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03.11.20

Franklin County BOE opposed to delay to start of 2020-21 school year

*John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press*

The Franklin County Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution opposing a bill that would extend summer break for students in Alabama schools.

The board approved the measure at its February 25, 2020, meeting, in response to proposed legislation from Rep. Steve Hurst (R-Munford) that would give students a 15-week summer break and push back the start of school to as far as the day after Labor Day.

Franklin County Superintendent of Education Greg Hamilton drafted the

resolution and presented it to the board in order to make their opposition to the bill clear to their local Legislative delegation.

"The members of the Franklin County Board of Education unequivocally oppose statewide efforts to mandate a school calendar and ask all lawmakers representing Franklin County to vote against any bill which proposes to outline a statewide start and/or end date for Alabama public schools," the resolution reads.

Hamilton said such a delayed start to the school year would "not be feasible" with the current 180-school day requirement.

"Local school boards should decide

how they handle their own school calendar," Hamilton said. "We urge our policymakers to leave our calendar authority local."

Hamilton said a statewide school start date would compromise the board's academic calendar and force students to lose instructional time prior to annual standardized testing.

Hurst has suggested that an extension of each school day by less than 30 minutes could make up for the time lost with the later start.

In other agenda items, the board: —heard a report from Hamilton that the delivery of counter tops for the Vina science lab have been delayed

See 'BOE' Page 3

Hemp growing permits on the rise

*John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press*

When the Alabama Legislature passed the 2018 Farm Bill that classified hemp as an agricultural commodity and not a controlled substance, the next step was to design a system for prospective hemp growers and processors to apply for permits.

That process began in 2019, with 157 of 189 grower applicants becoming licensed. An additional 65 processor applications were granted.

The window to apply for 2020 licenses was from October 7, 2019 through November 14, 2019, and the State of Alabama received more than 600 grower applications and 200 processor applications, an increase of more than 300 percent from the first year.

Only one Franklin County permit was issued last year, a grower permit for a corporate entity named Chestnut Ridge Landscaping, LLC.

Permits for 2020 have not yet been issued, as applicants were required to attend an orientation last week before receiving approval.

What is hemp, and how is it distinguished from marijuana?



COURTESY PHOTO

Permits for farmers to grow hemp in Alabama increased by more than 300% in 2019.

Although the plant species is the same, the primary difference between hemp and marijuana is the level of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in the plant. In order to be classified as hemp, the THC level must be at or below

See 'HEMP' Page 9

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Jaclyn Annette Sherrill Barnett, Tuscumbia, age 35, Died Tuesday, March 3rd. Funeral service at Spry Memorial Chapel.

Harold Gray Burleson, Haleyville, age 76, Died Friday March 6th. Funeral service at Pinkard Funeral Home in Haleyville. Interment at Winsion Memorial Cemetery.

Teresa Faye Cole, Haleyville, age 58, Died Thursday, Marh 5th. Funeral service at Pinkard Funeral Home in Haleyville. Internment at Mountain Home Cemetery.

Jerry Elwin Saint, Phil Campbell, age 63, Died Friday, March 6th. Funeral service at Spry Memorial Chapel. Internment at Tharptown Cemetery.



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'BOE' from page 1

due to a fire at the facility that manufactures them.

—heard a report from Hamilton that the system's one month fund balance at the end of January 2020 was \$4.3 million.

—approved out-of-state trips including Red Bay Junior High Softball to Itawamba Attendance Center February 27th, Red Bay varsity and JV to Itawamba High School March 5 and varsity and JV to Tupelo High School April 3; Phil Campbell High School Access Club to Memphis on April 17; Phil Campbell SADD Club to Six Flags in Atlanta on May 15; Red Bay School band to Georgia Aquarium, Six Flags and SunTrust Field April 3-5.

—approved the following personnel items:

Resignation: Cheryl Letson, special education teacher and varsity cheer coach at Tharptown High School; Gary Stanford, Phil Campbell bus driver and Brent Collum, Belgreen bus driver.

Leave of Absence: Caden Hallman, Aide at PCES, from January 21, 2020-May 24, 2020.

Employment: Lorena Hernandez, special education teacher at THS; Lorie Robbins, special education aide at Red Bay Elementary; Jody Humphres, special education teacher at Belgreen High School; Dallas Gilliland, temporary bus driver at Belgreen and Megan Skidmore, temporary bus driver at Belgreen.

Employment in Supplement: Shane Nichols, varsity volleyball coach at Red Bay; Brooke Harris, varsity cheer coach at Tharptown High School.

Volunteers: Anthony Graham, volunteer baseball coach at Vina High School.

The next regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of Education will be March 24, 2020, with work session at 5 p.m., and meeting to follow.

County commission tables hire

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission voted to table the hiring of the vacant accountant/payable clerk position at the board's February 18, 2020, meeting.

Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore said Franklin County Administrator Leah Mansell, who will be part of the interview process for the position, had been off due to illness. As a result, interviews were pushed back and there was no hiring recommendation for the commission to consider.

When commissioners voted in January to advertise the position, Commissioner Jason Miller voted against the measure. Miller said the position had been vacant for more than a year and he did not believe "the timing was right" to move forward with the hire.

In other moves at its February 18th meeting, the commission:

- declared three garbage trucks, a 1999 Ford F-150 pickup truck, four aluminum tool boxes and an above-ground diesel fuel pump as surplus property and voted to place the items on sale on www.govdeals.com.
- approved the hiring of Matt Mayfield as a temporary Animal Control Technician.
- rescinded the resignation of Franklin County Sheriff's Office deputy Adam Mitchell and rescinded the advertising for the position.
- recognized FCSO employee Amy Patterson for earning her certificate

See 'COMMISSION,' page 8

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My take on this... Voting can be irritating, but also worth it

I work the polls along with three others and we have our rules, as with any job. We don't make the rules. We just follow them.

The "all-time biggest complaint" is having to specify whether you are a Democrat or a Republican. I would prefer that question need not apply but unfortunately it does. It would be a more pleasant day for us if we weren't required to ask because the response is not always the one we enjoy hearing.

When we are told it isn't any of our business, we tend to feel the same way as you do. Until the rule changes, the question of mood-altering will continue to be asked. If it helps ease the discomfort, just know that poll workers abide by the same rules. I'd like to remind each of you that there will be a runoff election on Tuesday, March 31st so you might want to mark it down on your calendar.

There runoff will be for county revenue commissioner between Stratt Byars and Veronica Stancil. There will also be a runoff election for U.S. senator between Jeff Sessions and Tommy Tuberville.

Please remember if you voted

Republican in the previous race, you can only vote in this upcoming Republican runoff. There will be little to no need to convince us otherwise because the little green machine you sign, called the Poll Pad, knows how you voted.

I'd suggest to the voters who complained you were signing your life away by signing twice to prepare for that again. Thank goodness it's only twice and not three times. Whew!

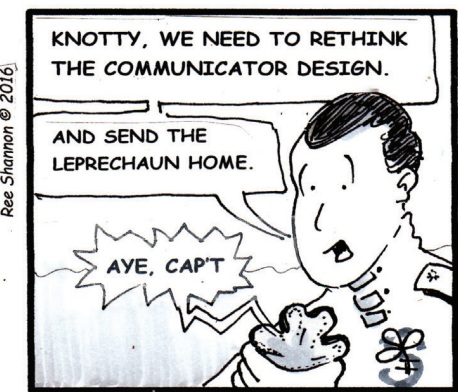
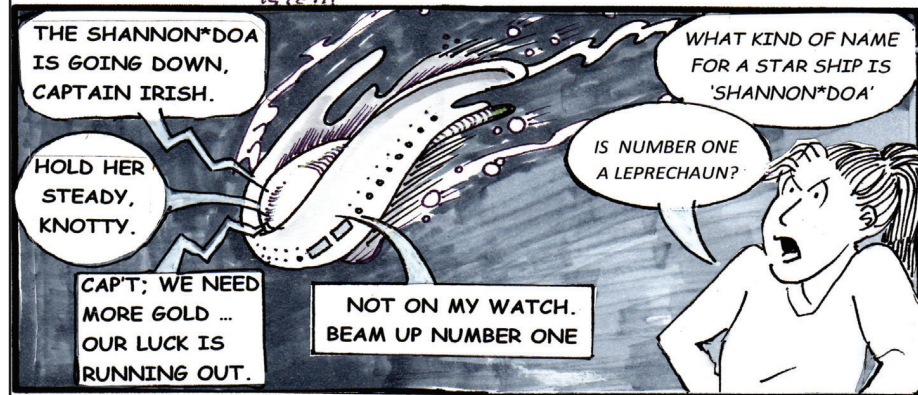
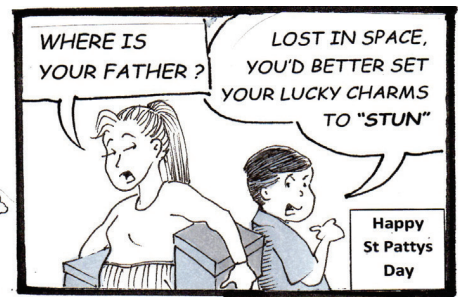
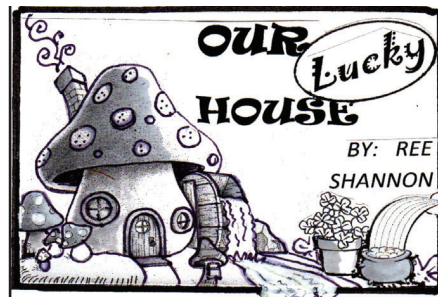
Again, we don't make the rules but we do abide by them by being sworn in.

We have the utmost respect for each of you who exercise your right to vote. Some of you will say it's not worth the trouble of getting out to vote for only two people. Considering the importance of these offices, it is very likely to be. Important enough to take the time to vote.

For a last reminder, the runoff is on Tuesday, March 31st. The polls are open from 7 AM to 7 PM. I hope to see you there. Until later...



Gail Motes



Ree Shannon © 2016

FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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Financial Straight-Talk

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by Dave Ramsey

Take time to heal and to learn

Dear Dave,
I went through a divorce a couple of months ago, and I'm not sure what to do next. I received custody of our kids, ages 13 and 15, plus I have a good job and I got the house in the settlement. It's a nice, simple home, but it's paid for and worth about \$200,000. I receive \$1,400 a month in child support, and I got \$125,000, which was half our savings. I also have no other debt. Most of my friends are telling me I should begin investing, but they all have different ideas about where I should put the money. Can you give me some guidance?

Michelle

Dear Michelle,
I'm so sorry to hear you're going through this. Divorce is hard enough when it's just a couple, but it must be incredibly difficult with kids involved. Make sure you spend lots of time hug-

ging on them, and telling them how much you love them. God bless you guys.

Ok, I know your friends are just trying to help, but I wouldn't follow their financial advice right now. The trauma from your divorce is still fresh, and you should never make important, long-range decisions when your emotions are messed up. If there's anything positive in all this, it's that you're in a really nice place where your finances are concerned. You've got a good job, you have no debt, and you've got six figures sitting in the bank.

My advice is to park that money in a CD until you feel you're getting over the shock of what has happened.

You won't make much money doing this, but you won't lose any, either.

Then, after some time has passed, I want you to find a good financial advisor—one with the heart of a teacher—and look into investing \$25,000 in good growth stock mutual funds. I'm talking about ones with at least a 10-year track record of success.

Time and knowledge can help erase fear, Michelle. Plus, you've got a responsibility to yourself and your kids to invest wisely.

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.

Please send your guest columns and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

FC beef cookoff a success



COURTESY PHOTO

Devon Guzman won the senior division of the cookoff with David Baltazar and Haley Chaney finishing in 2nd and 3rd place.

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

Russellville High School student Devon Guzman and Phil Campbell School student Lydia Garrison cooked their way into the state competition as winners of the senior and junior division of the 2020 Franklin County Beef Cook-off.

The event, in its second year, is co-sponsored by the Franklin County Cattlemen's Association and the Franklin County Extension Office. The competition was held February 26th, with judging at the A.W. Todd Centre.

Students were graded in categories including appearance, flavor intensity, palatability, healthfulness and nutritional balance.

Guzman and Garrison will be invited to represent Franklin County in the State Beef Cook-off on April 4, 2020.

Caleb Beason, Agri-Science teacher at Phil Campbell High School and President of the Franklin County Cattlemen's Association, coordinated the event, which was broken into two divisions, Junior (7th-9th grade) and Senior (10th-12th grade).

Guzman won the Senior Division, with Russellville's David Baltazar finishing second and Haley Chaney from Belgreen placing third.

In the Junior Division, Garrison topped all fellow competitors, followed by Raegan Gordon from Red Bay, who finished second, and Ashley Epps from Red Bay, who took home third place.

Students prepared their beef dishes in advance, and brought their ready-to-serve entries to the Todd Centre, along with a copy of the recipe.

Beef must be the main ingredient in the dish, and fresh beef products available at any local supermarket must be used. Students were directed to limit sodium and fat in their recipes.

Beason said students from every Franklin County school that offers Family and Consumer Science programs participated in the cookoff, with the exception of Russellville Middle School.

"We increased the number of students participating this year and I think the students did a great job and our teachers did a great job of promoting it," Beason said. "The dishes were great, especially in presentation and appearance. They really branched out this year in the types of recipes entered."

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

Job shadowing helps local students with career plans

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow this year, as did a host of Franklin County professionals as 48 high school students took part in the annual "Job Shadowing Day," sponsored by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.

The students, each of whom are part of the chamber's Junior Leadership Program, spent the morning of February 12 shadowing various businesses and professionals across Franklin County.

Franklin County Chamber executive director Cassie Medley said students chose three possible careers they were interested in and ranked them according to their preference.

Chamber assistant director Susan Hall worked with local businesses and professionals to place the students in areas that reflected their various career interests.

"We try to place each student the best we can and focused on staying in Franklin County for all job shadowing," Medley said. "Our businesses in Franklin County have always been very supportive in allowing students to shadow them. This is the eighth year I've been involved in the Job Shadowing Day, and the response from our community grows each year."

Medley said she's seen former Junior Leadership students make career choices and change career plans based on their experiences on Job Shadowing Day.

"Their experience often solidifies what they want to do with their careers, one way or the other," Medley said. "We may have a student who says he or she wants to be a doctor, and when they shadow a physician they realize it's not at all like they expected, so they change their minds about what they want to do."

Two juniors, Camron Burks of Red Bay and Lane Shewbart of Red Bay, shadowed Franklin County probate judge Barry Moore.

"We always welcome the opportunity to host students on Job Shadowing Day," Moore said. "It's a great way for them to learn about the duties of this office on a day-to-day basis."

Among the many businesses and professionals to host students were Chris Wallace, who owns Wallace Construction, Melanie Malone, CRNP and owner of Mission Medical and Russellville attorney Jeff Bowling.

Medley will soon begin her annual speaking tour to all Franklin County 10th-graders to introduce them to the Junior Leadership Program and encourage them to apply.

"I'll speak to each 10th-grade class later this month and tell them about the Junior Leadership Program. Applications are due in the spring before the end of the school year," Medley said.

"After the interview process, we'll make our selections and announce the new Junior Leaders by late June."



COURTESY PHOTO

RBHS students Camron Burks and Lane Shewbart were able to spend time shadowing Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore as part of the Franklin County Junior Leadership program.

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What's Happening

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

Russellville Masonic Lodge 371 is selling Easter hams. Hams are \$30 and may be pre-ordered by calling 256-810-1970. Pickup will be Saturday, April 11 from 8-10 a.m. at the Lodge on Coffee Street.

West Elementary School is currently holding registration for Alabama's First Class Pre-K program at WES, a nationally recognized Pre-K program that sets school-ready children up for success as they continue through their educational career. Online applications can be filled out at <https://alprek.asapconnected.com>. Applications will be accepted through March 12. Enrollment is open to all children who will be four years old on or before September 1, 2020 and are residents of Alabama. Enrollees must provide a copy of the child's birth certificate and proof of residency (either a current utility bill or a copy of a loan or mortgage). Upon enrollment, the child's immunization form must be provided. Acceptance to the program is strictly through a random drawing that will be held Friday, March 13 at 9 a.m. at the RCS Board of Education. Parent/Guardian does not have to be present for drawing. For more info, visit <https://www.rcs.k12.al.us> and go to the West Elementary page.

American Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with meeting to follow.

Phil Campbell Friday Night Dance will celebrate 18th Anniversary next Friday night, March 13th. All previous musicians and public are invited to attend; Phil Campbell Community Center, Sherry Bryce Drive, off College Road, 7:00 p.m., \$5. admission.

Revival at Gateway Church, 15988 Hwy 43, Russellville, AL. Special Singing each night. Dates: March 13th- March 15th. Evangelist is Floyd Lawhon. He is an International Evangelist. Services will begin Friday and Saturday at 7:00. Sunday Morning service at 10:45 and Sunday Evening at 5:00.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guest Marty Harris at the Roxy Theatre on Saturday, March 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 historic Roxy Theater.

Osborn Hill Cemetery will meet on Thursday, March 19 at the Littleville Town Hall at 6 p.m. to elect officers for the coming year. Donations are needed to help maintain the perpetual care now and in the future. Please make check payable to the Osborn Hill Cemetery Fund, c/o Mrs. Lana Duncan, 2330 Colburn Mtn. Road, Tuscumbia, AL 35674, or to the Valley State Bank in Russellville, AL 35674. We encourage everyone to come!

Phil Campbell Study Club is sponsoring the sale of William Bishop's BBQ Pork & Smoked Half Chicken plates which include sauces, baked beans, coleslaw, dinner roll and dessert; Thursday, March 19, 2020, 3 PM till 6:30 PM; pick up at Phil Campbell First Baptist Church Annex; \$10 each. Proceeds will be used for Scholarships and other community projects. For info, call 205-993-4470.

There will be a one-year celebration of the Little Free Library at Phil Campbell Memorial Park on Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m.-noon. Guest authors DeCory Hale and Jake Owens will be in attendance, and a book swap will be held. Everyone is welcome!

Ronnie McDowell returns to Russellville to celebrate his 70th birthday with a special show at the Roxy Theatre on Saturday, March 21 at 7 p.m. Joseph Baldwin and Johnathan Len will open the show. Tickets are on sale now. Reserved seats are \$20-\$35, and general admission balcony seats are \$15. For ticket information, call 256-415-3270. Proceeds will benefit the Roxy Restoration Fund.

The Russellville Civitan Club is holding a Chicken Stew Fundraiser on Saturday, March 21. Pre-orders may be made by calling Pat Lane at 256-332-0965 or 256-627-7738. Quart jar is \$10, two quarts \$16, three quarts \$20 and gallon is \$24. Please pick up by noon on March 21 at Calvary Baptist Church on Highway 43 in Russellville.

There will be a fundraiser for the Martin Luther King Jr. scholarship on March 22 from 1-3 PM at the Russellville canteen. There will be smoked chicken or chicken tender plates along with baked beans, slaw, rolls, cake, tea and water. Dinner will be \$8.

Belgreen Kindergarten Registration will be on Friday, March 27, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the school's library. Students registering must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2020. Please bring your child's birth certificate, social security card, immunization record, and proof of residency (current utility bill or copy of lease/mortgage) to register. For more information, please call Belgreen High School at 256-332-1376.

Belgreen Alumni Banquet April 4th. Saturday 4-5:00 social hour. Meal 5:00. Business meeting at 6:00. Honoring classes of 1965, 75, 85, 95, 05, 2015 and Class of 1970 for 50th year. Meal is \$12. Please rsvp 256-332-1376. You can pay at the door.

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WES re-roofing project on hold

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

After consultation with the Alabama Department of Finance, the Russellville City Board of Education rejected each of the bids submitted on the West Elementary School re-roofing project.

Four bids were received, from Alabama Roofing and Sheet Metal Co., Inc., Johns and Kirksey, Inc., MG Roofing, Inc., and Standard Roofing of Montgomery, Inc.

The project was bid with a base bid for part of the roof, and two alternate bids that added additional pods to the project.

Tuscaloosa-based Johns and Kirksey, Inc., submitted the low base bid of \$275,000, and the company's bid for Alternate Bid No. 2 was also the low bid, at \$67,400. But the low bid for for Alternate Bid No. 1 came from Alabama Roofing and Sheet Metal.

One pod and the center section of the school's roofing projects have already been completed.

Transportation Supervisor Alan Wilson told board members at a February 20th meeting that officials with the Department of Finance, Division of Building Management, told him the system could not accept the overall low bid since it did not have the low bid on all alternate projects. So board members voted to reject and rebid the project and take out the alternate bids. Instead, the project will be for one job—re-roofing the entire school less what's already been done.

RCS Superintendent of Education Heath Grimes said the school continues to see leaks in several areas and the re-roofing at WES will be done as soon as the bid process is complete.

The project was let to bid after the board's approval later that afternoon.

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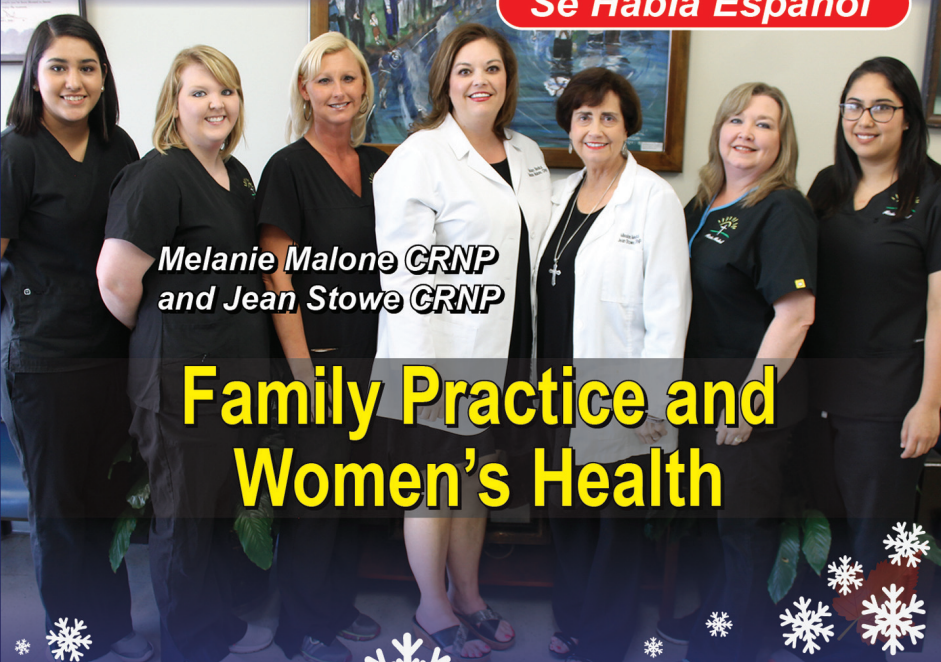


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'COMMISSION,' from page 3

- of completion from the Alabama Jail Training Academy.
- promoted Felix Mojica from corrections officer to sergeant.
- authorized Coroner Charles Adcox to resubmit a grant through the Franklin County Community Development Fund to purchase a vehicle for the office.
- approved bid awards for road projects on County Roads 56, 60 and 77.
- appointed Johnathan King and Jamie Parker to the Franklin County Industrial Development Board.
- approved Dr. Susan Hargett and Katernia Cole-Coffey as co-grant administrators for the Franklin County Census Committee.

PCES to hold pre-k registration

Submitted to the FFP

Phil Campbell Elementary will have registration for Pre-K and Kindergarten on March 27, 2020. Registration will be from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Kindergarten students will need to bring a current immunization/white slip (not expired), birth certificate, and proof of residency. Pre-K students will need to bring a current immunization/white slip (not expired), birth certificate, social security card and proof of residency. Pre-K students have to be 4 by September 1, 2020 and Kindergarten students have to be 5 by September 1, 2020 to register. Kindergarten students enrolling will need to bring \$50.00 for school supplies. Kindergarten students enrolling will need to come and be tested the day of registration. Current Pre-K students will not have to be tested. Drawing for Pre-K, will be held on March 27, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. Children enrolling will not be denied participation on the basis of income, sex, race, color, national origin or disability.

For those interested in signing up their child for Pre-K at PCES, online applications can be filled out at <https://alprek.asapconnected.com>. Applications will be accepted through March 27 til noon. The Pre-K random drawing will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the PCES library. Parent/Guardian does not have to be present for the drawing.



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'HEMP' from page 1

0.3 percent on a dry weight basis. THC is the primary psychoactive chemical in marijuana, according to www.agi.alabama.gov.

Hemp stalks and seeds can be used to make a variety of goods, including carpeting, fabric, livestock feed, food products and cannabidiol (CBD) products.

Prior to the 2018 Farm Bill's passage, all Cannabis plants in Alabama were classified as Schedule 1 controlled substances, meaning the possession of them was illegal.

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries has been tasked with the application process and licensing of hemp growers in the state, and it's not an easy procedure to get certified.

There is a \$200 application fee and an additional \$1,000 license fee per growing area if the permit is granted. And participants must reapply every year. Applicants must pass a background check, and even with a state permit, growers are subject to federal laws on marijuana.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System created a Hemp Action Team to be able to assist growers with the production of this new agricultural commodity. In northwest Alabama, the ACES contact is Eric Schavey, Commercial Horticulture Regional Extension agent. He may be reached at 256-547-7936.

In addition to commercial farm growers, permits were issued last year to 59 processors and five universities who are researching and studying the Cannabis plant.

It's a crime to be in possession of any raw or unprocessed hemp seeds or plants without having been permitted by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

There could be significant growth in the hemp industry if the Alabama Legislature approves a proposed bill that would legalize the use and possession of medical marijuana.

The Alabama Medical Cannabis Study Commission recommended the legislation last year by a 12-3 vote. The bill would set up an 11-member Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission that would oversee the process from growth to sale. The bill's sponsors say marijuana products would be strictly limited to those who qualify and need it.

A 2019 version of the bill passed the Senate last year but died in the House,

where members decided it needed to be further studied before approval.

If the legislation passes, the ADAI would be responsible for licensing and regulating marijuana cultivators.

As for the lone Franklin County entity on last year's approved list, Chestnut Ridge Landscaping, LLC, is an Alabama corporation with a principal address in Talladega.

The corporation's registered agent is Jerry Howard, Jr., and according to the Alabama Secretary of State's website, the corporation was formed to design and install commercial landscaping.

The *Franklin Free Press* was unable to find any connection between Chestnut Ridge Landscaping, LLC, and Franklin County.

Colbert County had two licensees on the grower list last year, Fennel Farms and Chris Haclacker.

With more stores selling CBD products across the state, demand for hemp is on the rise.

The ADAI has not yet released the approved growers and processors for 2020, as those conditionally approved were required to attend a mandatory orientation meeting and pay the \$1,000 fee before receiving final approval.

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Veteran talent should shine next season

One quick glance at the leaderboard is all it takes to determine that next season could be a really, really good one for boys basketball in Franklin County.

Of the county's top ten scorers from this past season, eight were juniors and two were sophomores. Barring something unforeseen, all ten will be back next season to continue filling up the stat sheet.

Among those returning stars are two players who have already surpassed the 1,000-point mark for their varsity careers. Tharptown's Winston Nolen, who averaged 16.8 points per game this season as a junior, is the county's active scoring leader with 1,081 career points. Red Bay's Braden Ray averaged 16.5 points per game this season and will head into his senior year with 1,041 career points.

As many as four other players are in position to join Nolen and Ray in the 1,000-point club next season. Belgreen point guard Will Bonner poured in 655 points (an average of 19.3 per game) as a sophomore this season, giving him 953 in his varsity career. He should hit the 1,000-point mark within the first two or three games next season, and—at his current pace—he's on track to blow by the 2,000-point mark just past the midway point of his senior season.

Bonner's Belgreen teammate, Scout Bragwell, should also join the 1,000-point club next season. Bragwell has totaled 798 points over the past two years and will enter his senior season with 818 points scored at the varsity level. [Odds are good he'll hit the milestone on a three-point shot; he led the county with 97 made threes this season and has hit 165 in his career.]

Two other prolific perimeter shooters are also poised to become members of the 1,000-point club next season. Russellville's Chandler Dyas, who as a junior ranked second in Franklin County in both threes made (78) and points per game (17.3), will enter his senior season with 896 career points. He should reach the milestone by mid-December, if not sooner.

It will take Phil Campbell's Luke Garrison a little longer, but he's on track to get there, too. Garrison hit 44 threes this past season and scored a career-high 406 points (16.9 per game), giving him 781 points in his varsity career. At his current pace, he should be knocking on the door of the 1,000-point club before the calendar flips to 2021.

Assuming Bonner, Bragwell, Dyas and Garrison all stay healthy and hit the mark next year, Franklin County boys basketball will have six

See 'TALENT,' Page 15



Mike Self
Sports Editor

Franklin Free Press 2019-20

All-County Boys Basketball

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Last week we gave you our girls basketball All-County selections for this season. This week, the boys take center stage.

The Belgreen-Red Bay rivalry dominated the headlines in Franklin County boys basketball, and with good reason. The two teams combined for 50 wins and squared off head-to-head four times. The Bulldogs won three of those meetings, winning twice on Red Bay's home floor—including a 61-41 victory in the finals of the county tournament.

Belgreen finished 27-7, losing by three to reigning state champion Decatur Heritage in the Class 1A Northwest Regional semifinals. Red Bay, meanwhile, won its first-ever regional championship, advancing to the Class 2A Final Four and finishing 23-10.

The Tigers and Bulldogs, as you might imagine, are well represented on our All-County team. But players from schools all across Franklin County distinguished themselves with their performance this season, earning All-County recognition. Here are our selections:

Player of the Year

Will Bonner, Sophomore Guard, Belgreen

Bonner was nothing short of spectacular for the Bulldogs this season. Primarily a facilitator as a freshman at Russellville the year before, the 5'10 point guard was a scoring machine in his first season at Belgreen, totaling 655 points [no other player in the county reached even the 500-point mark] and averaging 19.3 per game.

Bonner topped the 20-point mark 15 times, five more than anybody else in Franklin County. His three games of 30-plus points included a scintillating 47-point performance on January 21 in a showdown with Lindsay Lane star Tommy Murr, the state's all-time leading scorer. Remarkably, Bonner scored those 47 points without making a single three-pointer, shooting 17-for-31 from the floor and 13-for-15 from the line. [He also pulled down a career-high 15 rebounds in Belgreen's 71-65 win.]

Bonner's point totals were impressive, but even more noteworthy was the efficient manner in



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

WILL POWER - Bonner (1) scored 655 points this season, an average of 19.3 per game. He topped the 20-point mark 15 times, including a 23-point outing against Decatur Heritage in the regional semifinals (above).

which he scored. Virtually unstoppable on dribble penetration, Bonner used the bounce to get into the paint at will and was a fearless finisher. He shot 54.7 percent (232-for-424) from the floor, a mind-boggling figure for a high school guard—particularly one standing less than six feet tall.

Bonner made major strides as a perimeter shooter, knocking down 29 threes at a 38.6 percent clip, and was a monster at the foul line, leading the county in free throws made (162) and attempted (220) while shooting better than 73 percent. He also continued to excel as a distributor, handing out 4.7 assists per game, and a disruptive defender, averaging 2.7 steals per game.

Perhaps the greatest testament of all to Bonner's offensive prowess was his performance against Red Bay. The Tigers were an absolute defensive juggernaut this season, but they could do little more with Bonner than foul him. In four meetings with Red Bay, Bonner averaged 21.0 points per game and shot 36-for-48 from the line while helping the Bulldogs go 3-1.

With two full seasons remaining in his prep career, Bonner has already scored 953 points at the varsity level.

See 'BOYS,' Page 12

2019-20 Franklin County Leaderboard Scoring (Points per Game)

Will Bonner, sophomore, Belgreen	19.3
Chandler Dyas, junior, Russellville	17.3
Luke Garrison, junior, Phil Campbell	16.9
Winston Nolen, junior, Tharptown	16.8
Braden Ray, junior, Red Bay	16.5
Brooks Scott, junior, Russellville	13.9
Scout Bragwell, junior, Belgreen	12.0
Collin Bonner, sophomore, Belgreen	11.5
Colton Simmons, junior, Tharptown	10.4
Brett Saint, junior, Phil Campbell	10.0

'BOYS' from page 11



PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW

Players like Collin Bonner (above) and Clay Allison (below, 1) excelled on both ends of the floor. Bonner averaged 11.5 points on 53 percent shooting while also totaling a combined 127 steals and blocks. Allison drilled 35 threes, shot 75 percent from the line and had 53 steals.

few more threes and improves at the foul line (where he shot just 27-for-60), Bonner will become even more dangerous on the offensive end. With his 378 points scored and 127 combined steals and blocks this season, he's already



First-Team All-County

Braden Ray, Junior Forward, Red Bay

After averaging a solid 9.3 points in 60 games as a freshman and sophomore, Ray blossomed into a big-time scorer this season as a junior. Capable of doing damage both inside and out, the versatile 6'5 forward topped the 20-point mark eight times and averaged 16.5 points per game, good for fifth in Franklin County.

Red Bay's deliberate, share-the-ball approach on offense doesn't often produce gaudy individual numbers, but Ray still managed to top the 30-point mark twice, scoring 31 in an area win over Sulligent on December 12 and then going off for a career-high 35 in a 74-56 win over Mars Hill on January 31.

As a scorer, Ray was efficient from everywhere, shooting 75 percent from the foul line, 36 percent from beyond the arc and 48 percent from the floor overall. He ranked third in the county in threes made (55) and second in both free throws made (110) and attempted (146). Ray also led Red Bay in steals with 61 (2.1 per game) while ranking second on the team in rebounds (5.9 per game), assists (54 total) and blocks (22).

In the second quarter of the Tigers' regional semifinal against Southeastern, Ray surpassed the 1,000-point mark for his varsity career. He finished that game with 26 points and then added 17 more in the regional final against Vincent, earning Regional MVP honors and helping Red Bay punch its ticket to the Final Four for the first time in program history.

Chandler Dyas, Junior Forward, Russellville

As the lone returning starter from the previous year's 20-win team, Dyas was a marked man this season and the focal point of every Russellville opponent's defensive strategy. Despite all that extra attention, the 6'2 wing still finished as the second-leading scorer in Franklin County, averaging a career-high 17.3 points per game.

Dyas topped the 20-mark ten times, scoring a career-high 27 (and converting the game-winning four-point play in the final seconds) in a 60-59 victory over Athens on December 9. Dyas drilled 78 threes on the season, second-most in the county, and also excelled at getting to the foul line, ranking third in the county in free throws made (86) and attempted (124) while shooting a solid 69 percent.

Dyas's contributions went beyond the scoring column, as he averaged 4.6 rebounds and 2.9 assists per game. He will enter his senior season just 104 points shy of 1,000 for his varsity career.

Collin Bonner, Sophomore Guard, Belgreen

The Bulldogs won 27 games this season, and Bonner's all-around contributions were critical to that success. Listed at 6'1, Bonner had the impact of a much taller player thanks to his long arms and raptor-like wingspan. He was an absolute menace defensively, recording 72 steals (2.2 per game) and a team-high 55 blocked shots (1.7 per game). He also averaged 5.5 rebounds per game (second-most on the team) and handed out 64 assists (fourth).

A natural scorer who did most of his damage from the mid-range area, Bonner averaged 11.5 points per game. He reached double-figures 21 times in 33 games and topped the 20-point mark on four occasions—including the regional semifinals against Decatur Heritage, when he scored 21 points on 9-for-14 shooting in a 68-65 loss.

Bonner shot a highly efficient 53.1 percent (170-for-320) from the floor this season. He only made 11 threes but shot them at a more than respectable rate of 34.3 percent. If he makes a

established himself as one of the best two-way players around.

Scout Bragwell, Junior Guard, Belgreen

Granted, Bragwell's all-around game might not match that of our other first-team selections. But his impact as an elite (not good, not very good, not great, even, but *elite*) shooter is hard to over-state. Bragwell didn't merely shoot the ball well this season; he shot it *historically* well.

The 5'10 lefty with the silky-smooth stroke attempted 198 threes this season. He made 97 of them. That works out to 49.0 percent. According to the AHSAA website, only one player in state history has ever posted a higher percentage from beyond the arc (minimum 150 attempts) in a single season: Carver-Montgomery's Dominique Smiley, who shot 52.8 percent (132-for-250) from three in 2007-08.

A strong case can be made that Bragwell's left wrist might be the most devastating offensive weapon in Franklin County. The folks from Mars Hill certainly wouldn't disagree. Bragwell buried six first-half threes in a sub-regional game on February 11, burying the Panthers in the process as Belgreen cruised to a 75-48 rout that punched its ticket to Hanceville for the third time in the past four seasons.

That was one of ten games this season in which Bragwell made at least four threes; the Bulldogs won all ten of those games. They were 7-0 when Bragwell scored 20-plus points. Simply put, when Bragwell lit it up from deep, it was lights-out for opponents.

He finished the season averaging 12.0 points per game, good for seventh-best in Franklin County. In addition to lapping the field in threes made [only Russellville's Dyas came within 40 makes of Bragwell's total], Bragwell also led the county in free-throw percentage at .865 (32-for-37). And he *did* find other ways to impact the game, ranking third on the team in assists (70) and averaging 2.9 rebounds and 1.5 steals per game while shooting 50.5 percent from the floor overall.

With 165 career threes made at the varsity level, Bragwell has a chance to finish very high on the state's all-time list. If he makes exactly 100 threes as a senior, he'll finish with 265 in his career, which would rank 19th in state history. If he were to truly go off next season and make 135 threes, he'd become just the 14th player in AHSAA history to reach 300 for his career.

Second-Team All-County

Clay Allison, Senior Guard, Red Bay

Allison was rock-solid at the point for Red Bay, starting all 33 games and setting the tone for head coach John Torsky on both ends of the floor.

Allison surpassed the 1,000-point mark for his career in an early-December game against Phil Campbell and finished the season averaging 8.6 points per game, good for second on the team. He ranked sixth in Franklin County with 35 threes made and fourth in foul shooting at 75 percent (72-for-96).

A classic example of a player who sacrifices individual achievement in order to embrace a specific role within the team concept, Allison embodies Red Bay's "we-before-me" ethos. He handed out 40 assists this season, pulled down 2.5 rebounds per game and ranked second on the team with 53 steals (1.6 per game).

His poise under pressure as a ball-handler and boundless energy as a perimeter defender helped earn him a spot on the All-Regional team in Hanceville.

See 'BOYS,' page 13

'BOYS' from page 12

Lane Shewbart, Junior Post Player, Red Bay

The 6'6 Shewbart was a beast on the boards, pulling down a total of 17 rebounds in two games at the regional tournament and then grabbing 14 rebounds in the state semifinals against Calhoun. For the season, he averaged a team-high 7.8 boards per game to go along with 7.6 points while shooting 49 percent from the floor and 75 percent (56-for-75) from the foul line.

After scoring in double-figures just twice in 33 games as a sophomore, Shewbart opened this season with 10 points and 14 rebounds in a 49-41 win over Phil Campbell. He went on to post double-digit points on ten other occasions—including the Class 2A, Area 13 championship game on February 7, when he hit two threes, shot 7-for-7 from the line and scored a career-high 23 points to lead a 79-56 rout of Sulligent.

Shewbart was the only player in Franklin County this season to put up at least 250 points (251) and 250 rebounds (257). Surprisingly quick and agile for his size, he also made a major impact on the defensive end, recording 31 steals and a team-best 25 blocked shots.

2019-20 Franklin County Leaderboard Games With 20-Plus Points

Will Bonner, sophomore, Belgreen	15 (high of 47)
Chandler Dyas, junior, Russellville	10 (high of 27)
Winston Nolen, junior, Tharptown	10 (high of 31)
Luke Garrison, junior, Phil Campbell	9 (high of 35)
Braden Ray, junior, Red Bay	8 (high of 35)
Scout Bragwell, junior, Belgreen	7 (high of 26)
Brooks Scott, junior, Russellville	6 (high of 26)
Collin Bonner, sophomore, Belgreen	4 (high of 22)
Brett Saint, junior, Phil Campbell	2 (high of 27)
Colton Simmons, junior, Tharptown	2 (high of 21)

Brooks Scott, Junior Post Player, Russellville

The Golden Tigers' search for a second scorer to complement Dyas culminated in the emergence of Scott, who upped his average from 3.6 points per game as a sophomore to 13.9 per game as a junior—good for sixth in Franklin County.

The 6'0 Scott came into his own around Christmas, topping the 20-point mark in five straight games from December 27 through January 7. He scored a career-high 26 points against Tanner at the Bracy Invitational and then put up 25 one week later in a 63-53 win at Central-Florence. Over the course of that five-game



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Russellville's Scott upped his scoring average from 3.6 points per game as a sophomore to 13.9 as a junior, sixth-best in Franklin County.

stretch, Scott averaged 22.8 points and shot 71 percent (29-for-41) from the foul line.

A capable shooter, Scott stepped out on rare occasions this season and knocked down four threes, but the brawny 210-pounder did the vast majority of his damage in the paint. He topped the 20-point mark one final time on January 17 at West Point and wound up scoring in double-figures 19 times in 27 games.

In 17 games after Christmas Day, Scott led Russellville in scoring nine times and averaged 16.0 points per game. He also averaged 4.4 rebounds per game on the season and finished fifth in the county in free throws made (74) and tied for third in free throws attempted (124).

2019-20 Franklin County Leaderboard Three-Pointers Made

Scout Bragwell, junior, Belgreen	97
Chandler Dyas, junior, Russellville	78
Braden Ray, junior, Red Bay	55
Winston Nolen, junior, Tharptown	49
Luke Garrison, junior, Phil Campbell	44
Clay Allison, senior, Red Bay	35
Edwin Garcia, senior, Tharptown	33
Will Bonner, sophomore, Belgreen	29
Brett Saint, junior, Phil Campbell	19
Jalen Vinson, junior, Red Bay	15

Winston Nolen, Junior Guard, Tharptown

The 6'2 Nolen averaged 5.0 rebounds per game while leading the Wildcats in assists (3.0 per game) and steals (2.6), but make no mistake about it—his specialty was getting buckets.

Nolen piled up a career-high 487 points this season, second-most in Franklin County. He averaged 16.8 points per game, good for fourth in the county, and tied for second with 10 games of 20-plus points. He set a new career-high with 31 points at Hatton on January 21, nailing six threes and adding nine rebounds. Less than a week later, Nolen put up 28 points, 11 rebounds, six steals, three assists and three blocks in a 74-69 win over Falkville.

Nolen's 49 made threes this season were just one off his career-high and ranked fourth in the county. He was as consistent as he was prolific, posting double-figure points 27 times in 29 games. He eclipsed the 1,000-point mark for his career on January 23 at Vina, finishing with 15 in a 70-42 rout.

Over the past two seasons, Nolen has scored a total of 960 points in 55 games, an average of 17.5 per contest. He has made 99 threes during that stretch while posting double-digit points 51 times in 55 games and topping the 20-point mark a total of 20 times, the most by any player in Franklin County. He will enter his senior season with 1,081 points scored at the varsity level.

Luke Garrison, Junior Guard, Phil Campbell

A gifted shooter and dynamic scorer, Garrison drilled 44 threes this season and topped the 30-point mark three times, tied for the most in Franklin County. He opened the season by hitting six threes and scoring 30 points in a win over Carbon Hill. He later dropped 30 in a mid-December win at Colbert Heights and then put up a career-high 35 (hitting four threes and going 7-for-7 from the foul line) in an 82-76 loss at Fayette County on January 21.

Garrison's nine games of 20-plus points were fourth-most in the county, and his average of 16.9 points per game ranked third. He was lethal from beyond the arc, crafty in the paint and money at the foul line, finishing second in the county at 82.4 percent (84-for-102).

Garrison was an efficient and consistent scorer,



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Sitting at 9-6 when January arrived, Torisky and the Tigers won 14 of their next 17 games, claiming a Northwest Regional championship and earning a Final Four berth for the first time in program history.

shooting 49 percent (93-for-189) from the floor and reaching double-figures 20 times in 24 games. He also made an impact on the defensive end, leading the Bobcats in both steals (2.1 per game) and deflections (3.0 per game). With 781 career points scored at the varsity level, he's on track to surpass the 1,000-point mark just past the midway point of his senior season.

Coch of the Year

John Torisky, Red Bay

This award could just as easily go to Marty Cooper, who in his first season at Belgreen led the Bulldogs to 27 wins, a county championship and a berth in the regional tournament. But we'll give the nod to Torisky, who steered Red Bay through

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Tori Tiffin

Sophomore Pitcher, Russellville

Tiffin had a big week at the plate and in the circle for Russellville. Last Monday against Mars Hill, she went 3-for-4 with an RBI and two runs scored in a 14-12 loss. Two days later, she carried a perfect game into the sixth inning of a 10-3 win over Rogers. Tiffin retired the first 16 batters she faced on her way to pitching a complete game, allowing three earned runs on five hits with three strikeouts and no walks. She also went 1-for-4 with an RBI and a steal.

Through Sunday, Tiffin was 1-1 this season with a 2.47 ERA in 17.1 innings pitched.



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'BOYS' from page 13

some rough waters around mid-season and then guided the Tigers all the way to Birmingham for the first time in program history.

That Final Four berth was the culmination of a five-year rebuilding process that saw Torisky take the Tigers from seven total wins in his first two seasons on the job to a 68-29 record over the past three seasons, with three straight trips to Hanceville and this year's Northwest Regional championship.

Patient and unselfish on offense, driven and disciplined on defense, Red Bay stacked up quality wins this season over the likes of Hamilton (a regular-season area champion in Class 5A), Belgreen (a Sweet 16 team in 1A), Lauderdale County (a state finalist in 3A), Haleyville (a Sweet 16 team in 4A), Mars Hill, Sheffield and a Vincent team that finished 25-3.

Sitting at 9-6 when the calendar flipped to January, the Tigers turned the corner and went 14-4 the rest of the way. They finished 23-10 and have now won 50 games over the past two seasons.

"Right now it's rolling downhill," Torisky said in Hanceville, "but it took a long time to build it to where it is today—hard work and luck and good kids."

2019-20 Franklin County Leaderboard Free Throw Percentage (minimum 25 attempts)

Scout Bragwell, junior, Belgreen	.865 (32-for-37)
Luke Garrison, junior, Phil Campbell	.824 (84-for-102)
Braden Ray, junior, Red Bay	.753 (110-for-146)
Clay Allison, senior, Red Bay	.750 (72-for-96)
Lane Shewbart, junior, Red Bay	.747 (56-for-75)
Brett Saint, junior, Phil Campbell	.744 (67-for-90)
Edwin Garcia, senior, Tharptown	.741 (20-for-27)
Will Bonner, sophomore, Belgreen	.736 (162-for-220)
Jalen Vinson, junior, Red Bay	.732 (30-for-41)
Chandler Dyas, junior, Russellville	.694 (86-for-124)

All-Defensive Team

Tanner Hamilton, Senior Guard, Red Bay

With his length and athleticism, the 6'3 Hamilton was a nightmare matchup for opposing scorers. In the Tigers' 44-31 regional final win over Vincent, Hamilton held Gadsden State signee Malik Hamilton to just three points on 1-for-9 shooting. For the season, Tanner Hamilton recorded 38 steals and 10 blocked shots while also turning in solid work on the offensive end (6.5 points per game on 47 percent shooting, plus a team-high 68 assists).

Edward Lopez, Senior Post Player, Tharptown

The 6'2 Lopez created all sorts of havoc on the defensive end, averaging 2.3 steals and 1.3 blocks per game. He also led the Wildcats in rebounding (6.0 per game) while averaging 7.8 points per game on 53 percent shooting.

Jeb Bishop, Junior Post Player, Russellville

An athletic leaper with terrific timing and a nose for the ball, the 6'3 Bishop blocked 67 shots this season, an average of 2.5 per game. He also led the Golden Tigers in rebounding, pulling down 6.8 boards per game. Offensively, Bishop ranked third on the team in scoring at 9.1 points per contest.

Jalen Vinson, Junior Guard, Red Bay

The 6'1 Vinson has the size, length, athleticism and competitive fire to be a lockdown defender. In the win over Vincent in the regional final, Vinson drew the assignment of covering the Yellow Jackets' top scorer, 6'3 guard Ryshod Keith, and hounded him into a 4-for-13 shooting day.

Vinson finished the season with 38 steals and eight blocked shots. He was no slouch offensively either, averaging 6.9 points per game while knocking down 15 threes and shooting 73 percent (30-for-41) from the foul line.

Isac Willingham, Junior Forward, Belgreen

A rugged rebounder and scrappy defender, the 6'1 Willingham did the dirty work for a Belgreen team that finished 27-7. Willingham pulled down a team-best 6.0 boards per game and also recorded 45 steals (1.3 per game).

On the other end of the floor, Willingham's vision and unselfishness helped grease the gears for a well-oiled offensive machine. His 95 assists (2.8 per game) ranked second on the team, and he also averaged 5.4 points per game on 52 percent shooting from the floor.

2019-20 Franklin County Leaderboard Highest Single-Game Scoring Totals

Will Bonner, sophomore, Belgreen	47	at Lindsay Lane on Jan. 21
Will Bonner, sophomore, Belgreen	35	vs. Phil Campbell on Jan. 16
Luke Garrison, junior, Phil Campbell	35	at Fayette County on Jan. 21
Braden Ray, junior, Red Bay	35	vs. Mars Hill on Jan. 31
Winston Nolen, junior, Tharptown	31	at Hatton on Jan. 21
Braden Ray, junior, Red Bay	31	vs. Sulligent on Dec. 12
Will Bonner, sophomore, Belgreen	30	at Red Bay on Dec. 9
Luke Garrison, junior, Phil Campbell	30	vs. Carbon Hill on Nov. 18
Luke Garrison, junior, Phil Campbell	30	at Colbert Heights on Dec. 12
Will Bonner, sophomore, Belgreen	29	vs. Lindsay Lane on Nov. 8
Braden Ray, junior, Red Bay	29	vs. Belgreen on Dec. 9

'TALENT' from page 11

active 1,000-point scorers—not to mention some really talented teams with a chance to make postseason noise.

Red Bay reached the Class 2A Final Four last month and will bring back Ray (the Northwest Regional MVP), big man Lane Shewbart (an All-Regional Tournament selection who averaged 7.6 points and 7.8 rebounds per game this season) and starting guard Jalen Vinson (6.9 points per game). Coach John Torisky's Tigers (who got realigned into Area 10 with Sulligent, Lamar County and Aliceville) will be well equipped to pursue a fourth straight regional berth and a third straight 20-win season.

Belgreen proved this season that it could go toe-to-toe with the other Class 1A heavyweights in a loaded Northwest region, and the Bulldogs—who won 27 games—could be even better in year number two under head coach Marty Cooper.

Will Bonner (19.3 points per game), Bragwell (12.0) and Collin Bonner (11.5) all shot better than 50 percent from the floor while averaging a combined 42.8 points per game this past season. All return next year, along with versatile forward Isac Willingham (5.4 points on 52 percent shooting to go along with 6.0 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game).

The path to the Final Four got a tad easier with Decatur Heritage moving back over to the Northeast region, but the Northwest remains loaded. Still, it'll be Birmingham or bust for the Bulldogs next season.

Meanwhile, at Russellville, the Golden Tigers return a high-scoring trio of their own in Dyas (17.3 points per game) and fellow rising seniors Brooks Scott (13.9 points per game) and Jeb Bishop (9.1 points, plus a team-high 6.8 rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game).

Players like Boots McCulloch, Sam Pace, Nathan Brockway and Eli Gipson all got varying degrees of varsity experience as sophomores this season, and a step forward by that collective group should make Russellville the favorite to win a three-team Area 15 that also includes long-standing rivals Lawrence County and West Point. [The Golden Tigers were fortunate not to land in Area 16, where Mae Jemison, Lee-Huntsville and East Limestone will battle it out.]

Crossing with Area 16 in sub-regional play won't make that elusive trip to Hanceville any easier to come by, but a fourth area title in six seasons under head coach Patrick Odom will be well within reach.



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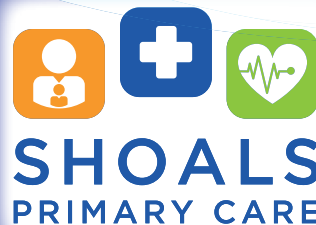
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