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Grimes gives details on proposed RHS addition

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

RCS superintendent Heath Grimes released details of the proposed additions and alterations to Russellville High School at last week's State of the Schools Luncheon.

The luncheon, hosted by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, featured Grimes and Franklin County Schools superintendent Greg Hamilton both giving an update on their school systems, with information ranging from enrollment to report card grades for their
See 'ADDITION,' Page 3



Above is an architect's rendition of the new Russellville High School addition planned for next year. The addition would span from the front of the existing cafeteria all the way to the front of the library. The new addition would cover both existing buildings in their entirety. There are two possible addition sizes being considered.

Sunset review of BCDA focuses on TVA checks

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The question of three Tennessee Valley Authority checks made payable to the Bear Creek Development Authority but deposited into a trust established by the former BCDA chairperson consumed the lion's share of time during the recent Sunset Committee review of BCDA.

BCDA board members, along with manager Shannon McKinney and board attorney Jeff Bowling, spent more than an hour meeting with members of the legislative committee as the result of former Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow's request that the agency be subjected to sunset

review.

The Sunset Committee reviews state agencies with the option of three recommendations: Continue without modification, continue with modification or termination. The committee operates under the authority of the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts.

As part of the sunset review process, an audit of BCDA was done and management, staff and board members were asked to respond to questionnaires. According to the Alabama Department of Public Examiners report, 11 of the 14 board members responded.

The report raised several "significant issues" relating to BCDA that were addressed by McKinney and Bowling

See 'SUNSET,' Page 9



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Barbara Weatherford Cashion, Red Bay, age 82
Died Thursday, September 12, 2019. Funeral held at First United Methodist Church in Red Bay. Interment in Red Bay City Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Ann Taylor Heatherly, Russellville, age 75
Died Thursday, September 12, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel.

RC Lane, Russellville, age 75
Died Wednesday, September 11, 2019. Funeral held at Akins Funeral Home. Interment in King Cemetery.

Nola Mae Weeks, Phil Campbell, age 67
Died Friday, September 13, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Haleyville. Interment in Phil Campbell Cemetery.

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RCS Board approves \$29.6 million budget

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education approved a \$29.6 million budget for fiscal year 2019-20 at the board's September 12 meeting.

According to RCS chief school financial officer Lisa Witt, that represents an increase from last year, largely due to an increase in state funds for the four percent across-the-board pay raise and two additional earned teaching units for the system.

The budget has \$29,126,794 in anticipated revenue and \$29,627,267 in anticipated expenses. The shortfall is made up in part by revenue from other fund sources and partially from the beginning fund balance, which is estimated to be approximately \$5.382 million at the end of this fiscal year.

That will leave the system with approximately \$4.9 million in ending fund balance as of September 30, 2020, which is well in excess of the one-month fund balance required by the State of Alabama to be maintained.

Local revenues are budgeted at \$7,957,861. That figure includes \$1.3 million appropriated from the City of Russellville, representing an increase of \$300,000 from last year, when the city appropriated \$1 million.

"We are very appreciative to the mayor [David Grissom] and the Russellville City Council for working with and supporting us," Witt said.

In 2018, Franklin County residents voted to extend the additional one-cent sales tax (75 percent to schools/25 percent to Franklin County Commission for road/bridge improvements) by 30 years.

"That is a more reliable revenue source now, and it allows us to think of it in terms of capital improvement or debt," Witt said.

Personnel, including salary and benefits, comprises approximately 70 percent of the system's budget. Russellville City Schools has 303 total staff this year. Enrollment is 2,487 students.

Next year's budget includes the Parks and Recreation Department for the first time, after the Russellville City Council and RCS Board of Education voted to transfer management and operation of the department to the school system earlier this summer. Witt said the Parks and Recreation portion was budgeted as neutral and could be amended as school officials learn more about the expenses and revenue in this first year.

New and increased funding sources this year include an increase in state English Language funding, from \$54,000 to \$182,000. Witt said this was due to the work of a new organization created by superintendent Heath Grimes and other superintendents with demographic similar to RCS.

The system now has more than 50 percent Hispanic students, at 53 percent, with 38 percent White, six percent Black and one percent each Native American, Asian and other.

"This funding allowed us to create a system-wide English Language specialist, another position and to purchase some EL written materials for our students," Witt said.

Russellville City Schools received a \$600,000 grant for Advancement and

Technology Funds, a lump sum received in the current fiscal year, but including money that can be carried over in the budget. The funds may be spent on maintenance, security, technology, transportation, etc.

"Every teacher in our system is getting a new computer, and we were able to pay our property insurance and school resource officers from these funds, which are usually paid from local funds," Witt said.

RCS officials are working with the City of Russellville to refinance the school's existing bond debt with a new bond appropriation of approximately \$10 million. These funds would be used for a new school building construction and a renovation and expansion of the Career Technical Center at Russellville High School.

Grimes said he was pleased with the budget and while he appreciated the city's increase of \$300,000 in its allotment to the school system, a majority of it goes back to the city to pay the bond debt.

"We pay approximately \$700,000 back to the city under the current bond issue," Grimes said. "If you go on the way the school system was funded in the past at the same percentage, the city's allotment would be \$1.8 million.

"While the \$1.3 million is gracious and we appreciate it, it's very much needed, and I think you can see why the school system gets so much from the city. To build buildings, it takes extra money."

While most of the September 12 meeting of the Russellville City Board of Education related to the 2019-20 budget, the board approved several personnel moves and facility use requests.

Personnel moves included:

- Temporary Employment: Jenny Wynn, 21st CCLC teacher; Christie Bostick, temporary employment to fill Carrie Mosteller's leave of absence from Dec. 17, 2019, through January 31, 2020.

- Resignation in Position: Paul Foster, part-time consultant, and Krista Sikes, part-time worker at Parks and Recreation Center.

- Employment in Position: Clinton Sikes, Parks and Recreation Department (part-time); Ciji Mosley, Parks and Recreation Department (part-time); Leticia Pascual Miguel, EL Aide; and Meridith Ginn, math teacher at Russellville Middle School.

- Volunteer; Jason Barnett for boys golf.

- Leave of Absence; Carrie Mosteller, RES teacher, from Dec. 17, 2019, through Jan. 31, 2020; Steve Bragwell, bus driver, leave of absence from Sept. 3-6, 2019; Substitute; Anita Mary Grimes, bus driver.

- A field trip request was approved for RHS students to travel to Italy next June and July. Request was made by Susan DeArman and Beth Gilmer.

- Facility Use Requests approved by the board included: RHS track and field facilities on Oct. 5, 2019, for the RCS Education Foundation to sponsor a 5K fundraiser; RHS football stadium and gym on May 1, 2010, for the Franklin County Chapter of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life event; West Elementary gym, on Oct. 16-17, for the RHS Auxiliary to hold Mini Tigerette Clinic fundraiser; and RHS fieldhouse and track on Oct. 26 for use by the RHS Book Lovers Study Club.

'ADDITION' from page 1

systems.

Grimes gave a PowerPoint presentation that included architect's renditions of a new addition at Russellville High School that would span from the front of the existing cafeteria all the way to the front of the library.

The new addition would cover both existing buildings in their entirety. There are two possible addition sizes being considered.

The base bid is for a 13,800-square-foot two-story building at a cost of \$5,800,000. There is an alternate bid to construct eight additional classrooms at the new building, bringing an additional 5,000 square feet at a cost of \$1,850,000.

Grimes said both proposals are being considered, as well as a hybrid combination of the two.

The project also includes renovation of the Career Technical Center and a new 8,000-square-foot-addition for vocational use at a cost of \$3,000,000.

Both projects are conditioned upon Russellville City Schools obtaining capital financing through a proposed joint bond debt with the City of Russellville.

As a municipal school system, RCS bond issues

must go through and be approved by the Russellville City Council. City officials are working with Joe Jolly & Company to shop the bond market for the best available financing package, with hopes of borrowing more than \$1 million for a major street paving and renovation project.

Russellville City Schools would partner with the City of Russellville on the joint bond issue, and the school system would be responsible for its part of any funds borrowed. Grimes said he expects the total project cost to be around \$10 million.

"Through a partnership on a bond issue with the City of Russellville, we hope to get these funds and begin this much-needed project soon," Grimes said. "We hope to break ground by August of 2020. That would likely be as soon as we could start on it."

When Franklin County residents voted in 2018 to extend the additional one-cent sales tax (75 percent to schools/25 percent to Franklin County Commission for road and bridge repairs) for a 30-year period, that allowed school officials to leverage those funds as collateral for capital improvement projects.

With an enrollment of 2,480 students,

Russellville City Schools continues to operate at what Grimes describes as a 'peak level' when it comes to space availability.

"At both West Elementary School and Russellville High School, we literally have nowhere else to put students, teachers or any other programs. We are beyond capacity," Grimes said.

Grimes said he and his board believe that an updated Russellville High School campus is important to both their students and the community.

"We are operating our high school with state-of-the-art computer, engineering and Robotics programs and doing it in a 1960s building," Grimes said. "We want to be innovative. Our career tech building was also constructed in 1960 and was the second career tech facility in the state.

"As with other top-tier school systems, we believe our physical facilities should match the excellence in our classrooms. And when they turn off Waterloo Road onto our campus, we want our parents, students, teachers and community to see something they can be very proud of and know we will continue to thrive with the investment made by the City of Russellville and our school system."

Honey Do: Clean walls

It's been so hot that we have kept our house shut up pretty tight to keep the cool air in. But soon we'll be able to open up the doors and air everything out once again. That usually leads to seasonal cleaning, especially with the holidays quickly approaching.

Here are a few tips to clean the cobwebs, scuff marks and just plain old dust that accumulate over time.

Start by preparing the space where you'll be working. Move furniture and other objects away from the walls, or cover them with drop cloths. Remove pictures, artwork, etc., and use pieces of painter's tape to mark where the nails or other hanging hardware are located. This will help you keep track of where the frames were located and protect your hands from accidentally coming into contact with sharp objects while cleaning.

Lay down canvas drop cloths and secure them with painter's tape to keep them from moving around. This will keep soapy, dirty water from dripping or running down the walls onto your floor. Avoid using plastic drop cloths, as they don't absorb water.

Use a duster and/or a damp cloth

to wipe dust and surface debris from the walls before cleaning with soap and water. You can also use your vacuum cleaner's extension wand to suck up dust and debris from hard-to-reach locations, corners and along the trim.

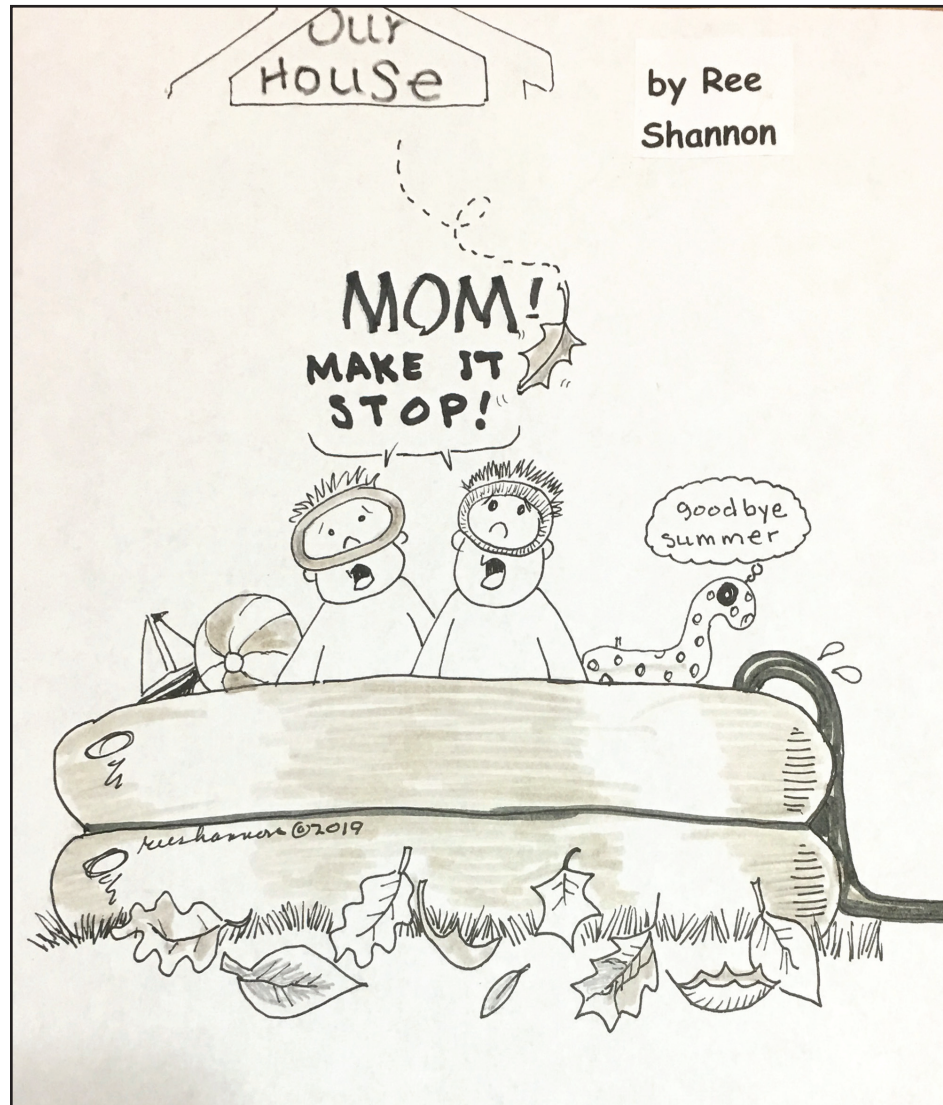


Doug Green

For heavily soiled surfaces or greasy residue, use a slightly stronger approach. Create a solution using a gallon of water and one cup each of ammonia, white vinegar and baking soda. You can also use trisodium phosphate (TSP) to remove tough, caked-on grease and other heavy soils. Just remember to spot-test how it might affect the finish, as it is fairly caustic. Mix TSP powder and water in a bucket, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

These tips should help whether you are cleaning or preparing for a new coat of paint.

Next week we'll look at completing the wash job and removing stains and blemishes. Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



by Ree Shannon

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by Dave Ramsey

The partnership is the problem

Dear Dave,
My two brothers-in-law and I have been thinking about going into business together as a side project in the real estate world. One of them is an architect and licensed general contractor, one has a successful painting business, and I'm a chief financial officer with a CPA background. Plus, I had a lot of construction experience as a young man. I know you're not a big fan of business partnerships, but how do you feel about a family business like this?

Dan

Dear Dan,
Going into business with family isn't my big concern here. I've said many times that partnerships are the only ships that won't sail, and I'm a firm believer in that philosophy.

I would encourage you guys to set up a situation where one of you is the owner, then figure out a plan where the other guys get paid off the bottom line—as if they were owners. Trust me, anything with three heads is going to end up being a monster at some point.
Here's the thing about family businesses. When

everyone understands their role and has the best interest of the company in mind, family businesses can be a lot more fun and more successful than non-family businesses. Statistics show the average family business lasts 60 years, while the average publicly traded company lasts about 15 years. So there's nothing inherently wrong with the family part of the equation. It's the partnership aspect I'd stay away from.

Dave

Renter's insurance?

Dear Dave,
We just helped move our son into a cheap, off-campus apartment a few blocks from where he is attending college. We signed the agreement and are paying the rent, because he makes very good grades. Do you think renter's insurance is a smart buy? It's less than \$12 a month, but the minimum coverage I can get is \$15,000, and he probably has less than \$1,000 worth of belongings there.

Kevin

Dear Kevin,
I'd get renter's insurance. I bet it also comes with five or six figures in personal liability coverage. That's in case he's out on the patio with his buddies, someone slips and falls, and they decide to sue because daddy's on the lease.

In a case like this, because there's so little to start with, it's not theft or fire taking the contents of the apartment that you're worried about. It's the liability portion of the coverage that makes it worth every penny of what you'd be paying. That alone makes it worth \$10 to \$12 a month just to make sure a mishap doesn't mess with your life!

Dave

Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at [@DaveRamsey](https://twitter.com/DaveRamsey).

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

From 1964-1967, I was stationed in England with the United States Air Force, and one day my sergeant, who lived off base, told me his English neighbor had an antique car for sale.

I found out it was a 1930 MG "M" type that had been stored in a barn with hay all around it and chickens roosting over it.

I was able to purchase the car, and we put some petrol in the tank, installed a battery and drove it up and down the road. The car started and ran but smoked very badly.

It had an 847-cc four-cylinder engine with an overhead cam. I had the engine rebuilt before having the car shipped to the United States. In 1967, it arrived in Mobile, Alabama, and my father took it to Russellville in the back of a pickup.

The car has a build date of July 15, 1930. It was originally registered on July 30, 1930, to someone at Cambridge University. The next owner was a fellow at a Royal Air Force base. We have documentation showing that I am the seventh owner.

My wife Alice and I have taken the car to many auto shows, one of the most notable ones in 1996 in Indianapolis. There were 1,250 MGs there, with mine being the oldest.

We got to drive the car one lap around the Indianapolis 500 Motor Speedway Racetrack, but we could not exceed 40 miles per hour. The car felt great at that speed.

In 2017, we took the car to Nova Scotia for an MG car show. We had the oldest car there by 17 years.

The M series was the first mass-produced car from the MG factory. In all, 3,204 cars were built there from 1929-1932. Most of them had fabric bodies, with only 273 having metal bodies like mine, which has an aluminum body. It also has a boat tail like an antique racing car.

For years in MG circles in the eastern and midwest parts of this country, I was known as the guy who hauled his car in the back of a pickup. We now have an enclosed trailer we use to tow it to car shows.

In 1973, I drove the car to Muscle Shoals to work one day—a 46-mile round trip. I made it safely and without any problems.

Today the car still starts and runs well, despite its age. It has been a pleasure to own it, and I have been blessed to meet so many people and make new friends because of it.

James L. Hester

(Editor's Note: James L. Hester is a Jonesboro resident. He retired from the Tennessee Valley Authority in 2003 after 31-and-a-half years.)



James and Alice Hester in their 1930 MG M-series antique car.

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Homecoming at Russellville High



The 2019 Homecoming Court: Monica Jasmin Acosta, Caroline Elizabeth Touchstone, Abby Brooke Montgomery, Ellie Akers, Krista Sikes, Ellyse Strickland, Alondra Delgado, Makala Kathryn O'Neal, Gracie Pounders, Madyson Grace King, Kaydee Don Holland, Yaneli Bahena-Garcia.

Monica Jasmin Acosta is the daughter of Erasmo Acosta and Marta Banos and Carlos Vidal. Monica participates in the National Honor Society, HOSA Club, ACT 30+ Club, Mu Alpha Theta and Spanish Club. She is also a HOSA state competitor. She is being escorted by Mario Cruz, Jr., son of Claudia Vidal and Mario Cruz.

Ellie Akers is the daughter of Robin and Julie Akers. Ellie is an active member of HOSA, Musical Theatre, National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. She is also CPCT-certified. She is being escorted by Dalton Steele, son of Bill and Michele Floyd.

Yaneli Bahena-Garcia is the daughter of Jorge and Angelica Bahena. Yaneli participates in FCCLA, CSU, Spanish Club, Cosmetology Club, SADD, National Honor Society and FBLA. She is also the vice president of the senior class, a Peer Helper, a Bilingual Peer Helper and a varsity cheerleader. She is being escorted by Andres Miguel Campos, son of Andres and Miguelina Campos.

Alondra Delgado is the daughter of Alfredo and Maria Delgado. She is a member of CSU, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and the ACT 30+ Club. She is also the VP of the American History and Government Honors Club. She is being escorted by Max Moussad, son of Rizk and Irene Moutagaly.

Kaydee Don Holland is the daughter of Mark and AnnaKay Holland. Kaydee serves as president of the RHS Student Council, president of FBLA and president of the Key Club. She participates in CSU, Mu Alpha Theta, HOSA, American History and Government Honors Club, Spanish Club, Science Club, Chemistry Club and Student Booster Club. She is the co-editor of the RHS Tiger Track Yearbook. She is the secretary of the Chemistry Club, FCCLA secretary, National Honor Society secretary and the treasurer for SADD. Kaydee is also captain of the varsity cheerleaders and a member of the varsity tennis team. She is being escorted by Levi Gist, son of Jason and Kristy Gist.

Madyson Grace King is the daughter of Heather King and the granddaughter of Jeff and Donna King. Madyson is a member of the ACT 28+ Club, Spanish Club, National Honor Society, Musical Theatre, RHS Acapella and a Tigerette. She is being escorted by Isaac Ibarra, son of Ismael and Patricia Ibarra.

Abby Brooke Montgomery is the daughter of Barry and Samantha Montgomery. Abby participates in CSU, Library Media Club, SADD, Student Booster Club, National Honor Society, FBLA and Acappella Jazz Ensemble. She is a member of the Musical Theatre, the Drama Department and Annual Staff. She is also the Tigerette Danceline captain. She is being escorted by Cam Bonn, son of Matt and Laura Bonn.

Makala Kathryn O'Neal is the daughter of John and Casie O'Neal. Makala is an active member of Spanish Club and the varsity basketball and softball teams. She is being escorted by Hunter Williams, son of Bridgette and Rodney Williams.

Gracie Pounders is the daughter of Jeff and Paula Pounders. Gracie participates in the Chemistry Club, Mu Alpha Theta, RCS Youth Leadership Academy and ACT +30 Club. Also, she is the treasurer of the senior class and co-president of the National Honor Society. She is being escorted by Eric Boutwell, son of Jason and Kelly Barnett and the late David Boutwell.

Krista Sikes is the daughter of Clint and Loretta Sikes. Krista is a member of National Honor Society and the Educators Rising Club. She is also a member of the varsity softball, varsity volleyball and varsity basketball teams. She is being escorted by Zack Willis, son of Nick and Heather Willis.

Ellyse Strickland is the daughter of Kevin and LeAnn Strickland. Ellyse participates in Mu Alpha Theta, CSU, Science Club, SADD, Student Booster Club and Spanish Club. She is also a senior class representative, vice president of Key Club, historian of the National Honor Society, co-editor of the RHS Tiger Track Yearbook, secretary of FBLA, chaplain of FCCLA, a varsity cheerleader and a member of the varsity tennis team. She is being escorted by Jax Greenhill, son of Shawn and Brandi Greenhill.

Caroline Elizabeth Touchstone is the daughter of Kevin and Lea Touchstone. Caroline is a member of the RCS Youth Leadership Academy, National Honor Society, ACT +30 Club, and serves as a senior class representative. She is also a varsity cheerleader and treasurer of the American History and Government Honors Club. She is being escorted by Cade Fretwell, son of Jeff and Elaine Fretwell.



Monica Jasmin Acosta,
escorted by Mario Cruz, Jr.



Ellie Akers,
escorted by Dalton Steele



Yaneli Bahena-Garcia,
escorted by Andres Miguel Campos



**Alondra Delgado,
escorted by Max Moussad**



**Kaydee Don Holland,
escorted by Levi Gist**



**Madyson Grace King,
escorted by Isaac Ibarra**



**Abby Brooke Montgomery,
escorted by Cam Bonn**



**Makala Kathryn O'Neal,
escorted by Hunter Williams**



**Gracie Pounders,
escorted by Eric Boutwell**



**Krista Sikes,
escorted by Zack Willis**



**Ellyse Strickland,
escorted by Jax Greenhill**



**Caroline Elizabeth Touchstone,
escorted by Cade Fretwell**

Report on BCDA lists seven 'significant issues'

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts addressed seven "significant issues" related to the operation of the Bear Creek Development Authority that were addressed at the recent Sunset Committee review of the agency.

BCDA manager Shannon McKinney, several BCDA Board of Directors and board attorney Jeff Bowling met with legislative committee August 22 as part of a review process initiated by former Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow.

The Sunset Committee, which operates under the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts, reviews state agencies with the option of three recommendations: Continue operations, continue operations with modifications or recommendation to terminate the agency.

The Sunset Committee has not issued its report for BCDA yet but is expected to do so by its final meeting of the year on October 17.

Bowling said committee member Rep. Howard Sanderford raised the question of whether the Sunset Committee guidelines apply to BCDA since it is a legislative-created body and there is no automatic Sunset review in the enabling BCDA legislation.

"We met with them about an hour," Bowling said. "They issued a preliminary report that we responded to prior to the hearing. It went well. and we cooperated through the entire process. I feel like it was a productive meeting and really think there is a jurisdictional question based on what was said."

In order listed in the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts report, the seven issues included:

- *The chairperson of the Bear Creek Development Authority deposited three checks that were issued to the Authority into a Trust Account that was not affiliated with the Authority.*

The check amounts were for \$10,000, \$2,500 and \$20,000 made payable to Bear Creek Development Authority in July of 2017.

McKinney's response to the issue was that BCDA employees discovered the issue within a couple of months of it happening, due to the fact that BCDA officials were expecting the checks for \$10,000 and \$2,500 for cost share

reimbursements.

McKinney said BCDA chairperson Tricia Montgomery told him the check was a gift for a trust she had established in the name of Bear Creek Education at Overton Farm Trust, Inc.

McKinney said that after he spoke with Montgomery, she wrote a check for \$12,500 on the trust account payable to BCDA. He said there have been several requests for income and expense reports on the trust but BCDA has not receive any response to those requests.

- *A permanent full-time employee of the Bear Creek Development Authority has an agreement with the Authority to clean cabins after hours, weekends and holidays.*

This agreement was approved by the BCDA Administrator in January of 2008. The employee, pursuant to the agreement, receives \$20 for a one-bedroom cabin and \$25 for a two-bedroom cabin. These payments totaled \$10,840 in fiscal year 2018 and \$9,150 as of July of 2019 for the current fiscal year.

The auditor's report stated the selection of who cleans the cabins should be part of the competitive bid process and "as a full-time employee of the Authority, the employee was not entitled to the additional compensation according to the Code of Alabama."

McKinney's response said multiple individuals each year are used to clean the cabins, and that he inquired of the Department of Public Examiners when the employee began cleaning the cabins and was told as long as the employee didn't clean during normal working hours it was permissible.

- *The Board of Directors did not hold meetings according to their bylaws.*

BCDA bylaws provide that regular meetings shall be held at noon on the second Friday of each month. Records show the board held 15 meetings during the period of October of 2014 through February of 2019.

McKinney responded that board meeting minutes show the initial Board of Directors voted to change the monthly meetings to quarterly in 1967 and failed to amend the bylaws to reflect the change.

The bylaws were updated to reflect the quarterly meeting changes at a 2019 board meeting, McKinney said.

- *The Board of Directors did not comply with procedural requirements of the Open Meetings Act for convening executive sessions.*

According to the report, the board convened five executive sessions during three board meetings. Prior to calling the executive sessions, the presiding officer at the meeting did not state whether the board would reconvene after the executive session and, if so, the approximate time the body would reconvene.

McKinney's response: "We will research the code sections pertaining to executive sessions and will make sure our board and attorney are aware of the issues presented."

- *Seven of the eleven Board of Directors responding to our questionnaire stated that the Authority is not adequately funded.*

BCDA's primary funding sources include recreation/camping permits and rental income from the cabins.

McKinney explained that the primary difference between BCDA and state parks is that BCDA doesn't receive any budgeted funding from the State of Alabama or TVA. Additionally, BCDA employs park rangers, but BCDA doesn't receive any income from fines for citations written by the rangers.

- *Seven of the eleven Board of Directors responding to our questionnaire responded that they do not believe the Authority is adequately staffed for maintaining the areas they cover.*

The Bear Creek area comprises approximately 946 square miles in four Alabama counties and one Mississippi county, with five campgrounds, 186 campsites and 11 lakeside cabins.

BCDA staff includes two full-time and one part-time office personnel, three full-time and one part-time maintenance employees, two seasonal park rangers, one seasonal contract employee to cut the grass and two contract employees to clean cabins.

McKinney agreed that BCDA could use additional employees but said the issue was directly tied to the underfunding issue, and that BCDA is maintaining its resources with the funding available.

- *The Authority has not submitted a contract for legal services to the Contract Review Permanent Oversight Committee for review.*

Bowling has served as the board's attorney since hired by the board in 2000, after he submitted the low bid at the time. The board approved a contract for legal services with Bowling at its September 12, 2019 meeting, which should remedy the issue.

McKinney stressed to the committee that previous Department of Examiners of Public Accounts audits of BCDA contained very few issues and that any issues, minor or otherwise, were corrected going forward.

"We humbly ask the honorable members of this committee to allow us to do the same this time," McKinney said in his response to the report.



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BCDA board votes to increase permits, rates

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

After some board members raised concerns that the Bear Creek Development Authority was underfunded, the board voted to increase BCDA permits and camping rates at the board's September 12 meeting.

Board attorney Jeff Bowling said the action was 'strongly urged' by the Legislative Sunset Committee that reviewed BCDA at a recent hearing.

"BCDA needs the public to know the recommendation came from the Legislative Sunset Committee," Bowling said.

Annual BCDA permits increased from \$25 to

\$30. Daily user permits went up from \$4 to \$6, and lifetime permits, which are 10 times the annual fee, will now be \$300.

Three-day permits remained the same at \$10.

Monthly camping permits at Elliott Branch, Slickrock and Williams Hollow increased from \$250 to \$275. At Horseshoe Bend, six sites will see an increase from \$200/month to \$230/month.

Cabin rentals will also see an increase, with one-bedrooms renting during peak season for \$100/night (up from \$95) and two bedroom units from \$130 to \$135. Monthly sewer fees for the 19 lots in the Tanglewood Subdivision increased from \$25 to \$30. Pavilion rental fees will now be \$20/half day and \$40/half day.

The increased fees are expected to generate

between \$83,000 and \$87,000 in additional fees.

The board heard from maintenance supervisor Mike Stevens about an issue related to his pay. Stevens told the board that when he was hired he was supposed to receive the supervisor's pay rate like that received by former supervisor Mike Horton, who was retiring.

Stevens said he left a construction job to accept the position, and he has not received the pay scale he was promised when he was hired.

"This has cost me thousands of dollars since he came, and I can't continue to do that. I'm losing money I can't afford to lose," Stevens said.

Board chairman Jeff Mobley said Stevens' concerns would be reviewed by the budget committee in advance of next year's budget preparation.

'SUNSET,' from page 1

prior to and at the hearing, the first of which related to three checks from TVA that were issued payable to Bear Creek Development Authority during the time Tricia Montgomery served as chairperson. Those checks, in the amounts of \$20,000, \$10,000 and \$2,500, were made payable to BCDA in July of 2017.

According to the Department of Examiner's report, two of the checks were mailed to the former chairperson and one was delivered by hand at a BCDA board meeting. The report describes actions of the "chairperson of BCDA at the time," but specific names were redacted in the public copy of the report.

All three were deposited into a CB&S Bank account in the name of "Bear Creek Education At Overton Farm Trust, Inc.," and initialed by "TM for deposit only" into the trust account.

Public records from the Alabama Secretary of State's office show the formation of a domestic non-profit corporation, "Bear Creek Education at Overton Farm Trust, Inc.," on September 21, 2016. Tricia Montgomery is listed as the registered agent for the trust. The purpose of the trust is described as "supporting/promoting public education/awareness of Overton Farm facility."

McKinney and the board, other than Montgomery, were unaware of the TVA checks, according to Bowling. It reached McKinney's attention when he had an employee check on a check BCDA officials were expecting from TVA and the TVA Accounts Payable department said the check had already been deposited and was mailed not to the BCDA office, but a Spruce Pine address. The address listed on the trust as the registered office mailing address is 188 Commerce Way, Spruce Pine, AL 35585.

That's when BCDA officials learned there had been a total of four checks cut to BCDA that were never deposited into BCDA's account. Among those was a \$30,000 check in addition to the \$20,000, \$10,000 and \$2,500 checks.

Bowling said McKinney contacted Montgomery about the missing checks, and she delivered to him a check drawn on the trust account in the amount of \$12,500. The check, which was signed by Montgomery, stated on the memo "To Correct TVA Checks 80302834, 80302843." That check was dated September 6, 2017.

Bowling said Montgomery also turned over the \$30,000 check payable to

BCDA, which had not yet been deposited.

BCDA's independent auditor, according to the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts report, sent the former chairperson a letter in June of this year requesting a full and complete accounting of all income and expenses relating to the trust account since its inception.

As of June 27, 2019, no response from Montgomery had been received, the report states.

The \$20,000 check, dated July 26, 2017, payable to Bear Creek Development Authority, was deposited into the trust account after endorsement by someone with initials "TM," followed by For Deposit Only.

As of September 13, 2019, BCDA has not received any explanation about the \$20,000 check, nor has BCDA received any money for this check, Bowling said.

Franklin County district attorney Joey Rushing confirmed last Friday the matter was referred to his office by the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts in August.

Rushing referred the matter to the Alabama Law Enforcement Association (ALEA) for investigation.

"The case is considered open, but we've not received any additional information on the status of the investigation," Rushing said. "I expect when ALEA completes it, we will receive a report and decide how to proceed from there."

In his response to auditors' inquiries, McKinney said there were "at least two instances in email chains this past year" where board members requested information from Montgomery on income and expenses related to the trust. To date, no response has been provided.

At the board's direction, McKinney sent a letter to Montgomery in June notifying her of the situation and formally requesting the information.

The *Franklin Free Press* attempted to contact Montgomery several times for comment, but as of the date of this article, efforts to reach her have been unsuccessful.

Bowling said the Sunset Committee spent more than 20 minutes questioning BCDA officials about the checks and what efforts were being made to restore the \$20,000. Bowling also said Montgomery, even in her capacity as chairperson, was never on the signature card for any BCDA account.

Eleven local eateries earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

All 11 Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of September 2-6 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.

Each of the 11 Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

The high score was 99, received by Mars Hill Bible Preschool, 1509 Lawrence St., Russellville.

Other inspection scores and violations of Franklin County businesses included:

•Bojangle's Famous Chicken & Biscuit, 13810

Hwy. 43, Russellville, 85. (No drying device available at handsink, hose attached without backflow prevention and container of chicken sitting out at 51-60 degrees).

•Price Less Foods #493, 15160 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 91. (Unapproved insecticides).

•Los Primos, 105 Marion St., Russellville, 94. (Lettuce and tomatoes out of temperature).

•Little Caesar's Pizza, 13655 Hwy 43, Russellville, 95.

•Panda Buffet, 14633 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96. (Dented cans).

•Waffle House #2186, 14005 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.

•Frosty Inn, 12805 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, 97.

See 'RATINGS,' page 10



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YARD SALES

Tartan Plow, 100 N. Jackson Avenue, Indoor Moving Sale/Benefit Yard Sale, Sept. 16-21 from 9am-5pm.

Huge two-family Yard Sale this Thursday & Friday, Sept. 19-20, from 7

am-until at 111 South Hall Avenue in Russellville. Men's and women's clothes, lots of household items. Cancelled if raining.

Yard Sale this Friday & Saturday, Sept. 20-21, from 7am-until at 229 Glenwood Avenue, Russellville, AL 35654. Lots of kids' clothes and toys.

Yard Sale. Friday/Saturday, Sept. 20/21. 7 a.m.-until. 94 UNA Loop in Russellville. Men's and women's clothing and teen clothing. And lots of misc. items.

Multi Family Indoor Yard Sale. Saturday, Sept. 21. 7 a.m.-until. 965 Hagood St., CNC Stonecrafters Warehouse in Phil Campbell. Custom Oak and painted end tables with granite. Little bit of everything, so come see us!

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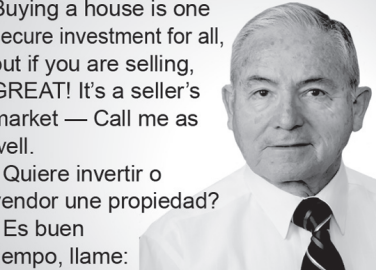
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'RATINGS,' from page 9

•Big Star of Russellville Deli, 314 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 97.
•Dollar General #2056, 212 Montgomery St. SW, Russellville, 98.
•Tokyo Sushi and Steakhouse, 14001 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
Of the nine inspections done in Colbert County from September 2-6, all

received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 99 went to Dollar General #3898, 1674 S. Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals. Health ratings are available at www.foodscores.state.al.us and may be viewed by city or county.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 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 28, 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. SELLER WILL ACCEPT SEALED BIDS THROUGH 5 P.M., SEPTEMBER 27, 2019, AT THE LOCATION DESCRIBED ABOVE. BIDS WILL BE OPENED ONSITE AT M&N WRECKER & SERVICE CENTER ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2019, AT 9:30 A.M.

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Need a helper. Someone to help sweep, take out trash, empty oil buckets, and other small things around the shop. Also willing to learn the basic mechanic work. Apply in person at 11833 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 35653. Hours are Monday thru Friday, 8-5. DO NOT CALL! YOU WILL NOT BE HIRED OVER THE PHONE!!

RUSSELLVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY (LAWN CARE BIDS)


The Russellville Housing Authority is now accepting bids for Lawncare Service for our 4 developments (Engle Drive, Washington Plaza, Eastside Plaza, and Westside Plaza). All companies considering this proposal are strongly encouraged to physically inspect the properties prior to submitting a bid. The successful bidder shall be required to provide proof of liability insurance and a State license. The Russellville Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any/or all bids if it deems this would be in the best interests of the Authority.


Bids in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Lawn Care Service Bids," should be mailed to the Russellville Housing Authority, P.O. Box 966, Russellville, Alabama 35653, or delivered to 73 Flippen Street, Russellville, Alabama 35653, in time to be opened and publicly read aloud at 10:00 a.m. on October 9, 2019. Bids received after this deadline will not be opened and shall not be considered. Any questions, comments, or requests to schedule a site inspection can contact Deborah Freeman at (256) 332-1561.


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. Long-sleeve are \$20. Pre-order forms can be picked up at either Russellville fire station. Thanks for your support!


 This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Russellville Marching Hundred. We need your help in designing a T-shirt for this special milestone. The winner will receive \$50.00 and a T-shirt sporting the winning design. Submissions should follow these guidelines: •Make reference to the M100's 75th Anniversary; •Incorporate band images (ex. instruments, shako, uniform, music notes, flags, rifles, batons, pompoms, etc.); •Be an 8½ x 11" ORIGINAL artwork submission generated on a white background, since T-shirts will be white; •Submission designs should have no more than 5 colors; •Include complete name and contact number on the back of submission (should not show through). Note: Original artwork submitted will not be returned. The submission deadline is September 20, 2019. Mail entries to: M100 Design Submission, Attn: Mr. Jeremy Willis, 1865 Waterloo Road, Russellville, AL 35653. Thanks for your submissions!


 You're invited to "Gospel Night in the Shoals," Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Shoals Community Theater in Florence. It will be an evening of Southern Gospel Convention and Quartet Singing featuring the 36-member group of former quartets, worship leaders, soloists and pastors and the new Southern Gospel quartet, Glorify. Presented by Valley Grove Baptist Church and local sponsors. Free admission and a love offering will be taken. Come join us for an evening of praise and worship.


 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.


 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, Tusculum, AL. For more information, call First Colbert Heights at 256-383-8016.


 You're invited to revival at Pleasant Ridge Missionary Baptist Church (Hwy. 48 in Russellville) September 22-25, with Sunday night service at 6 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday services at 7 p.m. Speakers will be Bro. Kenneth Bond (Sunday and Monday) and Bro. Scott Delashaw (Tuesday and Wednesday). Pastor is Bro. Roger Bond.


 You are welcome to all services at Pleasant Ridge Missionary Baptist Church (Hwy. 48 in Russellville). Sunday service times: Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m., Sunday night service at 6 p.m. Wednesday night Bible Study is held at 6:30 p.m. Pastor is Bro. Roger Bond.


 Learn the fundamentals of the business of beef production in Alabama! LA Beef Systems Short Course (four-meeting series) will be held Tuesday, September 24, Thursday, September 26, Tuesday, October 1 and Thursday, October 3 from 6-8 p.m. each night at the A.W. Todd Center (201 South Washington Avenue, Russellville, AL 35653). Topics include Forages and Nutrition, Herd Health and Reproduction, Record Keeping and Environmental Stewardship, and Economics and Meat Science. A meal will be provided. Cost is \$40 (for education materials). RSVP by Thursday, September 17. Call the Franklin County Extension Office at 256-332-8880 or email gamblsa@aces.edu.

 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 31 North Jackson Avenue. Come and join us!

 Saint Paul C.M.E Church (406 Hamilton Street, Russellville, AL 35653) will host an Outreach Ministry event on Saturday, September 28 from 2-4 p.m. with free food, music, prizes, games and more! Everyone is welcome! For more information, please call Pam Lyle at 256-577-8354.

 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 October 1. All members and friends are urged to attend.

 Tharptown Elementary will host its annual Fall Festival on Thursday, October 3 from 5:30-8 p.m. The event will feature food, friends, games and fun, with Cake Walk Bingo, Toy Walk, Silent Auction, Inflatables and Raffles. FREE admission. Great prizes! All tickets are \$1. Also, for two nights, there will be a Haunted Gym, October 3 from 5:30-10 p.m. and October 4 from 7-10 p.m.

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

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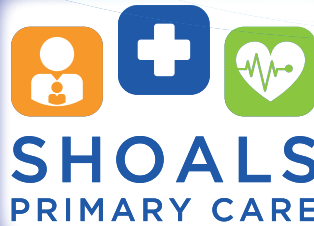
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Week 4 in the SEC

Last week's record: 3-1
Year-to-date record: 10-2
This week's games:
Tennessee at Florida (-14) –
11:00 on ESPN



Mike Self
Sports Editor

The Volunteers almost certainly entertained the notion of being 3-0 at this point; instead, they're 1-2 heading to The Swamp, where they haven't won in 16 years. Florida, meanwhile, pulled one out of the fire at Kentucky last week to get to 3-0, but the Gators have looked nothing like a Top 10 team.

Feleipe Franks' season-ending injury means Kyle Trask is now the quarterback for Florida. He led a pair of late scoring drives in the comeback against Kentucky and will make his first career start this week.

Here's a depressing stat that Tennessee fans are undoubtedly all too familiar with: Over the past 12 seasons, the Vols are a combined 1-23 against their two biggest rivals. They're 1-11 against Florida and 0-12 versus Alabama.

The Pick: Florida 31 Tennessee 20

Auburn at Texas A&M (-4) - 2:30 on CBS

The Aggies have been consistently good at stopping the run since the start of last season, holding eight of 11 Power 5 opponents to less than 4.0 yards per carry. That includes last year's game at Auburn, when the Tigers ran for a grand total of 21 yards on 19 attempts—and somehow still managed to pull out a 28-24 win thanks to a pair of late scoring drives.

Auburn found its ground game last week against Kent State...but that was Kent State. Can a troublesome offensive line consistently create a push against A&M? If it can't, the run game will stall, and that will put a heavy burden on freshman quarterback Bo Nix and a hit-or-miss passing game. Perhaps *too* heavy.

The Pick: Texas A&M 24 Auburn 20

S. Carolina at Missouri (-9.5) - 3:00 on SECN

South Carolina appears to have found its QB of the future in Ryan Hilinski, who made a couple of big-time throws against Alabama last week. He certainly has the weapons at his disposal to do some damage against a Missouri defense that really struggled against the pass last year.

After laying an egg in their opener at Wyoming, the Tigers have gotten the ground game and the offense going the last two weeks. Provided they're able to run the ball on Saturday, they should snap a three-year losing streak to South Carolina. I smell a shootout.

The Pick: Missouri 38 South Carolina 35
Notre Dame at Georgia (-14) - 7:00 on CBS

That spread seems awfully large for a Top 10 showdown...until you consider Notre Dame's recent track record in these kinds of games. It seems like the Irish routinely get exposed by elite teams (remember last year's national semifinal against Clemson?), and make no mistake—Georgia is an elite team. The Bulldogs have been a big-play machine on offense, averaging 8.7 yards per play and 7.6 yards per carry.

The Pick: Georgia 37 Notre Dame 21

Red Bay's revenge



PHOTO/KYLE GLASGOW
Hamilton (22) set season-highs with six catches for 100 yards in the Tigers' 16-10 win over Addison.

Clutch plays in the passing game and on defense helped the Tigers avenge a humbling loss and take early control of the Region 7 race

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Having coached nearly 200 games across 18 seasons of high school football, Michael Jackson knows as well as anyone how razor-thin the line between victory and defeat can often be.

"Every game that's a close game is gonna come down to five or six plays," said Jackson, now in his sixth season as Red Bay's head coach. "If both teams are even, then whoever makes those five or six plays is gonna win the game."

Last Friday's Class 2A, Region 7 showdown between Jackson's unbeaten Tigers and fifth-ranked Addison was just that sort of game. Two of the top small-school programs in north Alabama went toe-to-toe in a clash of wits and wills for 48 minutes, and the outcome ultimately came down to that proverbial handful of plays.

On this night, Red Bay rose to the occasion. The Tigers demonstrated the physical fortitude and mental preparedness to execute when the chips were down, making clutch plays when clutch plays were needed and holding on for a satisfying 16-10 win that placed them squarely in the driver's seat in the region race.

"Every game that's a close game is gonna come down to five or six plays," said Jackson, now in his sixth season as Red Bay's head coach. "If both teams are even, then whoever makes those five or six plays is gonna win the game."

"Our kids and our coaches were very excited," said Jackson, whose team scored the go-ahead touchdown on the first play of the fourth quarter and then put together a goal-line stand in the closing seconds to seal the deal and improve to 4-0



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Golden Tigers get to 3-0 with rout of Hayden

Mike Self Franklin Free Press

Russellville rolled up a season-high 512 yards of offense last Friday at Hayden, improving to 3-0 overall and 2-0 in Class 5A, Region 7 with a 48-20 rout of the Wildcats.

Running backs Austin Ashley and Caleb Matthews each rushed for more than 100 yards, and senior quarterback Jacob Bishop hooked up with junior receiver Rowe Gallagher on a pair of first-quarter touchdown passes.

"I thought we came out fast and played really well on offense," head coach John Ritter said. "I don't think we punted all night, so that's always a good sign."

With leading rusher Airreon "Boots" McCulloch resting a troublesome hamstring, Ashley and Matthews combined to run for 260 yards on 37 carries. Ashley, a senior, rushed for a pair of touchdowns in the second quarter and finished the

night with 141 yards on 20 attempts. Matthews, a junior who had played primarily on the junior varsity this season, ran 17 times for 119 yards and a score.

"We've said from day one that we've got three [running backs] we feel good about," Ritter said. "Matthews got a chance tonight to showcase what he can do. I thought he ran hard, he protected the football and he did a phenomenal job."

"They're starting to turn into some playmakers," Ritter said of his receivers. "When we run good routes and execute our reads, we have a chance to make big plays. That's what we did tonight."

Gallagher, coming off a two-touchdown performance the previous week in a rout of Corner, found the end zone twice more in the first quarter against Hayden, hauling in scoring tosses of 31 and 41 yards from Bishop. Gallagher posted his first career 100-yard game, finishing with 101 yards on four catches.

Fellow junior receiver Cole Barnett caught three passes for 51 yards, including a 35-yard touchdown on a fourth-and-12 play midway through the third quarter that stretched Russellville's lead to 34-13. Senior J.D. Price caught three passes for 42 yards, and sophomore H-back Nathan Brockway had a 22-yard catch.

"They're starting to turn into some playmakers," Ritter said of his receivers. "When we run good routes and execute our reads, we have an opportunity to make big plays. That's what we did tonight."

Bishop threw for 216 yards and three touchdowns on 11-for-18 passing, with one interception. Backup quarterback Gabe Amick, a sophomore, threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to freshman receiver T.J. King late in the fourth quarter to provide the final margin.

Defensively, the Golden Tigers got productive nights from linemen Jose Gaspar, Angel Martinez and Angel Moreno on their way to holding Hayden (1-3, 0-2) to just 213 total yards.

"All three of those guys have great motors," Ritter said. "We rotated Will Calhoun in there, too, and he made some stops tonight. Defensively, with the exception of one or two drives, I thought we played well."

Russellville will host West Point on Friday night for homecoming. The Warriors (2-2, 1-1) picked up their first region win last week, routing Lawrence County 42-14.

The Golden Tigers will try to start 3-0 in region play for a second straight year.

"We're a work in progress," Ritter said. "What we have to do is, we have to establish some consistency. We have a quarter here or two drives there where we just go brain-dead on both sides of the ball, and if you're gonna be a championship-caliber team you can not do that. But I'm tickled pink to be 3-0."



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Vina posts first back-to-back wins in four years

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Recalling a brief chat he had with one of his players late in last Friday's 58-18 rout of Cherokee, Vina football coach Ben Guin couldn't help but smile.

"We were standing there on the sideline," Guin said, "and one of the kids said, 'I've never had this feeling before.'"

These are heady times indeed for the Red Devils, who have now won more games in the last two weeks than they had won in the previous two years. An 8-7 win at Bear Creek on September 6—Vina's first victory over Phillips since 2005—was followed by last Friday's rout of the Indians, a game the Red Devils led 50-0 at halftime. They have now won back-to-back games for the first time since October of 2015, when they closed out a 5-5 regular season by beating Shoals Christian and Holy Spirit.

Last season, Vina went 0-10 and got out-scored 427 points to 37. Just one year later the Red Devils are sitting at 2-2 overall and 2-0 in Class 1A, Region 8, firmly in the mix for their first playoff berth since 2015.

"To me, the biggest thing is, our kids are starting to believe in themselves," said Guin, an assistant on last year's staff who is now in his first season as a head coach. "That's been the key more than anything. There's a different attitude right now. Our guys are starting to see that we can play. We just want to play hard for four quarters and see what happens."

Vina didn't need four quarters last week to completely turn the tables on a Cherokee team that had beaten them 60-0 last September. The Red Devils turned the game into a rout by halftime behind a monster night from do-everything senior Jackson Landers, who scored on touchdown runs of 37 and 51 yards, took a punt 49 yards to the house and threw a 46-yard scoring pass to Braden Moomaw.

Vina also got a 35-yard touchdown run from Elijah Whitfield, a 34-yard touchdown run from Malachi Fletcher, a two-yard touchdown run from Isaac Shelton and a pick-six from linebacker Zach Davidson. Performances like that have been few and far between for the Red Devils in recent years, but Guin wasn't surprised to see his team break out.

"We may not have an abundance of talent, but we do have talent," he said. "We have the athletes. We don't as many as some other teams, but we have athletes. The kids believe in what we're doing. They're starting to see that it will work, if we execute. The Bear Creek win helped with that, and this win over Cherokee helped, too."

Ironically, Guin said the seeds of Vina's resurgence were actually planted in a 41-12 loss to Marion County to open the season, when the Red Raiders were on the verge of scoring a touchdown only to lose a fumble that Landers scooped up and returned nearly the length of the field. Guin says the play was a lesson in the value of persistence in the face of adversity—a lesson his team sorely needed to embrace.

"When things got bad, we would get down on ourselves instead of keeping on keeping on," Guin said. "We would get discouraged. We're doing a better job now of just playing hard no matter what. It's like I told our guys—it's not gonna get any better if you lay down. But things can change in a hurry if you keep playing."

That lesson about pressing on despite long odds should come in handy over the next few weeks as the Red Devils face Class 3A Phil Campbell, reigning Class 1A state champion Mars Hill and 2018 Region 8 runner-up Waterloo—three teams who beat them by a combined margin of 164-2 last season. Guin is realistic about what lies ahead, but he also knows there will be meaningful games to be played in late October (at Shoals Christian on the 18th, home to Hackleburg on the 25th), no matter what.

"We've got three tough ones coming up—Phil Campbell, the defending state champions and Waterloo," Guin said. "We're not necessarily looking for W's. We want to stay healthy, we want to stay focused and we want to stay competitive. We want to play hard and compete for four quarters."

"We know we can't beat everybody. But when we looked at our schedule before the season, there were games on there we felt like we could win. Our goal is to win those games and be a playoff team."

First, though, the Red Devils must deal with the county rival Bobcats (1-2), who will visit Vina on Friday night for a non-region battle.

"Phil Campbell has a really good offense," Guin said. "We know we'll have to play really well on defense. They run multiple sets, and they do a lot of different stuff. They're hard to prepare for. They have a good defense, too, but I think their offense is the strength of their team."

On the season, junior running back Trey Leindecker leads Phil Campbell in both rushing (327 yards and four touchdowns on 48 carries) and receiving (192 yards and two touchdowns on 13 catches).



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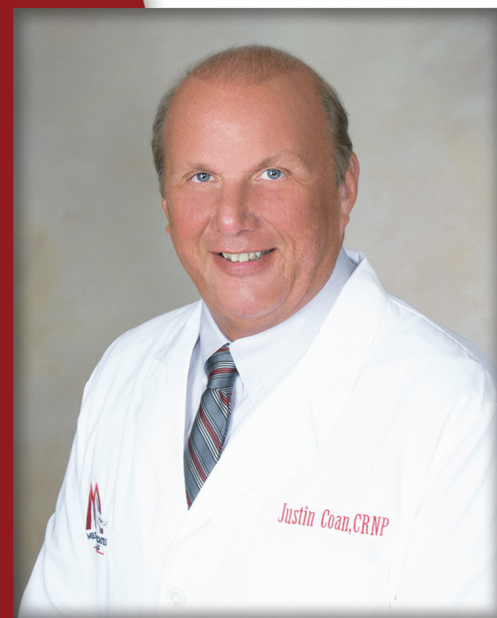
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'REVENGE,' from page 13

overall (and 2-0 in region play). "We worked extremely hard all week getting ready for this game. I've been a head coach for 193 games now, and this was about the hardest game to prepare for that I've ever been a part of. It was an extremely hard game to prepare for, because Addison is so talented at each position. It was hard finding out where we could attack and where we could end up doing some positive things.

"Our kids did a great job all week long mentally. I told them from the get-go that this was gonna be a mind game. The things we had to be really good on, we had to be locked in and mentally tough."

That mental toughness eluded the Tigers last September when they boarded the bus to Addison with a 3-0 record and returned home on the wrong end of a humbling 39-12 defeat.

"Last year we went over there, and they pretty much took us out of the game after eight or nine minutes," Jackson said on Sunday. "Knowing how that game went, I'm so proud of our kids. I told them right after the game [last Friday] that I was as proud of this team as any team I've ever had in 18 years of coaching for the way they stood up and played and for the mindset they took into that game. We knew it was a big game, and we've got some guys who have been in those kinds of games before.

"I'm really proud of the way our kids stood up and played. We knew going in it was gonna be a physical game, and we made the plays we had to make to win the game."

One of those plays came as a direct result of film study—and of familiarity with Addison's personnel. Red Bay receiver Arden Hamilton, a 6'2 senior whose size, athleticism and leaping ability make him a dynamic deep threat, entered last Friday's game with nine catches on the season for 261 yards and five touchdowns, three of which had covered at least 60 yards.

Those are the kind of numbers that would prompt many teams to adjust their typical coverage schemes in an effort to limit big plays—but not Addison. The Bulldogs prefer to trust their big corners in one-on-one matchups on the outside and let senior free safety (and top playmaker) Colton Chambers roam the middle of the field. Jackson and his staff spotted this tendency on film and began devising a plan to exploit it.

"Their corners are 6'3, 6'4, and they try to stay in their base defense as much as possible," Jackson said. "Their best player on the field is the free

safety [Chambers]. He makes a lot of plays. He may be the best free safety in the region. They like to keep him in the middle of the field as much as they can so he can make plays, rather than putting him over the top of one of those receivers. He makes a lot of plays in the run game, too."

With that in mind, Jackson tweaked a play his team had run the previous week in a win over Hatton—a designed run by fleet-footed junior quarterback Jalen Vinson on a bootleg. Vinson entered Friday's game as Red Bay's leading rusher this season with 206 yards on 26 carries, and Jackson fully expected Chambers to see Vinson running the boot, diagnose the play as a run and attack the line of scrimmage accordingly.

The Tigers ran the play early in the second quarter; only this time—with Chambers reading run and no safety help over the top—Vinson was looking to find Hamilton deep down the field on a post route. The two connected for a gain of 42 yards, setting up a nine-yard touchdown run by Vinson that broke up a scoreless tie with 7:36 left in the first half.

"Keeping them off balance, moving our guys around, trying to get some good matchups in the passing game," Jackson said of his team's offensive approach against a stout Addison D. "We wanted to take advantage of throwing short and throwing long. We beat them on the post route because [Chambers] was trying to make the play on the boot, and we got in behind him. We had run the exact same play the week before where Jalen fakes the jet and runs the boot, but this time we were looking to throw the post."

Hamilton finished the night with six catches for 100 yards, and junior receiver Mason Holt also had a big night on the other side with four grabs for 60 yards. One of those catches by Holt was the product of his ability to process information on the fly and relay that information to his coaches—who in turn trusted their player enough to take his reconnaissance work and put it into practice.

"We beat them on an out-and-up that Mason had set up all night by running quick outs," Jackson said. "Mason told me two series earlier that he had that route. He told me he could beat his guy on that route. We were just waiting for the right spot to throw it."

The right spot proved to be immediately following a penalty that backed the Tigers up into a second-and-20 situation. Holt ran the double-move, and Vinson found him for a long gainer and a first down. Red Bay didn't score on the drive, but the big completion to Holt flipped the field and aided the Tiger D in its quest to keep Addison's offense from getting on track. [The Bulldogs finished the night with just 242 total yards and were held to 10 points or fewer for just the second time in their last 30 games since the start of the 2017 season.]

Holt wasn't the only Red Bay player to make an astute in-game observation last Friday night. In the locker room at halftime, senior center Dylan Hester (a three-year starter and team captain) made a suggestion to Jackson

See 'REVENGE,' page 17



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'REVENGE', from page 16

regarding the team's plans for short-yardage situations.

"We had not done a whole lot of running up inside," Jackson said. "The past couple of years, when we were bigger up front and had a bigger quarterback, we ran inside a lot. This year we're not as big in those spots, but we're more athletic. So we've run outside more. But Dylan told me at halftime that if we got in a situation where we needed one yard, quarterback sneak would be there even though we hadn't run it very good. He said he had the guy beat. He said we should run the quarterback sneak instead of running outside.

"He recognized that they were bringing a secondary guy in to shoot the gaps, a guy who was not very big. Dylan recognized that and told me at halftime that the sneak would work if we got in that situation, even though we normally wouldn't call it."

Trailing 10-8 midway through the second half, the Tigers moved into scoring position on a terrific 27-yard catch by Hamilton on an out route on third-and-long. Facing fourth-and-goal from the three, Vinson used a hard count to get Addison to jump. Now only a yard-and-a-half from the go-ahead score, Jackson heeded Hester's advice and called for the quarterback sneak. Vinson plowed into the end zone, and senior back Colyn Humphres tacked on his second two-point conversion run of the night to make it 16-10 with 11:55 remaining.

"Our kids are very good at that," Jackson said of the types of in-game observations made by Holt and Hester. "This group is a very mature group. Eight of those guys out there have started 20 games, so they're a mature group. We're able to coach more during the game and make adjustments during the game because of the things they're seeing. Our kids are mature enough to tell us things about the game, and those are two great examples of that."

Leading by six with less than a quarter to go, it was up to Red Bay's veteran defense to close the deal. The Tigers had a chance to put the game away with a late score, but they turned the ball over on downs inside the Addison 20. The Bulldogs, aided by a late-hit penalty, quickly drove to midfield and wound up facing third-and-goal from the six with 13 seconds and no timeouts remaining. Sophomore quarterback Dayton Roberts rolled out on a run-pass option and decided to take off for the end zone. Red Bay juniors Cam McKinney, Gavin Edgmon and Logan Scott converged on Roberts and stopped him at the 4-yard line, sealing the Tigers' 27th win in 32 home games under Jackson.

Edgmon and sophomore lineman Levi Blanton each finished with 12 tackles on the night, and McKinney made 11 stops. Red Bay limited an explosive Addison offense to just six plays of 10-plus yards and held the Bulldogs to 4.1 yards per carry and only 92 yards through the air.

"Our defense played lights-out all night," Jackson said. "Coach [Jamie] Purser and our defensive coaches did a great job. They had them pegged as to what they were gonna try to do to us, and we did a really good job of limiting their big plays."

"The way the schedule sets up, it helps us to stay focused and prepare each and every week for the next game," Jackson said. **"We just have to keep doing the things we've been doing to get better. We don't want to waste a big game like the one we just played by messing up in another game. We want to take advantage of what we've already done."**

The Tigers, meanwhile, made just enough big plays in the passing game to overcome a tough night on the ground (82 yards on 28 attempts). Vinson threw for 190 yards on 13-for-22 passing while also running for 41 yards and two scores on 10 carries. Humphres finished with three catches for 30 yards.

"Addison has one of the best defenses we've played against," said Jackson, whose team finished with 272 total yards and 12 first downs. "We were able to make some good plays in the passing game. We hit some big pass plays. Arden had a big night, and Mason Holt had some big catches."

Red Bay has a bye this week before hosting border rival Belmont (MS) next Friday. Following that are back-to-back road games at Sheffield and Colbert County that will go a long way toward deciding whether or not the Tigers can claim their first region championship since 2015.

"This is a great time for us to have an open week," Jackson said. "Belmont is a big rivalry game, and our kids understand that. It's also a tiebreaker game, and last year our region came down to tiebreakers. It won't take a whole lot for us to get up for that game. Then we go to Sheffield. We went over there three years ago [in 2016], and they beat us pretty bad [20-0]. We know the kind of athletes Sheffield's got, so it'll be easy for our guys to get up for that game, too. Then we've got the biggest game of the year, going to C.T. Manley Stadium and playing Colbert County.

"The way the schedule sets up, it helps us to stay focused and prepare each and every week for the next game. We just have to keep doing the things we've been doing to get better. We don't want to waste a big game like the one we just played by messing up in another game. We want to take advantage of what we've already done."

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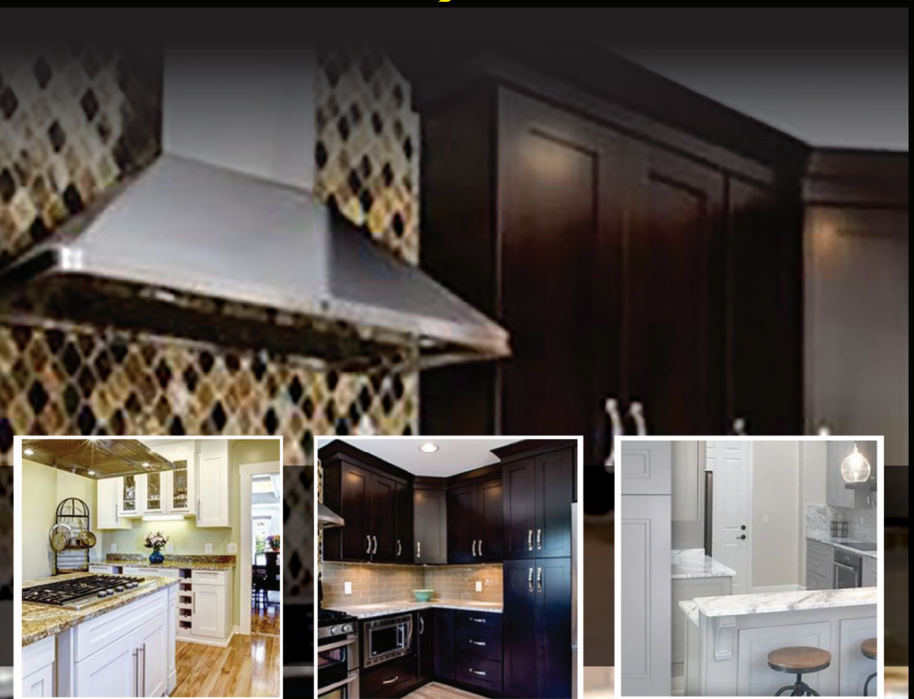
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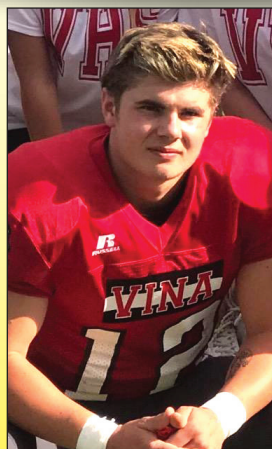
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Jackson Landers Senior RB/WR/QB, Vina

Landers was responsible for four touchdowns last Friday night, helping the Red Devils roll past Cherokee 58-18 for their second straight win.

A 5'9, 185-pound senior who plays all over the field for Vina, Landers scored on touchdown runs of 37 and 51 yards, took a punt 49 yards to the house and also threw a 46-yard touchdown pass to Braden Moomaw. Defensively, Landers made two solo tackles and recorded one sack from his outside linebacker spot.

Landers and the Red Devils (2-2) will welcome county rival Phil Campbell to Vina this Friday.



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RCS Education Foundation fundraiser set for October 5

Submitted to the FFP

RUSSELLVILLE – Supporting students and teachers is something the members of the Russellville City Schools Education Foundation are passionate about, which is why they are excited about their annual fall fundraising event.

The RCS Education Foundation 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run will take place Saturday, October 5 on and around the RCS campus. Check-in and event-day registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the RHS Auditorium lobby. The 5K race will begin at 8 a.m., and the 1 Mile Fun Run will begin at 9 a.m. with the awards ceremony taking place at 9:15 a.m.

This is the fourth year the Foundation has hosted this event, and Foundation president Lanny Norris said they are hoping this will be their best turnout yet.

"We think this will be a great date for the race and hope to see many people coming out to support our students, teachers and schools through this fundraising event," Norris said.

Board member Kevin Strickland, who is organizing this year's event, said some people make the mistake of thinking this fundraiser is only for serious runners, but the Fun Run is a great way for anyone to participate.

"The 1 Mile Fun Run can be ran, or it can be walked," Strickland said. "This is a great opportunity to grab some friends, enjoy a beautiful fall morning and support our students and teachers all at the same time. Anyone that is able can do the Fun Run, so even if you don't want to participate in a 5K, you can participate in this."

All funds raised during the event will go toward the Foundation's main goal of awarding scholarships to RHS seniors and grants to teachers for instructional learning in their classrooms.

"We have had so many students and teachers who have been able to benefit from these scholarships and grants," Norris said. "Teachers can use the grants they receive from the Foundation for anything instructional that will improve learning for their students, and high school seniors use their scholarships to further their education."

"We don't think there are many things more important to invest your time or money in than the future of our young people, and that's what the Foundation

See 'RCS,' page 19



COURTESY PHOTO

RCS superintendent Heath Grimes and Claudia Askew pose with Golden Tiger mascot "Champ" before the start of last year's RCS Education Foundation 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run.



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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. **Picks sent in by mail for Week 4 must be postmarked by Friday, September 20, and picks submitted by email for Week 4 must be received by Saturday, September 21 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!

Congrats to Week 3 winner **JASON ELLIOTT**, who correctly picked 8 out of 10 games and also picked Alabama to beat South Carolina 47-17!

Bedford, Rogers,
Bowling & McReynolds, P.C.

303 N. Jackson, Russellville
256.332.2880

No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers

'RCS,' from page 18

does.”
There will also be an additional way for participants to support the school of their choice with the Torch Run Team Competition. Each participant will have the option of choosing which school to support during the race. The school that has the most supporters will win the team competition and receive a trophy and \$1,000 for their school.

For those who are interested in participating, organizers are strongly encouraging online registration at <http://5ktorchrun.itsyourrace.com> to cut down on race-day registration times.

Those who register for the 5K race prior to October 1 will have a \$20 race fee. The registration fee after October 1 will be \$25. RCS students who participate in the 5K will have a \$15 registration fee, and all participants of the Fun Run will have a \$10 registration fee. Awards will be given to the top male and female overall finishers; the top male and female masters finishers; and first-, second- and third-place finishers in each age category.

Sponsors for the event are Valley State Bank, CR3ATE ARCHITECTS Inc., Bowen Family Dentistry, Pilgrim's Pride, and Certainteed Saint-Gobain.

Kevin G. Kelly, M.D.
Serving your family for over 30 years

Urgent Care
Walk-in Clinic
We are still here!

- Entrance located on right side closest to Fred's
- Please excuse our growing pains.

No Appointment Needed

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Russellville, AL
(intersection of Hwy. 24 and Hwy. 43)

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Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 4: September 21	Bailey's Pick	Your Pick
Tennessee at Florida	Florida	_____
LSU at Vanderbilt	LSU	_____
California at Ole Miss	California	_____
Auburn at Texas A&M	Texas A&M	_____
South Carolina at Missouri	Missouri	_____
Kentucky at Mississippi St.	Mississippi St.	_____
Notre Dame at Georgia	Georgia	_____
Michigan at Wisconsin	Michigan	_____
Oregon at Stanford	Oregon	_____
Oklahoma St. at Texas	Texas	_____
Tiebreaker Score:	Auburn _____	Texas A&M _____
Your Name:	_____	
Phone number:	_____	

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JOB FAIR

2 Locations Available:

Thur., Sept. 19 in Red Bay, AL @
the Weatherford Centre
from 9 am – 4 pm
303 4th Avenue SE, Red Bay

Tue., Sept. 24 in Russellville, AL @
the Russellville Parks & Recreation
Center, 201 Ash Avenue
from 9 am - 4 pm

We look forward to meeting you!

MedExpress Red Bay
would like to welcome

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.

 **MedExpress**
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September 19, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

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Florence, Alabama

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Convention and Quartet Singing.

Featuring 36-Member Group of Former Quartets,
Worship Leaders, Soloists and Pastors.

Also Featuring New Southern Gospel Quartet “Glorify”.

Presented by Valley Grove Baptist Church and Local Sponsors

Free Admission

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Contact VGBC 256-381-1662 • Pastor 2566-460-5320
Event Director 256-810-7238

