yards and three touchdowns in a shootout loss to Lauderdale County.

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 year, 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 last month. "I think we can possibly put him in some space and 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."

Running Backs

This summer, Kevin Barnwell was intent on restructuring his team's offense to maximize the play-making skills of a deep stable of running backs led by juniors Trey Leindecker and Austen Baker. Leindecker broke out in a big way down the stretch last season, rushing for 476 yards and seven touchdowns on 66 carries over the team's final four games.

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

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

Receivers

Whoever's not playing quarterback between Barnwell and Raper should settle in as a primary target at receiver, along with sophomore Mason Swinney. Baker and/or Leindecker will also split out at times, and Kevin Barnwell spoke highly this summer of the potential of Andrew Green (an East Franklin transfer) and John Randle Herring.

Offensive Line

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.

"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

Phil Campbell's 2019 Schedule
(with record vs. opponent since 2000)

Date	Opponent	Record since 2000
8/30	at Red Bay	3-16 (lost 13 straight)
9/6	vs. Lexington*	0-9 (out-scored 360-117)
9/13	vs. Clements*	3-2 (last home W in '04)
9/20	at Vina	3-0 (won last 9 meetings)
9/27	vs. Phillips	2-9 (PC 23-18-5 all-time)
10/4	at Westminster*	1-2
10/11	at Laud. Co.*	0-1 (PC 1-12-1 all-time)
10/18	vs. E. Lawrence*	0-3 (PC only W in '87)
10/25	at C. Heights*	1-8 (lost 8 straight)
10/31	vs. Hackleburg	3-16 (lost 16 straight)

*-Class 3A, Region 8 opponent

2018 Schedule and Results

Week 1	vs. Red Bay	L, 8-36
Week 2	at Lexington*	L, 12-35
Week 3	at Clements*	W, 15-7
Week 4	vs. Vina	W, 47-2
Week 5	at Phillips	L, 12-28
Week 6	vs. Westminster*	L, 7-40
Week 7	vs. LCHS*	L, 46-52
Week 8	at E. Lawrence*	L, 26-32
Week 9	vs. C. Heights*	L, 14-21
Week 10	at Hackleburg	L, 12-22

Record: 2-8 (1-5 in Class 3A, Region 8)

Points per game: 19.9

Points allowed per game: 27.5

*-Class 3A, Region 8 opponent

of scrimmage with our offensive line rather than allowing the defensive line to re-establish the line of scrimmage."

Defensive Line

Solis, Oliver and Ordonez are all part of the D-line rotation, and Herring could shuffle between end and linebacker.

"Isaiah Oliver is a guy who's committed to the program," Barnwell said in July. "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."

Linebackers

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 linebacker.

Defensive Backs

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

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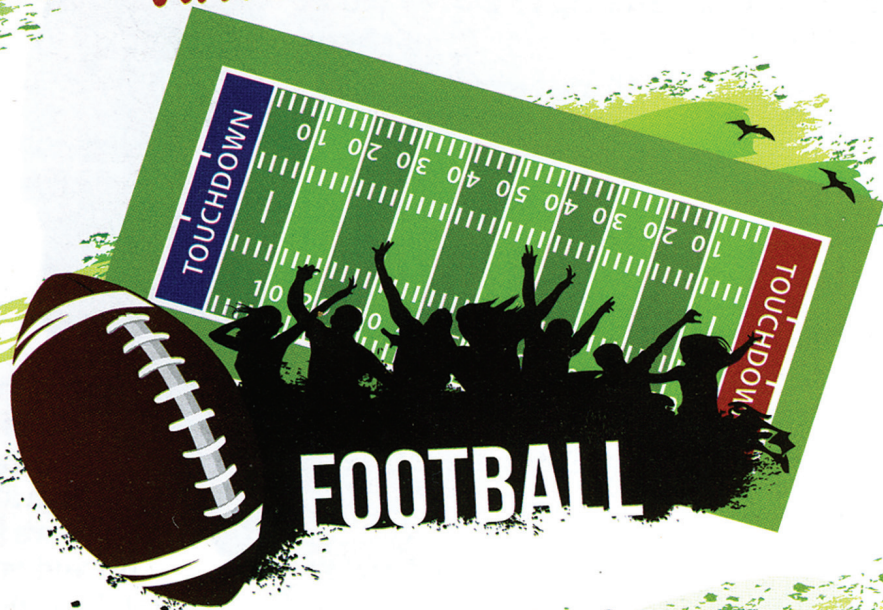
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Go Teams.

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Red Bay *Tigers*

Head Coach: Michael Jackson* (sixth season at Red Bay)

Record at Red Bay: 42-14 (23-7 in region play)
Career record: 113-76 in 17 seasons
Playoff appearances: 10 (9-10 record)
Previous head coaching stops:
•Russellville (2011-13)
•Buckhorn (2002-10)

Assistant Coaches

Jamie Purser - Defensive Coordinator
Jason Vinson - Defensive Line
Jade Pounds - Outside Linebackers
Kaleb Burroughs - Cornerbacks
Anthony Pounds - Def. Asst., QB Club President
Taylor Hamilton - Offensive Line
Kelby Hallmark - Offensive Skill, Head Jayvee
Adam Hester - Asst. Coach and QB Club V.P.
*Jackson serves as Offensive Coordinator

Positional Preview:

Quarterbacks

Fleet-footed junior Jalen Vinson takes the reins on offense following the graduation of three-year starter Kolby 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 was pleased with the progress Vinson made this summer as a passer.

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

Running Backs

The Tigers may be a little more spread- and speed-oriented this season than they were last year, when injuries forced them to play almost exclusively 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. We just need him to step into that role and be that senior running back who's gonna lead the way for us. We're gonna need his production."

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. Hunter King will provide depth at tailback. Caleb Seeley (a 6'0, 205-pound senior whom Jackson calls "one of the stronger kids on the team") will play a key

role as the starting H-back.

Receivers

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.

Humphres will also play a role as a receiver.

"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."

Offensive Line

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, was expected to lock down the other guard spot, with Dominick Brown claiming the other tackle position.

Defensive Line

More than any other position group, the D-line is the chief source of optimism for Red Bay heading into the season. Junior defensive ends Logan Scott and Alex Kennedy are both preparing for their third season as starters at the varsity level.

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 full-time role after getting his feet wet at the varsity level in 2018 as an eighth-grader.

Linebackers

Red Bay's front six is anchored by 6'1, 240-pound junior linebacker Cam McKinney, who (like Scott and Kennedy) is a three-year varsity starter. McKinney has been Red Bay's leading tackler in each of his first two varsity seasons, totaling 192 stops during that span.

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

Red Bay's 2019 Schedule (with record vs. opponent since 2000)

Date	Opponent	Record since 2000
8/23	at C. Heights	11-4 (won 7 of last 8)
8/30	vs. PCHS	16-3 (won 13 straight)
9/6	vs. Hatton*	19-0 (won 23 straight)
9/13	vs. Addison*	2-4 (both W's at home)
9/20	vs. Belmont	9-4 (RB won 6 of last 7)
9/27	OPEN	
10/4	at Sheffield*	5-2 (RB 5-4 all-time)
10/11	at Colbert Co.*	1-0 (1st trip since 1961)
10/18	vs. Tanner*	5-9 (RB lost 5 of last 6)
10/25	at Tharptown*	5-0 (Total points: 299-35)
11/1	at Wilson	2-2 (last road W was '07)

*-Class 2A, Region 7 opponent

2018 Schedule and Results

Week 0	vs. C. Heights	W, 34-18
Week 1	at PCHS	W, 36-8
Week 2	at Hatton*	W, 32-6
Week 3	at Addison*	L, 12-39
Week 4	at Belmont	L, 14-21
Week 5	OPEN	
Week 6	vs. Sheffield*	W, 24-12
Week 7	vs. Colbert Co.*	W, 12-7
Week 8	at Tanner*	W, 50-24
Week 9	vs. Tharptown*	W, 66-14
Week 10	vs. Wilson	W, 28-20
Playoffs		
Round 1	vs. Winston Co.	W, 16-14 (OT)
Round 2	at Ohatchee	L, 6-42

Record: 9-3 (5-1 in Class 2A, Region 7)

Points per game: 27.5

Points allowed per game: 18.8

*-Class 2A, Region 7 opponent

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."

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.

Defensive Backs

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.

"I'm thinking this defense has the potential to be as good as we've had," Jackson said last month.

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 in July. "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."

Good Luck to All Franklin County Teams!



From left, Commissioners David Hester, Rayburn Massey, Probate Judge Barry Moore, Jason Miller and Chris Wallace.

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Tharptown Wildcats

Head Coach: Kevin Lacey*
(fourth season at Tharptown)

Record at THS: 5-24 (3-15 in region play)
Career record: 5-24 in three seasons
Playoff appearances: None
Previous head coaching stops: None

Assistant Coaches

Marc Tracy - Defensive Coordinator
Gary Gunderman - Special Teams
Thomas Horton - Receivers/Defensive Backs
Ryan Champion - Offensive Line/Defensive Line
*-Lacey serves as OC and QB coach

Positional Preview:

Quarterbacks

Senior Yovani Gomez, who filled in last season for injured starter Carson Petree, will now run Tharptown's flex bone offense on a full-time basis.

"He's more of a runner," head coach Kevin Lacey said. "He can the run offense. With this offense, there are a lot of fakes and misdirection, and Yovani can do all that. We're still working with guys to see who can be our number two."

Running Backs

Lacey is excited about the potential of the Wildcats' two starting wingbacks, neither of whom played last year. Junior Domonic Baker is back in the fold after sitting out his sophomore season.

He'll be joined by fellow junior Colton Simmons, who has not played football for Tharptown before but certainly looks the part. Simmons, who also plays basketball and baseball at THS, has earned a reputation as a workout warrior.

"This is his first year to play," Lacey said, "but he's a workhorse, man. He's always in the weight room. I'm excited about our skill guys on offense. Several of them weren't out last year, but they're back. They look really good catching the ball and running the ball. We're a little thin up front, numbers-wise, but this year we've got more skill guys."

Senior Chase O'Connor provides depth at wingback, and fullback duties will be shared by senior Ruben Alfaro and sophomore Blake Daily.

Wide Receivers

Juniors Hunter White and Johnny Geronimo are the top two receivers, with sophomore Josh Riley providing depth. Junior Nathan Lucas returns as the starting tight end.

Offensive Line

Junior Travis Staten is back for his third season as a starter up front and his second season at center. Senior Gunner Lane is another three-year starter, and he'll be joined at guard by sophomore Gabe Compton. Sophomore Tyler Amos and senior Eric Espinosa will man the tackle spots.

Defensive Line

Simmons, Amos and Lucas will all see time at end, with Alfaro and Lane starting on the interior.

Linebackers

Baker, Staten, Espinosa, Compton, Daily and O'Connor give Tharptown plenty of options at LB.

Defensive Backs

White and Geronimo will start at corner, with Riley offering depth. Gomez and sophomore Nikolas Chaney are the safeties.

Tharptown's 2019 Schedule
(with record vs. opponent since 2000)

Date	Opponent	Record since 2000
8/23	at Sh. Christian	2-8 (won two straight)
8/30	OPEN	
9/6	vs. Sheffield*	0-1
9/13	at Colbert Co.*	0-1
9/20	at Tanner*	0-1
9/27	at Brilliant	1-2 (won at BHS in '09)
10/4	OPEN	
10/11	vs. Hatton*	0-5 (shut out 3 of last 4)
10/18	at Addison*	0-3 (out-scored 154-27)
10/25	vs. Red Bay*	0-5 (out-scored 299-35)
11/1	vs. Vina	4-8 (won 4 of last 5)

*-Class 2A, Region 7 opponent

2018 Schedule and Results

Week 0	vs. Sh. Christian	W, 41-30
Week 1	OPEN	
Week 2	at Sheffield*	L, 0-49
Week 3	vs. Colbert Co.*	L, 0-68
Week 4	vs. Tanner*	L, 14-64
Week 5	vs. Brilliant	L, 24-43
Week 6	OPEN	
Week 7	at Hatton*	L, 7-66
Week 8	vs. Addison*	L, 0-44
Week 9	at Red Bay*	L, 14-66
Week 10	at Vina	W, 10-0

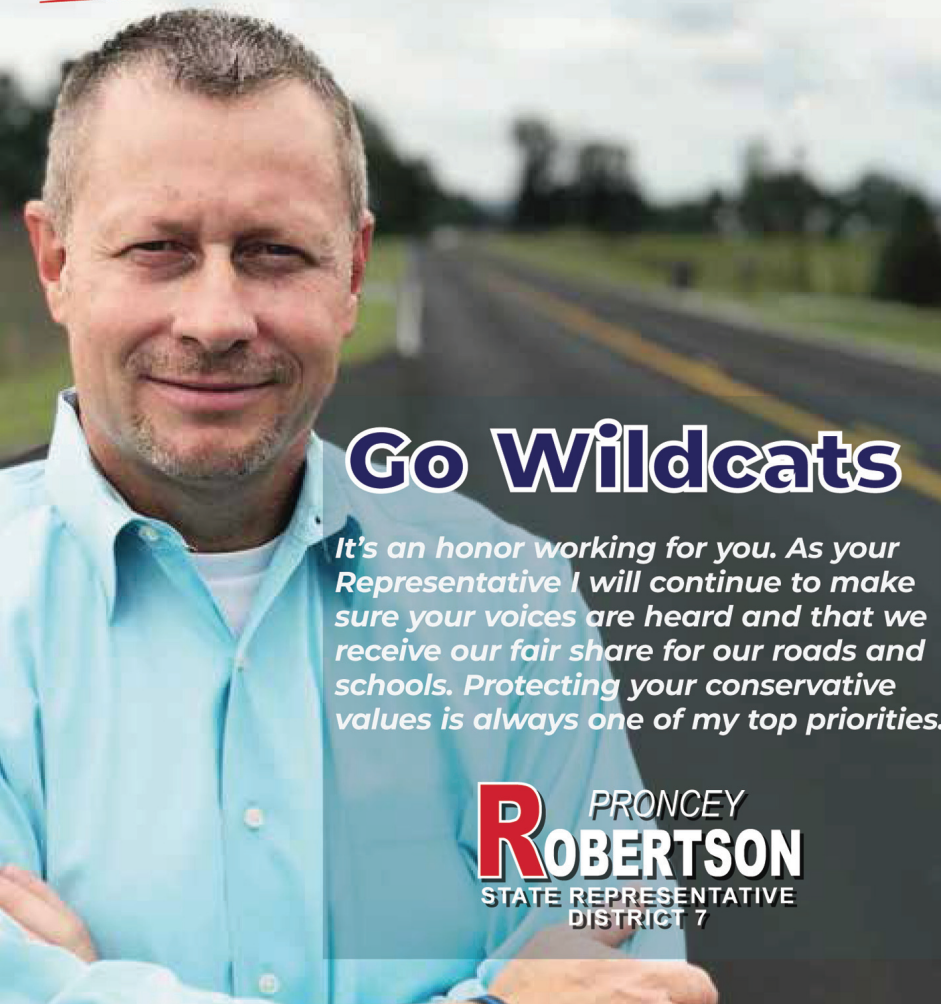
Record: 2-7 (0-6 in Class 2A, Region 7)

Points per game: 12.2

Points allowed per game: 47.8

*-Class 2A, Region 7 opponent

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Vina Red Devils

Head Coach: Ben Guin
(first season as head coach)

Record at Vina: N/A
Career Record: N/A

Assistant Coaches

Luke Childers
Terry Swinney
Talon Thomas

Positional Preview:

Quarterbacks

In his first season as the Red Devils' head coach, Guin (who served as offensive coordinator last year under Jason Harris) plans to use a two-quarterback system, with seniors Jackson Landers and Braden Moomaw splitting time under center.

Moomaw played a lot at quarterback in 2018 and will also see time at receiver this season. When he's not taking snaps, Landers will be taking hand-offs as a key member of Vina's backfield.

"With the situation we're in, we've got different sets we run, and whatever sets we're in will help determine who's playing quarterback for us," Guin said. "Both of those guys help us in the backfield or on the edge when they're not playing quarterback. The other positions they *can* play, moreso than how they're playing, will determine a lot of times who our quarterback is."

Running Backs

As a sophomore in 2017, Landers rushed for more than 300 yards in a 60-58 loss to Shoals Christian. He'll be joined in the backfield by juniors

Elijah Whitfield and Malik Fletcher and sophomore Malachi Fletcher.

"Jackson and Elijah both have a lot of experience for us," Guin said, "and Malik Fletcher also played some last year."

Wide Receivers

Moomaw will line up out wide when he's not under center. The Red Devils' receiving corps also includes senior River Steele, juniors Haze Weatherford and Glen Ashley, and sophomore Isaac Shelton.

Offensive Line

Seniors Nash Humphres and Shannon Upton are returning starters, as is junior Zach Davidson. That trio will be joined up front by sophomores Cayden Lawler, Tristen Martello and Diego Kelly.

Defensive Line

Humphres and Lawler will start on the interior of Vina's four-man front, with Martello providing depth at tackle. Ashley and Whitfield are slated to start at the defensive end spots. Scott Presley will provide depth on the D-line and at linebacker.

Linebackers

Upton and Davidson are fixtures at linebacker, and they'll be joined by Malik Fletcher. When the Red Devils go to a 4-4 scheme, either Landers or Moomaw will rotate down from safety to fill the fourth linebacker spot.

Defensive Backs

Landers and Moomaw are the starting safeties, with Weatherford and Malachi Fletcher at corner. Shelton will also see time in the secondary.

Vina's 2019 Schedule
(with record vs. opponent since 2000)

Date	Opponent	Record since 2000
8/23	at Marion Co.	0-1 (Vina 3-10 all-time)
8/30	vs. Brilliant	1-8 (lost 2 straight)
9/6	at Phillips*	2-17 (lost 14 straight)
9/13	vs. Cherokee*	0-7 (Vina 6-12 all-time)
9/20	vs. Phil Campbell	0-3 (last Vina W 1963)
9/27	OPEN	
10/4	at Mars Hill*	1-2 (forfeit W in 2016)
10/11	vs. Waterloo*	6-6 (lost 3 straight)
10/18	at Sh. Christian*	2-14 (lost 3 straight)
10/25	vs. Hackleburg*	1-16 (lost 15 straight)
11/1	at Tharptown	8-4 (lost 4 of last 5)

*-Class 1A, Region 8 opponent

2018 Schedule and Results

Week 0	vs. Marion Co.	L, 0-42
Week 1	at Brilliant	L, 9-34
Week 2	vs. Phillips*	L, 0-41
Week 3	at Cherokee*	L, 0-60
Week 4	at Phil Campbell	L, 2-47
Week 5	OPEN	
Week 6	vs. Mars Hill*	L, 0-69
Week 7	at Waterloo*	L, 0-48
Week 8	vs. Sh. Christian*	L, 18-32
Week 9	at Hackleburg*	L, 8-44
Week 10	vs. Tharptown	L, 0-10

Record: 0-10 (0-6 in Class 1A, Region 8)

Points per game: 3.7

Points allowed per game: 42.7

*-Class 1A, Region 8 opponent

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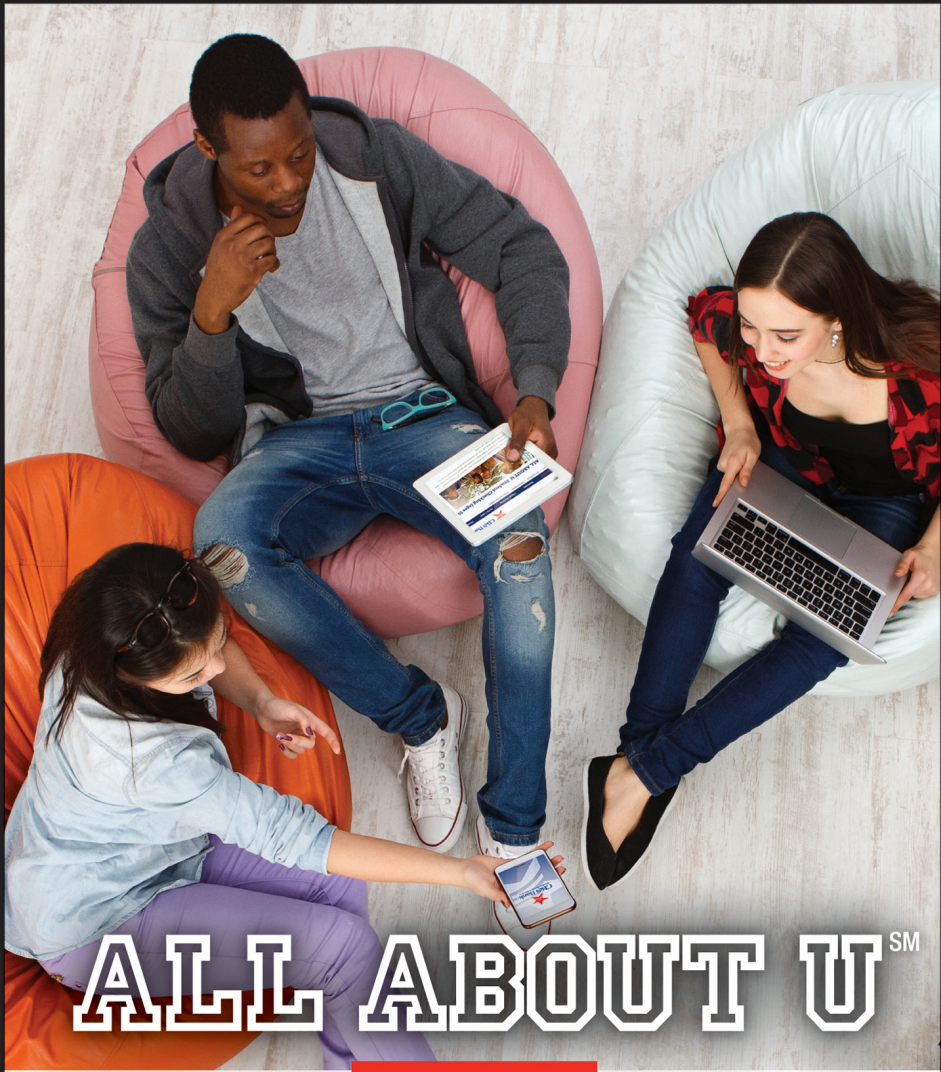
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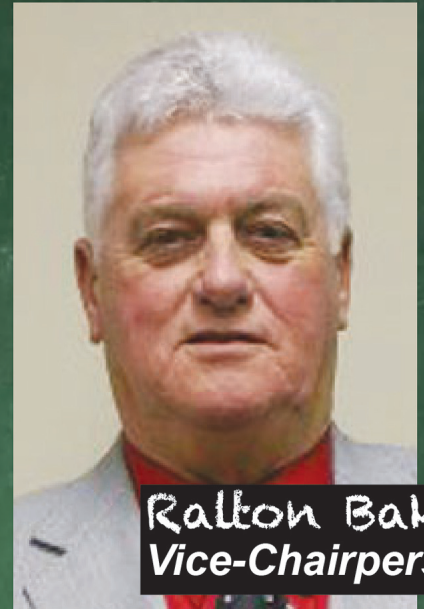
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Greg Hamilton
Superintendent



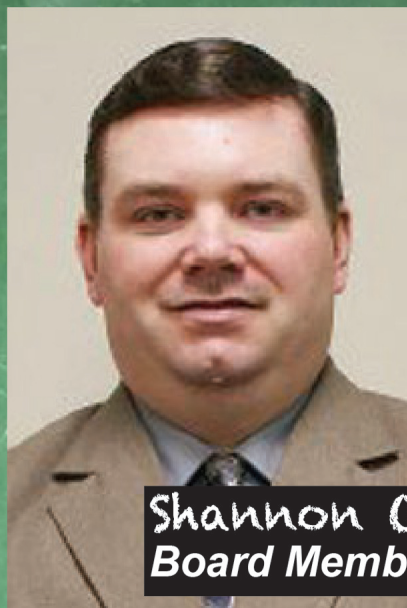
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2019-20 Important Dates

Sept. 2: Labor Day
Oct. 16: School 1/2 Day
Oct. 17&18: Fall Break
Nov. 11: Veterans Day
Nov. 25-29: Thanksgiving
Holidays

Dec. 20: School 1/2 Day
Dec. 20-Jan. 7 Christmas
Holiday
Jan. 6&7: Teacher
In-Service Workdays
Jan. 8: Students Return

Jan. 20: Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day
Feb 17: President's Day
Mar 30-Apr 3: Spring
Break
May 21-22: Graduations