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08.28.19

# Mays receives banking award

## Community Spirit VP named to first '40 Under 40' class

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Whether it's in her job at Community Spirit Bank or in her community, Emily Mays is a leader. So when the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) began a new awards program to recognize 40 community banking leaders under age 40 across the United States, Mays was a perfect fit.

Mays, Community Spirit Bank's vice president/senior marketing director, was named to the first annual 40 Under 40 class of 2019. The 40 men and women recognized this year demonstrate exceptional potential in leadership, innovation and community work.

See 'MAYS,' Page 11



COURTESY PHOTO

From left: Billy Bolton, Tammy Montgomery, Emily Mays and Brad Bolton with Community Spirit Bank.

# Hamilton: Capital project at Vina '80 percent' complete

## Work at THS moving slowly; 'phase one' beginning at Red Bay

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The new science lab/band hall at Vina High School is "80 percent" complete according to Franklin County superintendent of education Greg Hamilton.

Hamilton gave updates on several capital projects at the Franklin County Board of Education's August 20 meeting.

"We should see that project completed within three more weeks," Hamilton said. "The sidewalks have been poured, electric and lighting are almost complete."

At Tharptown High School, construction continues to

move slowly on the new cafeteria and classroom building. Hamilton said a foreman change on the storm shelter crew slowed progress recently.

"We're still a ways out," Hamilton said. "There are issues to address with humidity in the old cafeteria, and they've got to complete the punch list."

A punch list is a document prepared near the end of a construction project listing work not conforming to contract specifications that the general contractor must complete prior to final payment.

Hamilton reported that Franklin County Schools have an enrollment of 3,561 students two weeks into the new

See 'PROJECT,' Page 8



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**Patsy Ruth Freeman King**, Russellville, age 78

Died Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Ramsey Cemetery.

**Dexter Wade Marshall, Sr.**, Phil Campbell, age 64

Died Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Memorial service will be held Wednesday, August 28, 2019 from 5-7 p.m. at Heritage Fellowship on Highway 43 in Russellville. Akins Funeral Home assisted the family.

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# Fifteen local eateries earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

All but one of the 16 Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of August 12-16 had scores that fell 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.

Fifteen of the 16 Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

Jack's Restaurant, 13640 Hwy. 43, Russellville, scored an unsatisfactory 75. Violations included: Several flies seen on walls, tables and flying around restaurant; various chemicals stored over and with clean equipment/utensils and gloves; no chemical test papers and dipping marinade being held at 51 degrees in walk-in cooler; half and half at 48 degrees and eggs at 50 degrees.

The high score was 99, received by Vina High School Cafeteria, 8250 Cty. Road 23, Vina, and Phil Campbell Senior Center, 135 Sherry Brice Drive,

Phil Campbell.

Other inspection scores and violations of Franklin County businesses included:

- Vulcan Food Mart, 28485 Hwy. 24, Russellville, 88. (Burgers, chicken wraps and fajita wraps being held at 94-125 degrees).

- Tharptown Elementary and High School Cafeteria, 90. (Large boxes and crate stored in front of handsink, irreversible registering temperature indicator not working).

- Dollar General Market #13757, 212 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 91.

- Swamp John's Country Store, 5181 Hwy. 24, Red Bay, 92. (Dented cans).

- The Grind Cafe and Coffee Shop, 13760 Hwy. 43, Suite 1, Russellville, 93. (Lettuce, tomatoes and chicken salad out of temperature).

- Russellville High School, 1865 Waterloo Road, Russellville, 94. (Dish machine not reaching required temperature of 160 degrees to sanitize).

- Phil Campbell School Cafeteria, 55 School Ave., Phil Campbell, 94. (Salsa sitting out at 89 degrees, milk box holding milk at 47-53 degrees).

- Taco Bell, 15500 Hwy. 43 North, Russellville, 95. (No available soap at rear hand sink).

- Jack's #136, 521 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, 96.

- Red Bay High School Cafeteria, 800 Eighth St., Red Bay, 97.

- West Elementary School, 1340 Clay Ave., Russellville, 97.

- Russellville Elementary School, 133 Chucky Mullins Drive, Russellville, 98.

- Russellville Middle School, 765 Summit Dr., Russellville, 98.

Of the 17 inspections done in Colbert County from August 12-16, all received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 99 went to Trap House Nutrition, 605 Buena Vista Av., Muscle Shoals.

Health ratings are available at [www.foodscores.state.al.us](http://www.foodscores.state.al.us) and may be viewed by city or county.

# City school board approves personnel moves

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

At its first meeting since the new school year began, the Russellville City Board of Education approved a number of personnel moves on August 19.

Included among those hired were several Parks and Recreation Department employees, all of whom will work part-time. Personnel moves included:

- Resignation in Supplement: Marla Kerby, Russellville Middle School cheer coach; Gabe Willis, National Honor Society Sponsor.

- Employment in Supplement: Hannah Prince, RMS Cheer Coach; Katelyn Little, National Honor Society Sponsor.

- Employment in Position: Matthew Duncan, Quinetta Phillips, part-time certified workers for Parks and Recreation; Larry Freeman, part-time worker Parks and Recreation; Alexis Taylor and Jasmin Hamilton, part-time student workers for Parks and Recreation; Henrietta Woods, part-time worker, Parks and Recreation; Jessica Stanford Amick, RCS school nurse; Krista Sikes, part-time student worker Parks and Recreation.

- Voluntary Transfers: Annette Oliver from Parks and Recreation part-time worker to Parks and Recreation Department part-time Todd Centre Coordinator; Kayla Odom, from RMS teacher to Library Media Specialist at RMS; Heather Godwin from EL teacher at RES to RCS Instructional Coach for EL.

- Athletic Consultants: Matt Spurgeon to be a pro consult for the RHS junior varsity baseball team. Maximum payment shall not exceed \$600, to be paid by Baseball Booster Club.

- Volunteers: Kristy Gist for cross-country and Gabbie Moore for girls basketball.

In other action, the board:

- Approved facility use requests for RES gym on Sept. 24-26 for RHS cheerleaders to host a mini cheer clinic; RCS Board Room on Sept. 25 for the Alabama Rural Water Association to conduct a training session; and RHS gym on Sept. 28 for RHS basketball to host the Pilgrim's Relay for Life Basketball Tournament.

- Approved a contract with Bridges Behavior Therapy & Consulting for behavioral analytic services from August 1, 2019 through August 1, 2020.

- Approved a contract with Counseling, Evaluation and Consultation Services for Psychometric Services from Oct. 1, 2019 through Sept. 30, 2020.

- Approved a contract with Leslie Murphy Therapy Services for the 2019-20 school year.

- Approved a contract with Stepping Stone Pediatric Therapy for occupa-

tional therapy services from August 5, 2019 through July 31, 2020.

- Approved a contract with Riverbend Center for Mental Health for professional services from August 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

- Approved the following trip requests: RHS HOSA students to participate in State Leadership Activities Competition in Montgomery on Feb. 20-21, 2020; RMS and RHS students to participate in All-State Show Choir Festival in Birmingham from March 3-7.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Board of Education is set for September 12 at 8 a.m. There will be a budget meeting/work session on September 11 at 3:30 p.m.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Alabama Code Sections 32-13-1 through 32-13-8, the following motor vehicle will be sold for cash at 9:30 a.m. on September 14, 2019 at M & N Wrecker & Service Center, 11833 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, Al., 35653. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and the right to bid.

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# Honey Do: Allergy season

Just in the last few days, I have had several folks mention or express some form of allergy/cold symptoms. I've felt a little sore throat and congestion myself.

Of course, I'm sure you know that we are in the middle of allergy season in Alabama. It runs from March 1st to February 28th (February 29th in a leap year).

Humidity is one of the problems we face this time of year, especially with the heavy rainfall. You may notice excessive moisture condensing on doors and windows due to the high heat outside, cooler air inside and lots of moisture in the air.

This can cause a lot of problems if it goes on too long, like rotting wood frames and mold and mildew growth. Dust mites also love high humidity and can thrive in carpets and bedding. All of these contribute to sinus discomfort.

Dehumidifiers, dusting, vacuum-

ing and changing bedding regularly are all good lines of defense to combat these problems. Soon the temps will cool a bit and we can open up the house and let some fresh air in.

School starting back always brings more germs into the house as kids bring their "little friends" home with them. Keeping hands washed and backpacks wiped down with disinfectant will really help.

Next week, we'll look at some ideas to help keep down mold and mildew in some problem areas.

We sneeze when things bloom, and we sneeze when they die away, but I think we live in one of the most beautiful areas of our country. Enjoy it, and remember that help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green

## OUR HOUSE by Ree Shannon



Send your letters to the editor, guest columns, cartoon panels and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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## How your teen can save for college

So, your kids are in high school. Honestly, you're already crushing it as a parent, especially if you still have your sanity! Before you celebrate too hard, though, there's one more thing to think about—college.

If you're like most parents, the idea of paying for your kids' college gives you nightmares. Let's be real, we're in the middle of a pretty scary student loan crisis right now. But the truth is, it's not your job to fund your child's degree. You're there to help them out along the way, but they have skin in the game, too.

With that in mind, here are five things they can do while they're still in high school to help them save up and go to college without student loans (yep, it is possible). These steps shouldn't just happen during summer vacation, either. They can do this stuff all through the school year.

### •Avoid debt—no matter what.

Teach your high schooler that debt should never be an option—for anything!

**Your high schooler might be worried about getting into their dream school, but here's some real talk: Their only "dream school" should be the one they can go to debt-free. This might mean going to a public, in-state school instead of a private university, starting at community college and transferring later, or even checking out a two-year trade school.**

Encourage them to stay away from car payments (they can find a used car in their price range), teach them to use cash or a debit card instead of credit cards, and, most importantly, forget about taking out loans to pay for college!

Bonus tip: If their school offers a personal finance class, tell them to sign up!

### •Have a savings account.

Any extra money they have, after budgeting for monthly expenses like gas, clothes and maybe some fun every once in a while, should go straight into savings!

### •Work a part-time job.

If their schedule allows, working 20 hours per week can actually be healthy for high schoolers. Not only does it help them stack up cash for college, but it also preps them for the college or technical school search process by teaching them leadership and responsibility—plus, resume-building and interview skills. Colleges look at that stuff when they're considering students for merit-based scholarships.

### •Weigh all the options.

Your high schooler might be worried about getting into their dream school, but here's some real talk: Their only "dream school" should be the one they can go to debt-free. This might mean going to a public, in-state school instead of a private university, starting at community college and transferring later, or even checking out a two-year trade school. Make sure you guys talk through all the options together, so they know you have their backs when it comes to making smart choices.

### •Start applying for scholarships.

It's never too early to start applying for scholarships and grants, and they really can make a difference in being able to pay for school. Encourage your teen to apply for as many as possible during the school year. I always tell kids to spend at least one hour per day applying for



Anthony O'Neal





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by Dave Ramsey

**A key element in getting out of debt**

Dear Dave,  
I've got about \$3,000 in credit card debt. Would it be a good idea to transfer the balance from my credit card to another one that has a much lower interest rate?

Tammi

Dear Tammi,  
Lots of people who find themselves in your shoes make the switch to low-interest rate credit cards. A lower interest rate will help you save a little money in the short-term, but the drawback is it can also make you feel like you've addressed your problem with debt when you really haven't. You've got to change the behavior and the mindset that put you in that situation in the first place. Besides, most low-interest (or no-interest) credit card offers are only good for a short period of time. There's always a catch!  
I discovered long ago that personal finance is only about 20 percent head knowledge and 80 percent behavior. Emotion is a key element

to getting out of debt and staying out of debt. You've got to get really mad at debt and the impact it has on your financial life, and attack it with a vengeance.

Think about how many times debt has been a negative influence on your life. My guess is there were many occasions in the past when you could have done great stuff—I'm talking about meaningful, important things—if you hadn't had to send a bunch of money to those bozos at the credit card company every month. I want you to *really* think about it.

How about this? First, cut up your credit card and close the account. Then, sell some stuff and take a part-time job nights or weekends for just a little while. You could wipe out all your debt in less than a year by doing that *and* starting to live on a strict, written, monthly budget.

If you don't get mad about it and take a stand against debt *and* become determined you're never going to fall into that trap again, you're liable to find yourself back in the same situation or worse!

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.*

**'SAVE,' from page 4**

scholarships. Seriously, they could earn thousands of dollars in just part of the time they normally spend scrolling through Instagram! And if you have a high school senior, help them fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Stay up to date on any financial aid award letters they receive to make sure they're not being offered a loan—it can happen!

I know how overwhelming this whole process can be. That's why I wrote my new book, *Debt-Free Degree*. If you and your teen need more tips on getting through college without student loans, check it out. I walk you through a step-by-step plan for sending your kid to college without debt. You can do this!

At age 19, Anthony O'Neal was deep in debt and short on hope with no direction of where his life was headed. But after hitting rock bottom, he turned his life around and committed to helping students find and pursue their passions. Since 2003, Anthony has helped hundreds of thousands of students make smart decisions with their money, relationships and education to live a well-balanced life. He's the national bestselling author of *The Graduate Survival Guide: 5 Mistakes You Can't Afford to Make in College*, and he travels the country spreading his encouraging message to help teens and young adults start their lives off right. His latest book, *Debt Free Degree*, launches October 2019. You can follow Anthony on Youtube and Instagram @AnthonyONEal and online at [anthonyoneal.com](http://anthonyoneal.com) or [facebook.com/aoneal](https://facebook.com/aoneal).



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# What's Happening


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


 The Russellville Fire Department is selling T-shirts to raise money for breast cancer testing at Russellville Hospital for those who can't afford it and need it. Short-sleeve shirts are \$15, and long-sleeve shirts are \$20. Pre-order forms can be picked up at either Russellville fire station. Persons who turn in their money prior to September 13 will receive their T-shirt by October 1. Thanks for your support!


 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.


 First United Methodist Church will be giving away free groceries (while supplies last) this Thursday, August 29 at 2 p.m. at the corner of Madison and Washington behind FUMC. The church holds this grocery giveaway each time there is a fifth Thursday of the month. After this week, the next giveaway will be October 31.


 Come enjoy a singing with Marvin and Vernell Morrow this Sunday, September 1 at 11 a.m. at New Life Ministries Church, five miles west of Russellville on Hwy. 24, then right on 524. Everyone is welcome!


 St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church (5667 Hwy. 79, Phil Campbell, AL 35581) will host a Singing/Homecoming Service with the group Southern Image this 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.


 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.


 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.

 For anyone with the courage to be honest about life's hurts, habits and hang-ups, First United Methodist Church of Russellville will host **CR 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!

 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.

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

 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 with special guest Brandon Whyde 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.

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**O**n 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.

**T**he 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.

**T**he 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.

## Fight on!



### COURTESY PHOTO

The Russellville Fire Department is selling T-shirts to raise money for breast cancer testing at Russellville Hospital for those who can't afford it and need it. Short-sleeve shirts are \$15, and long-sleeve shirts are \$20. Pre-order forms can be picked up at either Russellville fire station. Persons who turn in their money prior to September 13 will receive their T-shirt by October 1. Thanks for your support!

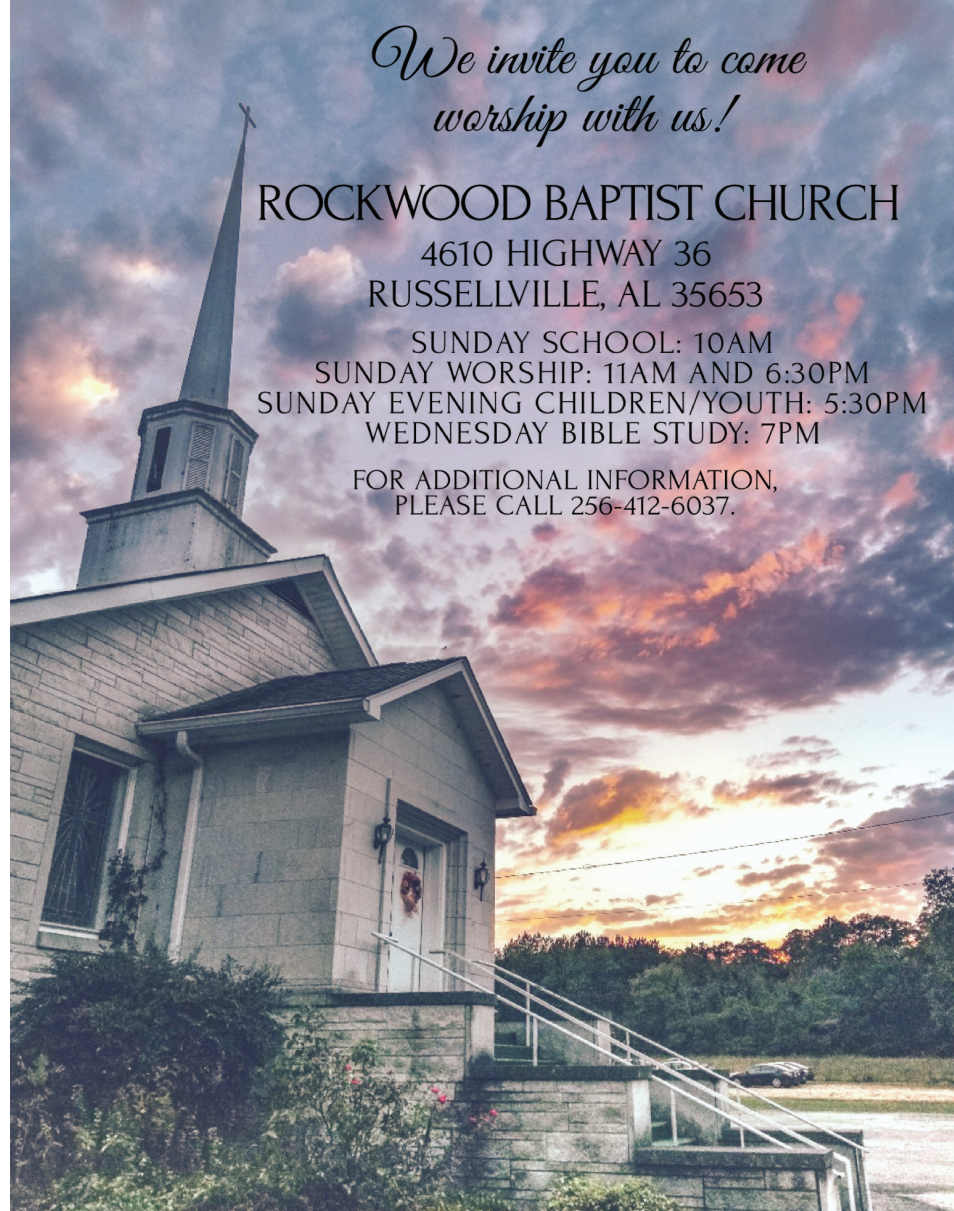
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# The Suites

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### 'PROJECT,' from page 1

school year, a number similar to where enrollment was at the end of the spring semester.

In what is described as Phase One of the new school construction at Red Bay High School, the board approved a bid by Butler Construction not to exceed \$1,885,000 for construction of a new agriculture and home economics building.

"When construction of the new school begins, the current ag and home economics building will have to be razed," Hamilton said. "We'll move these adjacent to the cafeteria. The campus will be more condensed, which addresses safety issues. We're calling this Phase One of the new 7-12 grade school at Red Bay."

The agriculture/home economics building is expected to be 1,100 square feet.

"We'll put students in the new building once it's done and then tear down the existing one," Hamilton said. "That way, we don't have to rely on portables."

The board approved the creation of two schools at Red Bay, K-6 and 7-12 grades, last spring. Hamilton said a need for a second campus accelerated an already existing need for a new school.

"Red Bay School is our most dated and most pressing need in the county, and it's our number one capital project priority," Hamilton said. "This is not a new problem. It's been ongoing, from water lines to wires coming out of the ceiling. It's the number one project on our capital plan. Tharptown is well underway, so now we're beginning at Red Bay."

In other action at last week's meeting, the board approved the following personnel moves:

•Resignation in Supplement: Holly Kuykendall, varsity cheer sponsor, Red Bay.

•Resignation: April Simpson, special education aide, Phil Campbell Elementary; Dwayne Petree, custodian, Tharptown High School, effective Sept. 30, 2019.

•Leave of Absence: Vicki Oliver, bus driver, 90 days FMLA.

•Employment: Haley Hand, English language learners aide for Franklin County Schools; Sara Beth Rhudy, elementary teacher, Tharptown; Charla Lucas, elementary teacher, Tharptown; Tony Sparks, comprehensive social science teacher, Red Bay; LaShanda Wingo, Kim Bankston, Jessica Holland, Angela Daily, special education aides, Franklin County Schools.

•Transfer: Amy Strickland, from Child Nutrition Program assistant at Red Bay to pre-K aide at Red Bay.

•Employment in Supplement: Jamie Lawler, head baseball coach at Red Bay; Brooklyn Clark, head softball coach at Tharptown; Emily Hester, varsity cheerleader coach, Red Bay.

•Volunteers: Sander Tverberg, volunteer assistant softball coach at Belgreen; and Laken Gilliland, volunteer assistant volleyball coach at Belgreen.

In other business, the board:

•Approved an out-of-state trip for Vina cross country girls to New Albany, MS, Sept. 5th and Pontotoc, MS, Oct. 12.

•Approved Psychometric Services contract with Eva Carol Sartain for IQ testing for the period of August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020.

•Approved speech and language service agreement for Clinical Fellow Mentorship with Meg Knight to provide 18 hours on site supervising.

•Approved the nomination of Terry Bolton to be considered for the Franklin County Board of Equalization.

The next regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of Education will be September 10, with work session at 5 p.m. and meeting at 5:15 p.m. There will be a budget hearing September 9 at 4 p.m.

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# Local employees join nine-state AT&T strike

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

A rainy Monday didn't deter about a dozen AT&T employees from gathering in front of the Russellville AT&T building to protest what they believe is a refusal from company officials to negotiate in good faith.

More than 20,000 AT&T employees across nine states went on strike August 24, including approximately 80 employees in the local union that includes Sheffield, Russellville and Florence.

The employees are set up at the intersection of North Jackson Avenue and Limestone Street, directly in front of the AT&T Russellville building.

The striking employees are members of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), which filed an unfair labor practice allegation against AT&T with the National Labor Relations Board.

According to local spokesman Justin Thompson, the strike will continue until AT&T management



More than 20,000 AT&T employees across nine states went on strike August 24.

demonstrates a "good faith" willingness to negotiate with the CWA.

"This is not over a demand for wages. We just want them to go to the bargaining table in good faith with us," Thompson said. "This will continue

until our district calls the strike off and gets some answers from management."

The 20,000 employees include wire line employees, many of whom work in AT&T call centers, as well as technicians and those who provide support for AT&T's residential and business service in nine states.

The strike began Saturday at AT&T locations in the Shoals as well as Russellville.

The company is negotiating contracts for its employees at AT&T Southeast, but union representatives say AT&T is sending negotiators who have no authority to speak for AT&T and can not make deals with the union.

"We want fair representation from the company at the bargaining table," Thompson said. "For three months now, nobody with authority to accept or deny proposals has been present, and that was enough."

Thompson said if AT&T will provide negotiators who actually have deal-making authority, the strike

See 'STRIKE,' page 10

# 'Tunes and Tees' FAME fundraiser coming up

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Each year, the annual "Tunes and Tees" Golf Tournament gets bigger and better. And that's a good thing for the tournament beneficiary, the FAME Girls Ranch.

The sixth annual tournament includes a special concert on Thursday, September 5, with Shenandoah's 30th Anniversary Tour featuring Marty Raybon. Tickets for the concert, to be held at the Shoals Conference Center at the Shoals Marriott, are \$160 and include a buffet meal. For tickets, call FAME Girls Ranch at 256-331-3813.

Shenandoah recorded nine studio albums and placed 26 singles on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart. After 17 years apart, Marty Raybon and Mike McGuire reunited to reignite a new chapter in the band's storied career.

Their first album in two decades, *Reloaded*, debuted in the Top 15 on the iTunes charts.

The annual golf tournament at Twin Pines Country Club is set for Friday, September 13. All proceeds from both events will go to support the Colbert County Sheriff's FAME Girls Ranch, one of four Boys and Girls Ranches of Alabama. FAME Girls Ranch is a non-profit charity that houses girls ages 6-18 who have been orphaned or have been removed from their families due to abuse, abandonment or neglect. The ranch's operating budget is primarily raised through corporate and private-sector donations, and the "Tunes and Tees" Golf Tournament is the main fundraiser each year, according to tournament coordinator Buzzy McKinney.

McKinney and his wife Emily started volunteering for the ranch eight years ago by cooking a meal each weekend and taking it to the Littleville location. "Through doing that we met some of the girls and really saw first-hand the

good work going on at FAME Ranch," McKinney said.

The tournament's presenting sponsors this year are Village Drugs in Muscle Shoals and the Long-Lewis Foundation.

This year's golf tournament will be a four-man scramble format, with an entry fee of \$100 per golfer. That fee includes golf cart, lunch, two Mulligans per golfer, a gift bag, bag of range balls and a FAME Girls Ranch T-shirt.

There will be two tee times, with shotgun start times at 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Morning registration begins at 7 a.m., with afternoon registration at 11 a.m.

There will be prizes, including an overnight stay at Renaissance Ross Bridge Resort in Birmingham, an overnight stay at the Marriott Shoals, a \$100 George's Steak Pit gift certificate for closest-to-the-pin and a \$100 gift certificate to 360 Grille for longest drive. Additionally, golfers will have an opportunity to win a new 2019 Ford Escape from Long-Lewis Ford for making an hole-in-one on the eighth hole.

McKinney said there will also be cash prizes for the top three teams in both the morning and afternoon flight.

"Last year we had 99 golfers. We expect that number to increase with the two tee times designed to accommodate more golfers this year," McKinney said. "We'll have some great door prizes, including footballs autographed by Nick Saban and Van Tiffin, a Van Tiffin-autographed copy of *The Kick* by Daniel Moore, and tickets to Alabama and Auburn football games."

For more information or to sign up for the golf tournament, call McKinney at 256-509-1111 or Howard Beall at Twin Pines at 256-332-4191.

"We have 25 mouths to feed at FAME three times a day, so you can imagine the cost," McKinney said. "Typically when the girls come to us, they have the clothes on their backs and nothing more. The 'Tunes and Tees' Golf Tournament is all about helping them and supporting this wonderful facility."

# Council plans to borrow money for street paving

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council authorized mayor David Grissom to take the necessary steps to borrow approximately \$820,000 for street paving inside the city limits.

The council took the action at its August 19 meeting. Grissom said revenue received from the gas tax increase approved earlier this year by the Alabama Legislature would be used to pay for the loan. The council also authorized the city clerk to open a separate bank account for gas tax funds expected to be received early next year.

The total amount to be borrowed is approximately \$1.3 million, which includes an additional

\$480,000 for construction of a new splash pad at a location to be determined.

"The splash pad is something we've talked about since 2008 when I was elected to the city council," Grissom said. "We haven't done it yet and had the opportunity with the interest rates being so low to do something kids in our city would enjoy."

In other moves, the council:

- Approved a paving proposal from Shoals Paving for road repairs in the amount of \$18,360, with a FEMA grant to cover 75 percent, the State of Alabama to cover 12.5 percent and the city to pay a 12.5 percent cost. The repairs include work on Benton Street in the amount of \$1,800.
- Authorized the purchase of an American Road Machinery ALC 25 25 CY leaf collector in the

amount of \$64,160.34 through the Sourcewell program. The cost will be paid through the Local Gas Tax Fund.

- Submitted the name of Rex Mayfield for the Franklin County Board of Equalization to the Alabama Department of Revenue.

- Agreed to remove five large trees on North Jackson Avenue between Cotaco and Oak Streets. Grissom said one tree fell recently and the city's insurance carrier (AMIC) recommended the trees be removed. The Russellville Electric Department will assist the Russellville Street Department with the removal of the trees.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council is set for September 3, with work session at 6 p.m. and meeting to follow.





# Classifieds

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Baby, toddler clothes,  
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ing, totes. Too much to  
mention!

Yard Sale this Friday  
and Saturday, August  
30-31, from 7 am-1 pm  
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Russellville, AL 35654.  
Clothes, furniture,  
household items, lots of  
misc.

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Aug. 30-31 and Sept. 1.  
7 a.m. 460 Second St.,  
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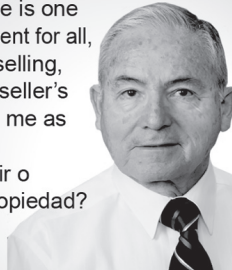
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Position: Helper (Full-Time)  
Responsible for: General labor to assist  
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assigned or required. Must have current  
Alabama Driver's License. Must be able  
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For 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  
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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 Russell-  
ville Gas Board by phone at (256) 332-2020  
or in person at 1296 Walnut Gate Rd,  
Russellville, AL 35654 (RGB Office). Appli-  
cations for this position will be accepted  
for until Friday 8/30/2019 at 3 PM.

**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  
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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.  
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the basis of race, color, national origin,  
sex, religion, age or disability in the  
employment or the provision of services.

**'STRIKE,' from page 9**  
  
will end.  
Marty Richter, an AT&T spokesman, made the  
following statement to the media in response to  
the strike:  
"A strike would be in no one's best interest,"  
Richter said. "We're baffled as to why union lead-  
ership would call one when we're offering terms  
that would help our employees—some of whom  
average from \$121,000 to \$134,000 in total com-  
pensation—be even better off.  
"We have offered the union terms that are con-  
sistent with what other CWA-represented employ-  
ees have approved in recent contract negotia-  
tions; the company has reached 20 fair agree-  
ments since 2017, covering more than 89,000  
employees. We're prepared for a strike, and in the  
event of a work stoppage we will continue working  
hard to serve our customers. This contract  
includes less than eight percent of our employ-  
ees."

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Tenant may satisfy their indebtedness prior to  
the time of sale.  
Will be able to inspect units and bid on those  
dates.  
All units have miscellaneous items, furniture  
and boxes.  
(159, 34, 35, 135) - Martin Isbell  
(81) - Tosha Hamilton  
(48) - Randal Vandiver  
(54) - Billy Streetman  
(101) - Marie Parker  
(102) - Stephanie McDonald  
(103) Derick Kerr  
(106) - Lisa Clark



# A win-win-win situation

By Dick Rowland

Senior Coordinator for 2020 Census, Franklin County

As a “newbie” in our Franklin County community (I have lived here less than two years), I am looking with a fresh perspective at our society. In doing so, I am often made painfully aware that I lack local experiences, so please cut me some slack as I share some impressions and observations. It is hoped you will find them both interesting and helpful.

Russellville and I first met in about 1958, when I came to visit my oldest daughter, Connie, who had moved here with her mother and step-father, Shirley and Bob Cleere. After that, I visited many times until I made this my home to be near much of my extended family. Compared to my first visit, the most notable difference is the large number of Latino residents now in Russellville as compared to virtually none before. Based on school and other records, it looks like 50 percent of the town population is Latino.

That is likely the highest in any city in Alabama, and it has largely occurred over the past 25 years. Most sociologists would predict that our city would be experiencing much cultural friction as a result of that transformation. But there is very little. Sure, there is some there, but it is largely superficial. Consequently, our people are not interacting with extreme care for fear of offending. Instead, there is a quiet natural openness and helpfulness on both sides without posturing or overreacting. Just normal human interaction, with a sometimes inconvenient language barrier to cope with.

Why? Both sides deserve credit. They have much in common:

- They worship God. Accordingly, they are humble, dedicated and grateful.
- They are focused on family, history and responsibility to heritage.
- They work hard.
- They want their children well schooled.
- They want to live the American Dream.

Yet, there is a divide between the two sides. It is obvious to the Latinos but almost totally unnoticed in the older community. It is revealed in little or no Latino membership in the social and business clubs, a lack of Latinos in elected or appointed government positions, in community activities, etc.

Why? Because the Latinos are reluctant to appear unduly aggressive or “pushy.” As for the older community, most do not realize that a welcoming action is needed. There you have it. All you or I need to do is reach out to a worthy Latino, take their hand and give a friendly tug. The result will please us all: We will get more unity in our community. The Latinos will win, the older community will win, and that will make the whole community a winner. That’s an easy triple win. Go for it!

# Russellville grad makes Dean’s List at Belmont

Submitted to the FFP

NASHVILLE, TN — Maleia Gist of Russellville qualified for Belmont University’s Summer 2019 Dean’s List. Eligibility for the summer session is based on a minimum nine-hour course load over 10 weeks and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Belmont Provost Dr. Thomas Burns said, “This achievement indicates that these students have placed a high priority on their work at Belmont and have invested time and energy in their studies. It is our strong belief that consistent application in this manner will reap great benefits, which will equip them for a lifetime of learning and growing.”

About Belmont University

Ranked No. 6 in the Regional Universities South category and consistently named as a “Most Innovative” university by *U.S. News & World Report*, Belmont University is home to nearly 8,500 students who come from every state and more than 36 countries. Committed to being a leader among teaching universities, Belmont brings together the best of liberal arts and professional education in a Christian community of learning and service. The University’s purpose is to help students explore their passions and develop their talents to meet the world’s needs. With more than 95 areas of undergraduate study, more than 25 master’s programs and five doctoral degrees, there is no limit to the ways Belmont University can expand an individual’s horizon.

For more information, visit [www.belmont.edu](http://www.belmont.edu).



Maleia Gist

# ‘MAYS,’ from page 1

Mays was featured in a recent edition of *Independent Banker* magazine as part of the inaugural class. The ICBA is dedicated to representing the interests of the community banking industry and its membership through effective advocacy, education and high-quality products and services.

“On behalf of the officers, directors and employees of Community Spirit Bank, we congratulate Emily Mays on this very high honor,” said CSB president/CEO Brad Bolton. “Being recognized as one of 40 community bankers from across the country is a testament to Emily’s work ethic, character and dedication to our bank, our communities and community banking in general.”

**“Being recognized as one of 40 community bankers from across the country is a testament to Emily’s work ethic, character and dedication to our bank, our communities and community banking in general,” Bolton said.**

“We are thankful to have Emily playing an integral role in the success of our bank and our customers.”

Mays began with CSB in 2013. She helped establish CSB with a large social media footprint, and Mays is active in communicating banking industry messages to state and national leaders. Mays has been instrumental in establishing CSB branches in two local schools as part of the bank’s financial literacy initiative.

She is a writer who contributes a financial literacy column to a local publication. And Mays is serving as president of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors and is an active volunteer with the American Cancer Society.

Matt Kusilek, publisher of *Independent Banker*, said Mays should give Franklin County residents a sense of pride for their community through her dedication to CSB and Franklin County.

“This group of young professionals should give all of us a sense of pride and optimism as we look to the future of America’s community banks,” Kusilek said. “This industry sees the value of the energy and ideas of people like our emerging leaders, who believe in the importance of the community banking model. We’re really pleased to be able to highlight their accomplishments so far and look forward to what they’ll do next.”

You can follow Mays on Facebook by searching “Emily Oliver Mays” and on Twitter @Em\_Mays2.



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## Week 1 in the SEC

Each week in this space, we'll give you a preview and prediction on the four most intriguing matchups involving SEC teams. This Saturday offers a relatively light Week 1 slate, but, hey, college football is back. That's what counts.



Mike Self  
Sports Editor

### Ole Miss at Memphis (-6.5) - 11:00 on ABC

Change is in the air at Ole Miss, where there are new coordinators (Rich Rodriguez and Mike MacIntyre) and new schemes (run-oriented spread, 3-4 front) on both sides of the ball under head coach Matt Luke. The Rebels' four-year run of leading the SEC in passing offense will almost certainly end in 2019, but new quarterback Matt Corral and senior back Scottie Phillips could thrive in Rich-Rod's system. It remains to be seen if the Rebels' two-year run of finishing last in the league in total defense will end. A prolific Memphis attack led by 3,000-yard passer Brady White, 1,000-yard rusher Patrick Taylor, Jr., 1,000-yard receiver Damonte Coxie and All-Name tight end Joey Magnifico will provide a stern test right out of the gate.

### The Pick: Memphis 38 Ole Miss 31 Duke vs. Alabama (-34.5) - 2:30 on ABC

It's at a neutral site (Atlanta), and it has a name (the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Classic), but this is hardly your typical marquee season opener for the Tide. Alabama has two Heisman contenders (Tua Tagovailoa and Jerry Jeudy) on offense, a bunch of other future pros on both sides of the ball and plenty of motivation after last year's face-plant in the national title game. Duke is two games removed from losing to Wake Forest 59-7.

### The Pick: Alabama 54 Duke 13 Georgia (-20.5) at Vanderbilt - 6:30 on SECN

You might look at Vanderbilt's solid collection of skill talent on offense [tailback Ke'Shawn Vaughn, receiver Kalijah Lipscomb and tight end Jared Pinkney are second-team preseason All-SEC selections] and start to get excited about the first conference game of the year. But then you remember that Georgia has the best O-line in the country and a stable of thoroughbreds—led by 1,000-yard rusher D'Andre Swift—in the backfield, and that Vandy allowed 5.5 yards per carry to SEC opponents last season, and you start to realize this might be a mismatch after all.

### The Pick: Georgia 44 Vanderbilt 17 Oregon vs. Auburn (-3) - 6:30 on ABC

The marquee non-conference showdown of Week 1 features a heavyweight battle in the trenches. Oregon's O-line boasts four seniors, two All-Americans and 132 combined starts. Auburn's D-line, led by the trio of Derrick Brown, Marlon Davidson and Nick Coe (combined 28.5 tackles for loss and 15 sacks last season) is widely regarded as the best in the country.

It will be fascinating to see how true freshman quarterback Bo Nix performs under the bright lights of AT&T Stadium—particularly since his counterpart, Oregon senior Justin Herbert, is a candidate to be the top pick in next April's draft.

### The Pick: Auburn 27 Oregon 24

# Passing Fancy



PHOTO/KYLE GLASGOW  
Vinson (10) looked sharp running Red Bay's new offense, throwing for 218 yards and two scores while also rushing for 56 yards.

## More diverse on offense (and as stingy as ever on defense), Red Bay rolled to a season-opening rout of Colbert Heights

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

TUSCUMBIA - Soaking in the post-game revelry near the visitor's sideline at Amos Mitchell Stadium last Friday night, Red Bay junior Mason Holt spoke for his fellow receivers as he reflected on the Tigers' new, more pass-oriented offense.

"I love it," said Holt, who set a new career-high with 81 yards on four catches in Red Bay's eye-opening 36-0 rout of Colbert Heights. "I finally get my chance to shine."

Holt wasn't the only Red Bay receiver to sparkle on Friday. Newcomer Arden Hamilton, a 6'2 senior who didn't play football last season, immediately made his presence felt by hauling in a 74-yard touchdown strike from junior quarterback Jalen

Vinson midway through the second quarter. On the Tigers' very next possession, Hamilton made a leaping, juggling grab in the end zone on a fade route from Vinson to extend Red Bay's lead to 20-0 with 1:41 left in the first half. [Holt caught the two-point conversion pass to make it 22-0.]

"We have three good weapons there [at receiver] that we've had all summer, and we want to use those guys," Jackson said. "You see those guys can make outstanding catches, and they've been doing that everyday in practice, too. We've gotta give them their shots."

Versatile senior Colyn Humphres, who typically splits his time between the slot and the backfield, also had a big night, catching four passes for 47



# Rivalry renewed: Russellville set to open 28th straight season with Deshler game

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

Russellville coach John Ritter hopes that no one associated with the Golden Tiger program puts too much stock in Deshler's season-opening 42-3 loss at Muscle Shoals last Thursday.

He certainly isn't.

"They've got a young football team," Ritter said of the Tigers, who will welcome Russellville to Howard Chappell Stadium in Tusculumbia on Friday night for the 93rd installment of perhaps the most tradition-rich rivalry in northwest Alabama. "They're kind of in the same position we were in last year at this same time, putting in completely new offensive and defensive philosophies. But I know two things: One, Randall Martin [now in his first season as Deshler's head coach after spending six years as the head coach at Rogers High School and one as an assistant at Arab] does a phenomenal job. And two, those guys will be ready to play."

Ritter, whose first game at Russellville was a thrilling 40-34 double-overtime win over the Tigers last August, has seen how things look from the other side, too. He was on staff at Deshler in 2014 when the Tigers bounced back from a season-opening 36-12 loss at RHS to win 13 straight games and advance all the way to the Class 4A state finals.

"Being on both sides of this type of game, I can tell you the records don't matter," Ritter said. "Predictions don't matter. None of that matters. The Deshler-Russellville game is gonna be a war. Anybody who thinks it won't be...I don't think they're from this area."

"When Russellville plays Deshler, it's gonna be a hard-hitting, slobber-knocker type of game. That's what we're preparing for, and that's what we're expecting."

While the Tigers were struggling to get anything going [they managed just 26 total yards and two first downs in the first half] last Thursday in their regular-season opener against the Class 6A No. 3 Trojans, Russellville was tuning up for Week 1 with a preseason game at East Limestone. The

Golden Tigers fell behind 14-0 before turning things around with a solid second quarter from the varsity starters and then dominating the second-half jayvee action on their way to rallying for a 20-14 win.

**"Being on both sides of this type of game, I can tell you the records don't matter," Ritter said. "Predictions don't matter. None of that matters. The Deshler-Russellville game is gonna be a war. Anybody who thinks it won't be...I don't think they're from this area. When Russellville plays Deshler, it's gonna be a hard-hitting, slobber-knocker type of game. That's what we're preparing for, and that's what we're expecting."**

"We made some typical first-game mistakes—which was a hundred percent expected—on both sides of the ball," said Ritter, whose team gained just three total yards on the first quarter before putting up 110 yards in quarter number two. "We played hard though. We got down 14-0, but we kept fighting and gave ourselves a chance to tie the game up before halftime. [The Indians took a 14-7 lead into the locker room.] That was a positive end to the varsity half. We were very pleased with the effort on both sides of the ball."

Senior quarterback Jacob Bishop overcame a shaky start to throw for 49 yards on 3-for-10 passing. All three of those completions went to junior receiver Cole Barnett, including a nice back-shoulder connection on a deep shot down the right sideline late in the first half for a 28-yard touchdown.

Russellville got its running game on track in the second quarter behind sophomore Boots McCulloch (who finished the first half with 37 yards on seven carries) and senior Austin Ashley (26 yards on four carries). Bishop, who ran wild in the spring game against Shelby County with 131 yards on just four attempts, rushed for 14 yards on five carries against East Limestone.

Junior tailback Caleb Matthews provided a spark in the second half, rushing for 45 yards and a touchdown in junior varsity action.

Ritter spoke highly of his team's depth throughout the summer and fall camp, and the effects of that depth became more and more apparent as

last Thursday's game progressed.

"I think it showed up in the first half," Ritter said. "Late in the second quarter, [the Indians] were sucking wind, and we were fresh on both sides of the ball. They tried to slow down the pace of play, but even with that I thought we might wear them down. It just goes back to us playing a bunch of kids. We played 16 on offense and 18 on defense, so that's 34 kids who just played offense or defense. Plus we had another ten that just played special teams. We played over 40 kids in the first half. Then in the second half it was the same thing. We played 15 or 16 jayvee guys on offense and another 15 or 16 on defense, while they're rolling out 14 guys that are playing all 22 spots."

"I thought it was a great representation of the depth we have on both sides of the ball. That's a credit to our kids for being coachable. Like we've said before, we coach them all the same. That was a great representation of that. We looked really good in that jayvee half."

Ritter and Martin (whose last two teams at Rogers, in 2016 and 2017, went 23-2) have been friends for years, going back to 2007 when Ritter was in school at the University of Alabama and Martin would head down to Tuscaloosa on football Saturdays in the fall.

"I was at Alabama, and Randall would come down for games," Ritter said. "He was really good friends with one of my friends, and we became friends, too. Coaching in this area, we've always stayed in touch. Randall is a guy I've talked to weekly for the last three or four years."

Martin has moved the Tigers back to their traditional Wing-T system on offense, a drastic departure from the spread offense they had run the past two years under former head coach Bo Culver. [After leading Deshler to the Class 4A state title game last season, Culver left to become the head coach at Hartselle.] Defensively, Deshler is running a 3-4 scheme very similar to the one Russellville runs under coordinator Chris Balentine.

"They know what we do really well, and we know what they do really well," Ritter said. "Chris has been kind of a mentor to Randall, and he's had a big influence on Randall's defensive philosophy the last few years."

As far as the Golden Tiger defense is concerned, Ritter said that discipline and consistency will be critical against the Wing-T on Friday night in Tusculumbia.

"Defensively, we have to read our keys," Ritter said. "Against the Wing-T, we have to do what we're supposed to do at a high level every snap. There's a lot of misdirection, a lot of smoke and mirrors, and if we get caught trying to find the football instead of doing what we're supposed to do, they'll slip by us and we won't even know who has the ball, or they'll throw the wide one on us."

"We have to consistently do our job and read our keys. Whether that's reading the guard, reading the tight end, reading the wing-backs or whatever—we have to do it every snap."

Offensively, the Golden Tigers are bound to look very different from a year ago, when they averaged 292.6 rushing yards per game and 8.2 yards per carry behind 2,000-yard rusher Zaye Boyd and fleet-footed quarterback Lucas McNutt. Both graduated in May, along with big-play receiver



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

From left, seniors Bishop, Hollimon, Hubbard and Francisco will all play key roles for Russellville in Friday night's season opener at Deshler.





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**'RIVALRY,' from page 14**

Devin Buckhalter, meaning that Russellville must replace three major home-run threats from last season who combined to score 55 touchdowns—30 of which covered at least 30 yards.

"We got spoiled last year," Ritter said on Sunday evening. "At any given point, we had three guys on the field who could score from anywhere, and our other guys were able to make plays because everybody was so honed in on Lucas and Zaye and Devin. This year, we're gonna have to be more patient. The big plays are gonna come, because we have some talented kids on offense. But they're inexperienced at this point.

"We'll have to be satisfied with getting four yards and having a twelve-play drive instead of going for the home run every time, which I feel like we tried to do Thursday night. Early on, I thought we were pressing to make big plays, and that was a huge factor in us not being successful. Those last two drives [of the first half], we kind of forgot about making big plays and just started executing better. We went on a twelve-play drive and scored, and we got the ball from our own four-yard line to the 50 and punted—which I would consider a successful drive."

The Golden Tigers averaged right around a dozen pass attempts per game last season, but that number may rise significantly in 2019.

"Obviously, as you could tell Thursday night, we're gonna throw the ball more than we did," Ritter said. "We threw the ball ten times in the first half. We have to throw it well, and we have to catch it. We have to execute in everything we do. We'll talk a lot this week about staying on schedule on offense. We can't be in second-and-15 and third-and-12. We've gotta be in second-and-seven and third-and-five for us to be successful on offense.

"It's very similar to what we always talk about. It starts with controlling the line of scrimmage."

Last year's opening win over Deshler propelled the Golden Tigers to a 7-0 start and a 9-1 regular season, and Ritter is hopeful to see something similar happen this season.

"That was kind of the whole theme of last year—changing the culture to what we wanted it to be, to my idea of what the culture should be. The Deshler game definitely helped jump-start that."

"Win, lose or draw, you want to play good," he said. "If you play good, it's gonna give you every opportunity to win. Beating Deshler last year did give our guys a lot of confidence, which was something we needed early on coming off a 3-7 season and going through a coaching change and a philosophy change. That was kind of the whole theme of last year—changing the culture to what we wanted it to be, to my idea of what the culture should be. The Deshler game definitely helped jump-start that.

"We're hoping the same thing will happen this year. Getting off to a good start against Deshler would give us confidence, just by being 1-0 and by beating a program that's the number three winningest program in the state of Alabama."



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Bishop (9) and Ashley (7) are two playmakers for a reloading Russellville offense looking to replace a lot of big-play ability from a year ago. After gaining only three total yards in the first quarter of last week's preseason game at East Limestone, the Golden Tigers put up 110 yards in the second quarter and rallied from a 14-0 deficit to claim a 20-14 win.

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# 'PASSING,' from page 13

yards and rushing for a pair of touchdowns. "This is the best receiving corps we've ever had," said Holt, who got his feet wet at the varsity level with 11 catches for 173 yards as a sophomore in 2018. "We have weapons on both sides and a great slot receiver."

That assortment of talented pass-catchers and playmakers was a driving force behind veteran coach (and noted run-game enthusiast) Michael Jackson's decision to open up the offense this year. The Tigers (1-0) attempted 15 passes last Friday night, more than they threw in any game last year with the exception of a 39-12 loss to Addison in which they were forced to play catch-up all night.

Under Jackson, who is now 43-14 at the outset of his sixth season at Red Bay, the Tigers have typically only thrown the ball when they've had to; on Friday night they threw it because they wanted to—and who could blame them?

"We have three good weapons there [at receiver] that we've had all summer, and we want to use those guys," said Jackson, whose team attempted seven or fewer passes in nine of 12 games a year ago and ran the football last season on a whopping 86 percent of its offensive snaps. "Sometimes it doesn't look good. It doesn't look pretty when we drop a ball or something like that. But you see those guys can make outstanding catches, and they've been doing that everyday in practice, too. We've gotta give them their shots."

Ironically, Red Bay's most dangerous receiver from last season is no longer playing the position. That would be the 6'2, 175-pound Vinson, who made his first varsity start at quarterback last Friday night after taking the reins from now-departed three-year starter Kolby Bragwell. Vinson, a dynamic athlete with 4.5 speed in the 40, demonstrated plenty of arm talent on Friday as well, throwing for 218 yards and two scores on 10-

for-15 passing. [He also broke loose for runs of 10, 16, 13 and 19 yards, finishing with 56 rushing yards on nine carries.]

"He did great. He did exactly what I expected him to do," Holt said. "He's a really good quarterback."

Jackson has won 114 games in 17-plus seasons as a head coach largely on the strength of a run-first (and second...and third) philosophy, but he had no qualms this summer about putting a little more of the offensive burden on Vinson's right arm. Asked to evaluate his quarterback's debut performance on Friday, Jackson was effusive.

"Excellent. He did an excellent job," he said of Vinson, who bounced back from an early stretch of three straight incompletions to throw the two second-quarter touchdown passes to Hamilton and then went a perfect 4-for-4 in the second half for 76 yards. "But he's been doing that the whole time. He's a really smart kid. His dad [Jason Vinson, Red Bay's defensive line coach] played college football at UNA. Jalen's got a lot of skills. You can see, even when the pass protection breaks down, it's hard for anybody to catch him.

"We've got to keep getting better and better, but he did a good job tonight."

The Tigers spent the offseason livening up their offensive attack with run-pass options (RPOs), plays that can put an opposing defense in a real bind—provided the quarterback running those plays has the requisite athleticism and decision-making chops to thrive in such a system. Vinson certainly looked like a natural fit on Friday.

According to Jackson, the up-tick in pass attempts can largely be credited to Vinson's ability to diagnose what he sees on the other side of the ball and then take what the defense gives him.

"Half that time is, Jalen does a good job reading defenses," said Jackson, whose team rushed for 164 yards on 33 carries Friday and finished the



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Humphres caught four passes for 47 yards and also rushed for a pair of touchdowns.

night with 382 total yards on 48 plays. "Half of those plays are RPO plays, our run-pass options, and we're doing a really good job with those right now. The thing is, we've got to keep working our run game in our normal offense.

"When we want to run the ball, we go in Bone [the Tigers' heavy, short-yardage formation featuring 245-pound defensive end Logan Scott and 240-pound middle linebacker Cam McKinney in the backfield as lead blockers], and we can run it—ain't no doubt in my mind, against anybody. But in our regular offense, we've gotta keep working it, so we can get our run game to fit with our passing game."

You read that right. Jackson and the Tigers are working on their run game, trying to raise it to the level of their suddenly prolific passing attack. Strange times, indeed—but not on the other side of the ball, where Red Bay continues to hang its hat on stingy, physical defense. Veteran coordinator Jamie Purser's experienced unit recorded nine tackles for loss on Friday and largely contained Colbert Heights' Wing-T attack, limiting the Wildcats (0-1) to just 106 rushing yards on 44 carries.

"They did amazing...as you can see," said Holt, gesturing toward the stadium scoreboard and the zero on the home side.

A big play by the defense helped the Tigers get on the board first early in the opening quarter. With the Wildcats facing third-and-eight from their own 37, an errant toss from sophomore quarterback Andrew Tedford to junior wing-back Gage Pugh ended up on the turf. Pugh scooped up the loose ball only to have it dislodged again by a big hit from Red Bay rover Hunter Burks. Braden Parker, a 245-pound freshman tackle, recovered the fumble, setting up the Tigers at the Colbert Heights 19.

Just three plays later, following a 10-yard run by Vinson, senior tailback Colbie King scored from six yards out to give Red Bay a 6-0 lead with 6:23 left in the first quarter. The Tiger defense withstood a 12-play drive by the Wildcats midway through the first half, ultimately forcing a turnover on downs, and then the two touchdown connections between Vinson and Hamilton stretched the lead to 22-0.



PHOTO/KYLE GLASGOW

WALK THE LINE - Red Bay's big guys up front (from left, Kennedy, Blanton, Parker and Scott) helped the Tigers record their first shutout since 2015.



# 'PASSING', from page 16

Red Bay settled in defensively and dominated, holding Colbert Heights to just 3-for-13 on third/fourth down and limiting the Wildcats to only four first downs in the second half.

Scott recorded 2.5 sacks on the night, and McKinney led the way with 17 tackles. He, Burks and sophomore lineman Levi Blanton each had a tackle for loss. Parker had nine tackles and half a sack, and junior end Alex Kennedy was in on eight tackles. Junior linebacker Gavin Edgmon had seven stops.

"Our defensive coaches do a great job," said Jackson, whose team had not held an opponent scoreless since recording six shutouts in the 2015 season. "Coach Purser does a great job, and we've got some guys over there who have been playing a long time. We've got six three-year starters, and they're juniors. All those guys take a lot of pride in it.

"It's big when we can play the way we did tonight and keep them fresh on defense. Nobody played both ways at all, except for our backup running back situation. That enabled both sides to stay fresh the entire game. To come up here and beat a 3A playoff team 36-0, that's just outstanding."

The Tigers' depth and experience, which allows them to two-platoon and largely avoid playing anybody both ways, was a key factor last Friday night and could become even more critical as the season progresses.

"That helps tremendously," Holt said. "We get to rest and talk over things, and then get ready to go out and do what we do."

Having a shutdown defense to lean on is a luxury for Jackson as he continues to reshape Red Bay's offense into a more balanced and multiple attack.

"The way our defense is...we're a defensive team," Jackson said after Friday's win. "I feel good about our defense stacking up against anybody. Because of that, I can take a few chances and do some different things."

As it continues to develop, Red Bay's mix of vintage power football with the new RPO system could put the Tigers in the best position yet to make their first deep playoff run under Jackson.

"It's gonna help us tremendously," the coach said. "The teams in the state that we're gonna have to play against down the road who are really good, you can't hardly do anything against them if you're just doing one thing. They're too athletic, too strong. We got by with that a little bit last year by getting some fortunate breaks, but it's hard to beat really good teams unless you can open it up some and do a little bit of everything."

The Tigers' most impressive drive of the night started early in the third quarter after a 44-yard punt by Carson Shaw pinned them at the one-yard line. They proceeded to march 99 yards in nine plays (seven runs and two passes), extending the lead to 28-0 when Humphres capped the drive with a seven-yard touchdown run at the 5:18 mark.

Vinson was key on the drive, rushing for 19 yards on his only carry, hooking up with Holt for a 35-yard gain down the left sideline and then firing a slant to Humphres for a gain of 13 on the very next play. A nine-yard run by backup tailback Hunter King set up the final play of the drive, with Humphres running right behind McKinney and Scott on his way to pay dirt.

The drive started in Bone and ended in Bone,

with some crisp passing in between. As it continues to develop, that mix of vintage power football with the new RPO system could put the Tigers in the best position yet to make their first deep play-off run under Jackson.

"It's gonna help us tremendously," the coach said. "The teams in the state that we're gonna have to play against down the road who are really good, you can't hardly do anything against them if you're just doing one thing. They're too athletic, too strong. We got by with that a little bit last year by getting some fortunate breaks, but it's hard to beat really good teams unless you can open it up some and do a little bit of everything.

"The way I look at it is, I like the athletes I've got, and I've gotta use them. That's kind of the way we look at it. I want to put those guys in space when we can, and we've got a quarterback who can read it."

Next up for Red Bay is a date with county rival Phil Campbell, the first of four straight home games at Fred Bostick Memorial Stadium. Class 2A, Region 7 play opens the following week when Hatton comes to town, and then reigning region champ Addison will visit The Fred on September 13.

These Tigers certainly seem capable of winning the program's first region championship since 2015, but Holt was thinking even bigger after Friday's win when he was asked to assess his team's ceiling with the new offense now in place.

"We can win it all," Holt said. "We can win a state championship."



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Holt (9) set a new career-high with 81 yards on four receptions in last Friday's rout. He saved his post-game praise, however, for the play of his quarterback and his defense. Red Bay will look for its seventh straight regular-season win on Friday at home against Phil Campbell.



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## Russellville's Bohannon makes Presidential Honor Roll at UAB

Staff reports

Russellville High School alum Austin Bohannon was named to the Presidential Honor Roll at the University of Alabama at Birmingham for achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point average for 12 or more credit hours during the Spring Semester 2019.

Bohannon, a 2016 graduate of RHS, is a pre-med major at UAB, where he plays baseball for the Blazers. Bohannon, who was named MVP of the 2016 Class 5A state finals after throwing a two-hit shutout for the Golden Tigers in a 3-0 Game 2 win over Faith Academy, went on to play two seasons at Shelton State Community College. In 25 starts at Shelton (12 as a freshman, 13 as a sophomore), Bohannon went 8-7 with a 3.56 ERA and three complete games. He worked a total of 123.2 innings, allowing 116 hits, striking out 88 batters and walking 43. He earned an opportunity to continue his baseball career at the Division I level, signing with UAB in June of 2018.



Austin Bohannon

While maintaining his 4.0 GPA in the classroom, Bohannon put together his share of highlights this spring on the mound in his first season at UAB. The 6'4, 225-pound junior lefty made his debut for the Blazers on February 23, tossing a scoreless inning of relief in a 20-6 rout of Holy Cross. He picked up his first win in relief on March 2, allowing one hit and striking out one in 1.2 scoreless innings in an 11-8 victory over Radford.

Bohannon also pitched well on multiple occasions against opponents from the SEC. He retired all four batters he faced in a 15-9 loss at Ole Miss on March 8. On March 19 at Auburn, Bohannon entered the game in relief in the third inning and retired the first seven batters he faced before issuing a one-out walk in the fifth and then allowing a single to right field by Judd Ward, his former Russellville teammate. After the Blazers committed an error, Bohannon allowed another single and issued his second walk before coming out of the game. He wound up taking the loss in a 13-5 defeat.

Bohannon made his first-ever start at the Division I level on March 26 against Samford and was terrific, allowing just three hits and striking out five in four shutout innings. He ended up with a no-decision in a 9-0 win.

Bohannon got another starting assignment on May 7 at Auburn and went 3.1 innings, allowing two earned runs on three hits, taking a no-decision in a 6-4 win by the Blazers. For the season, Bohannon was 1-3 with a 6.51 ERA in 16 appearances, including four starts. He allowed 31 hits in 27.2 innings, striking out 15 and walking 15. UAB finished the year 27-29.

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### Jalen Vinson Junior QB, Red Bay

Red Bay's leading receiver a year ago, Vinson shined last Friday in his first game as the Tigers' starting quarterback. The 6'2, 175-pound speedster made big plays on the ground and through the air, rushing for 56 yards on nine carries while throwing for 218 yards and two touchdowns on 10-for-15 passing in a 36-0 rout of Colbert Heights. Vinson hooked up with senior receiver Arden Hamilton on a pair of second-quarter scoring plays, then went 4-for-4 in the second half for 76 yards. He also had four rushes of 10-plus yards on the night.



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**BEAT BAILEY IS BACK!** Submit your picks to us each week in one of two ways: Fill out the entry form on this page and mail it to us at 113 Washington Ave. NW, Russellville, AL 35653, or email your picks to us along with your name and number at [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com). **Picks sent in by mail for Week 1 must be postmarked by Friday, August 30, and picks submitted by email for Week 1 must be received by Saturday, August 31 at 10 a.m.** Each week, the contestant who correctly picks the most games will win a free T-shirt and the chance to pick in the grand-prize final-week contest. If multiple contestants correctly pick the same number of games in a given week, the tiebreaker score will be used to determine a winner. Contestants are only eligible to win the weekly contest once. No multiple winners allowed. Thanks for playing, and good luck!

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# Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 1: Aug. 31/Sept. 1 **Bailey's Pick** Your Pick

Ole Miss at Memphis	Memphis	
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	
Georgia at Vanderbilt	Georgia	
Oregon vs. Auburn	Auburn	
Missouri at Wyoming	Missouri	
Houston at Oklahoma	Oklahoma	

Tiebreaker Score: Oregon  Auburn

Your Name:

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*Amy Floyd, CRNP*

**Amy Floyd MSN ed., BSN, RN, CRNP is from Golden, MS.** She completed her post-master's in Family Nurse Practitioner in December of 2018 from **Herzing University in Birmingham, Alabama.** She is excited to be apart of the **Keller Family.**

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