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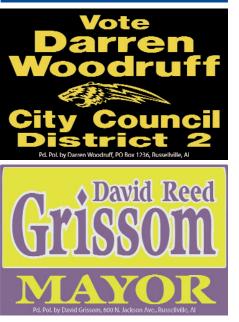


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Tompkins: Positive outlook on cancer diagnosis is 'everything'

2001142

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

He was an All-State guarterback on his hometown team that he led to two semi-finals and one championship game from 2000-2002.

After a brief collegiate career, he came back home to start in law enforcement, where he advanced up the ranks to Lieutenant Investigator with the Russellville Police Department.

With his career firmly established, he married the love of his life five years ago and was blessed with his first child two years later.

For Jake Tompkins, life reads like a story book. But three months ago, a new chapter began-one that wasn't supposed to be part of this idyllic script-when he was diagnosed with cancer.

Malignant melanoma of the oral cavity, to be exact.

When the call came in May, Tompkins was shocked. He'd experienced periodic swelling in his jaw for three years, but a visit to his doctor and a prescription for antibiotics resulted in the swelling going down on those occasions.

This spring, though, the swelling returned and the ensuing pain was stronger than ever. Tompkins was referred to an Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist in Florence. After that appointment, the COVID-19 outbreak put a halt to most surgical procedures, including a biopsy of Tompkins' cheek.

It was April 30th when he finally had the biopsy. 12 days later, the phone call Tompkins never expected came. And it hit him like a blitzing

See 'TOMPKINS,' page 8



John Pilati Franklin Free Press

When construction on their house is complete, Johnny Mack and Martha Morrow will make their new home in Starkville, Miss.

It's challenging to envision Franklin County without Morrow among its ranks. But the 77-year old recently accepted a position with Mississippi State University's John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Development, Community and Morrow and his wife decided to relocate to his college town.

Martha, an optometrist, will continue her Russellville optometry prac-

tice even after the move is complete. Morrow, who represented Franklin County's District 18 in the Alabama House of Representatives for 28 years, recently described his life to the Franklin Free Press as a series of chapters, and Chapter 5: Return to Mississippi State University is now underway.

As the Stennis Institute's Special Projects Coordinator, Morrow works with officials on identifying and resolving issues and completing projects important to the people of Mississippi. Considering his political experience and acumen, the job seems a perfect match for Morrow.

See 'MORROW,' page 9







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James Archie Glasgow, 94, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Thursday, July 16th. Interment at Shady Grove Cemetery.

Larry Jack Henson, 71, formerly of Russellville, passed away on Friday, July 17th. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

Martha Sue Landers, 75, of Russellville, passed away on Friday, July 17th. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

Mary "Louise" Warhurst, 83 of Phil Campbell, passed away on Wednesday, July 15th. Interment at Union Hill First Congregational Methodist Church Cemetery.



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PAGE 3 JULY 22, 2020

Franklin voter turnout low, but above state percentage for runoff

John Pilati

Franklin Free Press

If you hosted a party and only 17 percent of invited guests showed up, you'd probably be disappointed.

That's what happened in Alabama on July 14, but instead of a party it was a primary runoff. And not many folks showed up.

Statewide votes cast in the Republican Primary runoffs totaled 549,721, compared to 711,809 votes in the March 3, 2020, Republican Primary.

The 626,551 total votes represent 17% of Alabama's 3.5 million registered voters

Locally, the turnout was better than the state average, but still low. Franklin County Republican voters chose Stratt Byars over Veronica Copeland Stancil in the Revenue Commissioner's runoff.

Byars received 2,107 votes to Stancil's 2,078, and 44 voters failed to mark either candidate on their ballot. The total of 4,229 votes represents 22% of Franklin County's 19,155 registered voters.

With more than a four-month gap between the primary and runoff, voter interest was predictably low on Tuesday. COVID-19 safety concerns prevented candidates from traditional campaign methods including door-to-door visits and large political gatherings in various Franklin County communities.

The candidates crafted other ways to draw attention to the July 14 runoff, including standing at intersections waving at traffic and driving trucks with large political signs affixed to them around the county.

Byars' supporters added "Vote Today" signs to his political signs early Tuesday to remind voters it was election day.

By day's end, Byars earned a 29-vote victory over Stancil, in the closest county-wide race in decades.

Other than a brief power outage at Rockwood early Tuesday morning, there were no problems at polling locations, according to Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore. Moore said voter turnout, particularly among older voters, was down in part due to their concerns about going out in public to vote. Moore expressed his appreciation to poll workers and his staff for the problem-free election day.

"With the challenges we had with the virus, I appreciate our poll workers doing their civic duty to help the citizens of Franklin County vote." Moore said. "I appreciate all the citizens of the county who voted as well as all the staff in the Probate Office. They made this election go smoothly along with Elaine Mitchell and Loretta Sykes.

"It takes everyone working together to make this work," Moore added.

The criteria for voting absentee were waived for the July 14 runoff, as Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill, the state's chief election officer, said voters could vote absentee if they didn't want to get out in public.

203 absentee applications were mailed out in Franklin County, but only 165 absentee ballots were cast, a lower-than-expected number.

Next on the political agenda will be Alabama municipal elections on August 25, 2020. Municipal candidates do not run by political party, so there are no primaries. Unless a runoff is needed, all mayors and city council members across the state will be elected that day.

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PAGE 4 JULY 22, 2020

State Farm reducing auto insurance rates due to decline in travel

Submitted to the FFP

Driving behaviors across the country continue to evolve during the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on current trends, State Farm is working to reduce auto insurance rates in Alabama by an average of 12.5%.

This rate reduction will save more than one million State Farm customers a total of \$106.4 million. This applies to current customers at policy renewal, as well as new and returning customers.

"Current State Farm driving data and claims experience show a considerable decline in miles driven and fewer accidents," said Dan Krause, Senior Vice President. "As a result, we're looking for ways to continue supporting our Alabama customers while we monitor and adjust to trends."

In addition to the auto rate reduction, the discount for participating in Drive Safe & Save™ is increasing to 10%, and empowers drivers to save more on their auto premiums through driving behaviors.

Customer rate reductions will vary based on their individual renewals. Customers are encouraged to visit with their State Farm agent about individual policies, coverage and any opportunities for discounts, including Drive Safe & Save.

For more information, contact Russellville State Farm agents Rhett Bradford at 256-332-0540 or Lee Nickels at 256-332-0052.

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

CORRECTION

In an article about Russellville City Schools' transportation changes in our July 15, 2020, issue, the start date for the fall semester for RCS was listed as August 20. The actual start date is August 12. The Franklin Free Press regrets the error.

FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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County commission votes to relocate polling location, other location change considered

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

One Franklin County polling place has changed, and another may soon be moved depending on feedback from voters at a public meeting.

The Franklin County Commission voted to change the Waco precinct voting location to Waco Baptist Church on Hwy. 724, at the commission's July 20 meeting.

Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore said the former location, Waco Church of Christ on Hwy. 75, was not available as the church was no longer actively meeting. The new location, 31231 County Road 724, is a short distance from Waco Church of Christ, so voters won't have to travel out of the way.

The changes will take effect in the November 3, 2020, general election.

The Franklin County Commission may change a polling place as long as the change is made more than 90 days from election and the new location remains inside the precinct.

In the case of Quinn's Garage voting precinct, though, the requirements are a bit different for what commissioners are wanting to do.

The commission approved a public meeting for Monday, July 22 at 6 p.m., at Tharptown Baptist Church to receive input on relocating the Quinn's Garage voting location to Tharptown Baptist Church.

The church already serves as the voting site for the Tharptown precinct, so if it becomes the location for Quinn's Garage precinct voters, the church would become a voting center and would house two precincts on election day.

A 2017 local law authorizes the Franklin County

Commission to establish voting centers for multiple precincts. Before that can be approved, though, a public hearing must be held where voters in that precinct can be heard regarding the proposed change.

So Quinn's Garage voters who want to address the commission would be allowed to do so at the July 22 meeting, Moore said.

Tharptown Baptist Church officials agreed to host both precincts on election day, if that is approved by the commission.

Moore said he and Commissioner Chris Wallace have received citizen concerns about the Quinn's Garage location.

"The McDonald family (which owns Quinn's Garage on Hwy. 48) has been wonderful, but this would allow for a larger location with easier access for voters," Moore said. "There is no air conditioning there, and it's a gravel parking lot, so the church would offer more accommodations for voters."

If the move is approved, it would be the third different location for voters in the precinct in the last 10 years. Voting previously was held at Myrick's Grocery on Hwy. 48 in Saints Crossroads before it was moved to Quinn's Garage several years ago.

A special meeting will be held on Friday, July 31 for commissioners to consider creating the polling center at Tharptown Baptist.

All voters affected by relocation of a voting precinct will receive cards from the Franklin County Board of Registrars notifying them of the new location. The change would take effect on the next scheduled election, November 3, 2020.

In other agenda items at their July 20 meeting,



PAGE 5 JULY 22, 2020

To all District Five **Residents:**

Door-to-door campaigning has traditionally been a part of running for office in local elections.

As your City Councilman for District Five, I always enjoy meeting new people in our district and visiting old friends as I campaign door-to-door.

This year, though, with a national health pandemic, I

have made the decision not to use traditional door-to-door campaigning. This decision was made out of respect to your health and the health of your family, which must be our primary concern these days. We will be leaving door hangers at homes, but will do so without disturbing your family.

I am still available to meet, either by telephone or in-person (if so requested), with anyone in District Five. Please feel free to call me at 256-810-7388. Our city election is Tuesday, August 25, 2020.

I respectfully ask for your vote and the opportunity to represent you the next four years, as we continue to move our city forward.

Sincerely,

Jamie Harris Russellville City Councilman, District Five



Pd. Pol. Adv. by Jamie Harris, 837 Herring Cross Roads, Russellville, Al

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commissioners:

 approved entering into contracts with cities in Franklin County for use of the county's poll pads, at a cost of \$100 each.

approved entering into a contract for cities in Franklin County to use the county's handicapped voting machines. There is no charge to the cities for using them, but each city would be responsible for any damages while using the machine.

approved the resignation of Solid Waste Department employee Ricky Johnston effective June 23, 2020.

-approved the hiring of Dustin Wiley and Renae Halbrooks as Corrections Officer/Dispatchers and Taylor Weclowski as a deputy.

-awarded a cement bid to Lehigh Portland Cement at a cost of \$151 per ton at the job site and \$130 per ton pick up at plant, through December 31,

King announces candidacy for Phil **Campbell City Council Place Five**

Submitted to the FFP

Phillip King recently announced his candidacy for Phil Campbell City Council Place Five in the August 25, 2020, municipal election.

King is a graduate of Phil Campbell High School, and a graduate of the 1986 University of Alabama session Law Enforcement Academy. He is a

retired investigator and deputy chief of police who had 31 years of law enforcement experience.

King said his first order of business as a council member would be to make Phil Campbell more attractive to and for its residents and others passing through the town.

"We have got to provide a reason for people to come to Phil Campbell and we lost a lot of our homes during the 2011 tornadoes," King said. "It's past time to redevelop a housing market whether it's working with the federal government, low income housing, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac.

"These programs were taken over by the government after the bailout and people need to be educated about them to assist residents and help many of them become homeowners and even first-time homeowners," he added.

King said he will work for a more informative city hall in Phil Campbell that can work with the citizens and meet with the public, and have representatives from federal and state programs help put more homes in town.



Phillip King

"Phil Campbell is small town living and still considered home and it means that to a lot of families," King said. "But we are becoming smaller as more people move off and we can help the people who want to remain here by being a more active city administration.

King believes fiber optic high speed internet to be vital to Phil Campbell's future.

"We have sat back and watched it go all around us and adjoining towns are offering it through fiber optic providers," King said. "We need more jobs in this area and I know it's tough for a small town to compete, but we have an industrial park with infrastructure to attract more types of industry.

"But it's a tough sell when your town has a big eyesore of dilapidated buildings on main street and we need these either remodeled or torn down. Surely there are some grants that can help with this," he added.

King said he will work to reinstate a police department in Phil Campbell with full-time officers and 24-hour coverage.

"Many people complain of needing a police officer and waiting 45 minutes or longer before one arrives, and many times no one even comes at all," King said. "Franklin County Sheriffs deputies answer as many or probably more calls than the town's own police department and this needs addressing now."

King hopes to see a positive working relationship between the mayor and town council working together to do more for the town's residents, as well as the many people who pass through Phil Campbell each day.

"I ask for your vote so I can try to start helping make these and many improvements for our town, and bring back the pride of Phil Campbell. Vote Phillip King for City Council Place Five," King said.

'LOCATION,' from page 4

2020.

-approved the vacating of Sanders Road in western Franklin County after a public hearing was held and there was no opposition to the move.

-approved the hiring of Nathan Owens and Austin Balding as temporary employees in the Franklin County Highway Department.

-authorized County Engineer David Palmer to let bids for projects incidental to grant projects so as to allow the projects to move along quicker. The commission will still have to approve the low bid after Palmer solicits bids on each project.

-approved Ronda Frank as the Secretary in the Franklin County Coroner's Office.

-authorized a \$9,980 server upgrade for Franklin County's computer sys-



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Everyone is welcome to worship services at Duncan Creek Baptist Church, 3925 Duncan Creek Road, Russellville. Service times are Sunday School at 10 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m. and Bible Study at 5 p.m. Pastor is Bro. Joe Thorn.

Baptist Church on Highway 48 in Russellville, at 11 a.m., Sunday mornings. Social distancing practiced, mask optional. Pastor Roger Bond.

New Life Ministries invites you to join them for Sunday School at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings and for worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. On the first Sunday of each month, there will be a fellowship lunch after morning services. You and your family are invited to come worship and fellowship with the Lord of Hosts and his children. New Life Ministries is located on Hwy. 24 west toward Red Bay, behind Tompkins Feed.

A merican Legion Post #64 would like to announce that the July meetings have been cancelled due to COVID-19. August updates will follow. Meeting occur every second Thursday of the month.

Fifth Thursday Food Giveaway - 2 p.m. July 30, 2020 - Russellville First United Methodist Church – downtown corner of Madison and Washington Ave. Groceries will given out while supplies last. All social distancing measures will be followed. Bring your ID and follow instructions given by staff.

Have an event we can help publicize? Call us at 256-332-0255.

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Herron seeking election to Phil Campbell City Council Place Four

Submitted to the FFP

Hello! I'm Derrick Herron and I am running for Phil Campbell City Council Place 4.

I have lived in Franklin County my entire life, with the last eight years being in Phil Campbell, my home. My children are current students at Phil Campbell High School and along with them, I would like to work toward securing the most potential opportunities and resources possible for our students and the citizens of our community. I vow to be available as a service person to our residents and to listen to and address concerns. I will also be our voice at City Council meetings and any other time a voice is needed. If I am elected, I will advocate for our youth and our community. I believe with common goals and unified efforts, we can sustain and grow the quality of our fine community.

I would kindly like to ask for your vote on August 25th.





Derrick Herron and family

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PAGE 8 July 22, 2020

linebacker.

"Getting cancer was the farthest thing from my mind," Tompkins said. "I never expected to hear a doctor say I have malignant melanoma. It took my wife (Kayla) and me a couple days to get our wits about us because I wasn't expecting this.

"The doctor recommended treatment at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (in Houston, Texas). It's where he refers all his patients diagnosed with cancer, so we started the paperwork and lengthy process to get me in there," he added.

Becoming a patient at the nation's most prestigious cancer center is not easy. You don't just walk in the front door and get treated. Tompkins was already frustrated, still not over the shock of his diagnosis.

That's when Kayla took over.

"She pretty much 'big boyed' me and said that we are going to M.D. Anderson. She started getting on the phone and learned what we needed to do," Tompkins said. "My wife said we're going to M.D. Anderson and I don't care what we have to do. She pretty much coordinated the whole thing.

"We went to Houston on May 26 and I've been back quite a bit over the past three months," he added.

Tompkins' team of doctors recommended immunotherapy, which uses the body's own natural defenses to combat the cancer. He will have his second round of immunotherapy soon, then Tompkins will return to Houston August 13 for surgery five days later. That will be followed by at least 10 months of additional immunotherapy.

He's also taking part in a clinical trial for a new medication to see how it shrinks and/or kills cancer cells.

By the time his therapy is complete, Tompkins will know Houston like the back of his hand, even though he'd never been there prior to May.

"It's been a process and an experience, but I've been able to see a different part of the country I'd never seen. Houston is a big area, but I really like it," Tompkins said.

Earlier this month, three-year-old Andersyn Blayke (the couple's daughter) accompanied her parents to Houston for the first time.

"She got to see what's going on. It's an experience to take a 13-hour drive with a three-year-old, but she understands daddy is going to get his jaw taken care of," Tompkins said.

Tompkins stays in regular contact with his team of medical professionals, who encourage him to ask questions and let them know how he's feeling.

"M.D. Anderson is really good about communicating," Tompkins said. "I email my nurses back and forth about how I'm doing or concerns I have, and they respond very quickly.

"M.D. Anderson is where it's at. I'm not knocking any other cancer center, but they are number one in the country. If you can get out there, get out there," he added.

The mass in his jaw was diagnosed as cuta-

tem.

—reappointed Beth Forsythe as the county's representative on the North Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourism Association board.

—approved a 100 percent reimbursable CARES Act grant of \$26,650 to purchase PPE supplies, including thermometers, gloves, N-95 and surgical masks, goggles, etc., for the county's 14 fire departments and four rescue squads.

-approved, pursuant to an Alabama Attorney General's opinion, allowing

'TOMPKINS,' from page 1

neous melanoma, still serious but the best case scenario Tompkins could hope for. His concerns include possible side effects of his treatment, as well as how his body will respond, but overall, his mind frame is positive.

As the RPD's chief investigator, Tompkins presence has been missed at work.

But he said the entire department has been an amazing support system, including Chief Chris Hargett, new Sergeant Investigator Jordan Testerman, Captain Scotty Lowery and Lieutenant Joe Hargett.

Tompkins returns to work each time he gets back from Houston, but he admits there are some issues with nausea and fatigue. He's had to tone his schedule back some, but that's when his RPD family steps in.

As Chief Hargett explained, fellow officers are family, and will always be there for each other.

"As soon as we heard about Jake's diagnosis, our officers asked what could they do to help. We all worked together on a t-shirt fundraiser that raised about \$5,000 for family expenses," Hargett said. "The shirts read 'Team Tompkins' and that's true. We're all part of the same team, especially in times like this."

Along with his family and co-workers, Tompkins' community has also lifted him up the past three months, some literally.

"The police department has been great and our friends and family have been amazing. Even people I've arrested have come up and hugged my neck and lifted me up saying they are praying for me and to let them know if there's anything they can do to help," Tompkins said.

With melanoma inside his mouth, you might think Tompkins smokes or dips, but that's not the case. In fact, he's never done either. Doctors believe he was genetically predisposed to this type of cancer. But Tompkins and his wife have moved on from the 'why me' questions to more productive thoughts and actions to maximize his chance for recovery.

Kayla makes regular posts on her Facebook page (Kayla Bendall Tompkins) about her husband's treatment, and her optimism and faith keep him looking in the right direction.

"God has had His hand on us from the start of this, and I know he's got a firm grip on the tiniest of details," Kayla said recently. "Without Him, this process would be unbearable, but He has brought such comfort and peace."

Just like his athletic career the few times his Golden Tigers trailed in a football game, Tompkins is a fighter.

"A positive mindset is so important during this. I had a problem with 'why me' at first, but then I realized 'why not me?," Tompkins said.

"I'm a fighter. I've always been one. I'm not going to quit. This is a bump in the road and we'll fight it and get back to life. Cancer does not discriminate," Tompkins said.

"We got a message from someone close to us a LOCATION,' from page 5

county employees Bill Cheatham and Loretta Sykes to provide custodial services to any Franklin County city on municipal election day at a cost of \$800 per voting machine (one machine in Red Bay, Vina, Phil Campbell and Hodges and five machines in the City of Russellville).

The employees will take vacation days on the day of municipal elections so they will not be working for the county at that time. They will provide onsite assistance and support as well as delivery and pick up of the machines and setup.

recently while we were at M.D. Anderson that their family member was diagnosed with cancer. They wanted to know what to do to start his process to get into M.D. Anderson. My wife sent all our infor-

an our information to them to get that going," he added.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, Tompkins must leave his wife behind once he enters the doors of M.D. Anderson, but he's never felt alone.

"It's amazing to see the morale of the medical staff and nursing staff. They are so compassionate and they want you to be positive. They reassure you constantly and tell you you're in the right place," Tompkins said.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Tompkins family during a recent trip to Houston, Texas.

When he sat down recently to discuss his diagnosis and treatment with the *Franklin Free Press*, the tough-as-nails police investigator became emotional, but not for the reasons you might think.

"If I can take this situation and just help one person, that makes something positive out of a bad situation," Tompkins said. "There's nothing we can't overcome and if I can help someone or get someone on the right path with what they are facing, that's what I want to do. It's rough going through it at the beginning, until you look at the bigger picture."

Until this May, Tompkins lived his life at the speed of his former Golden Tiger offense— up tempo. Cancer, he explained, changed all that.

"As I walk through the halls of M.D. Anderson, I see and talk with other patients and that helps me stay positive. I see people in more serious situations and it's made me look at life a lot differently," Tompkins said.

"I've always been fast paced, constantly going. Since this began, I've slowed down, enjoyed life more and started living for the day. We're not promised tomorrow and we need to enjoy life," he added.

'MORROW,' from page 1

A graduate of Mississippi State University, Morrow earned his degree in Agriculture Economics in 1965. When the opportunity to return to Starkville came, Morrow readily accepted.

"When you get a call from the university you love wanting you to come down and work for their think tank, it's an awesome feeling," Morrow said. "Martha and I are very excited about the opportunity that lies ahead at Mississippi State as we jointly work together to improve the quality of life for regular people in Mississippi."

Martha, who worked in her husband's legislative office in the Alabama Capitol, said the Stennis Institute was a chance for Johnny Mack to continue his public service without some of the barriers he faced in the legislature.

"The issues Johnny Mack tried to get done in Montgomery were not always able to be resolved because of partisan politics," Martha said. "That includes some issues very important to him like the opioid crisis and providing broadband internet service to rural residents."

He may not one of its residents much longer, but Morrow's impact on Franklin County will have lasting effects.

He was instrumental in securing funding to construct a four-lane highway on Alabama 24, part of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor V. While the four-lane runs to the Mississippi state line, officials in that state needed a jump start to do their part and connect 24 to I-22. That project is now underway, in part due to Morrow's efforts.

Franklin County is Alabama's only county with a constitutional amendment protecting the people's right to elect their county superintendent of education, a direct result of Morrow's work.

Early in his legislative tenure, Morrow sponsored a bill to eliminate what he saw as the duplication, competition and inefficiency of multiple water systems across Franklin County. That legislation created the Franklin County Water Service Authority.

After the April 27, 2011, tornado that ravaged much of northwest Alabama, Morrow was on site almost immediately, working extensively on recovery efforts.

He organized support groups and helped coordinate responses to the worst natural disaster Franklin County has ever endured. He and Sen. Roger Bedford co-sponsored bipartisan legislation that provided funding to rebuild both Phil Campbell and Hackleburg High Schools.

Not ready for retirement, Morrow said the Mississippi State job provides him an outlet to continue public service. Starkville may be soon be his new residence, but Franklin County will forever remain his home.

"I'm going to truly miss Franklin County and its people. We have so many friends here," Morrow said. "But I had to decide whether to sit in a rocking chair and watch life go by or help make a difference in the quality of life for people and that's what my parents (Grover and Hazel Morrow) always taught me to do."

That same passion to help others is what convinced Martha to continue her practice and commute to Russellville after they move.

"I enjoy working with people. There's not a day that goes by that I'm working where I don't feel like I'm helping somebody, and that's very special to me," Martha said.

A review of the first four chapters of Morrow's life shows someone whose values were shaped as a child, and someone who dedicated his life to helping young people even from an early age.

Chapter One: Parental Influences: "My parents always taught me to be a giver not a taker. That's just something you did. And they instilled that in me from a young age," Morrow said.

Morrow was born in Vina. As a young child, he grew particularly close with his father. Both parents were educators, and Morrow would eventually follow their career paths.

Chapter Two: The Education Years (1961-70): One of the most significant

events of Morrow's young life was attending the ground breaking ceremony at Northwest Junior College in Phil Campbell in 1963.

"George Wallace spoke that day at what was Alabama's first junior college," Morrow said. "He said he wanted people in this area who had a child who wanted to continue their education to be able to sell a hog and be able to send their son or daughter to college."

After graduating from MSU, Morrow went to work for the United States Department of Agriculture. He earned his MBA and accepted a teaching position at Northwest teaching business and economics.

"From what George Wallace and my parents taught me, how could I help humanity any better than helping kids. What could be more rewarding than helping a child pursue a career that

would enable them to earn the income to have a comfortable life," Morrow said.

Chapter Three: The Northwest Junior College Years (1970-98): "Those were some unforgettable years and I treasure every one of them," Morrow said of his time as a Northwest instructor. "There were some battles, but working with the kids produced memories of a lifetime to watch kids of sharecroppers become doctors and lawyers."

Chapter Four: The Legislative Years (1990-2018): This chapter had an eight-year overlap with Morrow's tenure at Northwest.

As he recalled his seven terms in the Alabama Legislature, Morrow said his guiding light was to fight for the underdog.

"Ås I learned from Carl Elliott and my father, don't be afraid of the fight as long as you know you're right," Morrow said.

Morrow also credited his wife for his success as a legislator. Together since 2009, the couple married in 2011.

"Martha was a huge partner and she enabled me to have the success I did in the legislature," Morrow said.

Martha recalled occasions where she would ask her husband how he would vote on an upcoming bill, many of which were controversial.

"I'd ask him how will you vote on that and he said 'I'll do what my father told me—do what's right," Martha said.

As his life comes full circle with Morrow's return to Starkville, he can pick up where he left off as a sophomore at MSU.

"I always believed if you don't like something, then change it if it's the right thing to do," Morrow said. "During my sophomore year (at MSU), I went out for fraternity Rush and went to all the frat houses. Not one of them impressed me.

"A week later, I was at the 'Y' on campus with some friends who had the same experience with Greek life. So we said let's start our own fraternity. I knew a Delta Chi member at Alabama and they helped us. I was a charter member of the colony established in 1963. In 2019, my grandson pledged Delta Chi and he's now an officer in that very fraternity," Morrow added.

When asked which chapter of his life was his favorite, Morrow answered quickly.

"The next one. Martha and I both feel that way," he said.

Barry King seeking Phil Campbell City Council Place One seat

Submitted to the FFP

I am Barry Jack King and have decided to run for Phil Campbell City Council Place One.

I want to help bring the city of Phil Campbell back together as a community. I would like to see positive changes and listen to the people of Phil Campbell and make those positive changes where needed.

I believe that we can accomplish more as a unit and city if we work together and form positive relationships.

I have lived in Phil Campbell and continue to live here with my children and

grandchildren as they grow. Being on the city council will be a way to serve the people and public. I conduct myself with integrity and commitment. I intend to be true to those values in all that I can do for the city of Phil Campbell.

So as a citizen I would appreciate your support so that together we can make the changes that are needed.

With your support, we can make the needed changes for our community and city.

Please vote Barry King, Phil Campbell City Council Place One on Tuesday, August 25, 2020.



COURTESY PHOTO

Johnny Mack and Martha will begin a new chapter in their lives as they make the move to Mississippi State.



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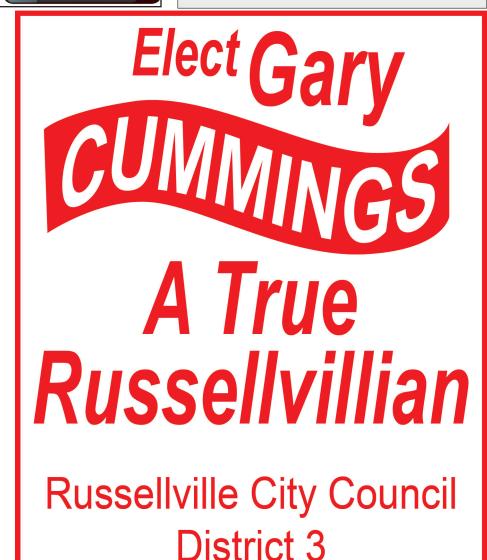
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SPORTS

RHS alumnus Bobby Winston named head coach at R.A. Hubbard

Brady Petree Franklin Free Press

A head coaching gig for Bobby Winston has been a long time coming for the Russellville High School graduate.

After an illustrious career as a basketball and football standout with the Golden Tigers, Winston set his sights on coaching the next generation of top-tier athletes in Northwest Alabama. But a head coaching job seemed as though it wasn't in the cards for WInston.

That notion seemed to be true until the Lawrence County Board of Education met last week to confirm Winston as the next head coach at R.A. Hubbard High School in Courtland.

Winston says when he received the news that he was selected as the next coach of the Chiefs, it felt as though his prayers had been answered.

"I prayed about it and I talked to my parents and brothers about it and I told God that if this is the place I could go and help these kids and young men be better men in life and if this is where I need to be, I thank you for putting me there," Winston said. "After that I left it there and while I

See 'WINSTON,' page 12



COURTESY PHOTO

Winston posseses a wealth of basketball knowledge from both his playing days, and as an assistant coach. Now he will get the chance to put that knowledge to use for his first head coaching job. Once her high school days are over, Russellville senior Naydelin Momentey will make the trip halfway across the country to begin her college career with the University of Saint Mary in Kansas to continue running cross country

Going cross country



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

Momentey (above) led the RHS girls cross country team to their first ever team win in 2017 and will be looking to repicate her success next fall as she makes the jump to the college level.

Brady Petree Franklin Free Press

For Naydelin Momentey, the idea of running cross country at the collegiate level was something that she didn't believe was anywhere in the realm of possibility when she initially signed on to join the team in 7th grade.

"I never thought that I was going to be that good at cross country or track when I first signed up. I just never expected to get to do this at the next level," Momentey said.

Fast-forward to her senior year and Momentey, a senior at Russellville High School, was signing her letter of intent to continue her stellar cross country career into college at the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas.

Part of the reason that Momentey was able to get to such a prestigious point in her sport was due in part to her supporting cast she had around her along the way.

"Russellville High School gave me the opportunity to have this dream and be the best I can be at cross country and track and I'm very thankful for that," Momentey said. "Coach England and Coach Moore helped me so much along the way and I don't think I would be sitting here without their help. I had a lot of help from family and friends and especially my parents. They came here to make a better life for our family and this sport has proved that and it just means so much to me."

As she looks back and reflects on her impressive career at Russellville High School and as she prepares for one more go around this upcoming school year, Momentey says she is a completely different runner today than she was when she was in middle school.

"I have progressed a lot. The first two years were difficult starting out learning how to do everything the right way. But then I progressed a lot and my time started getting better and better over time. Then I joined track to help me also work on some things while still being able to compete and I started improving even more," Momentey said.

Kevin England was able to watch Momentey grow as a cross country runner as he was the PAGE 12 JULY 22, 2020

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believed it was mine, you always have that thought in the back of your head like 'he hasn't had a head coaching job yet'. But my resume looked good and it's just an explainable feeling when I got that call. I'm just really thankful that Principal (Rosa) Allen-Cooper saw something in me and trusted me enough to give me the opportunity for my first coacing job. I'm just so thankful."

Winston's resume is loaded with significant assistant coaching positions and a few key head coaching jobs on the AAU circuit as well. Winston served as an assistant coach for the Deshler boys program for a few years before making the move to Muscle Shoals High School to fill the same role. Because of those coaching positions, Winston feels as though the experience he gained will have a major impact as he takes on this new role.

"Coaching in those programs has had a major, major impact on me. Even going back to coach Smith and Coach Pounders and Coach Barker at Russellville, I've seen wonderful things from every program I've been at and I think my system has a piece from everywhere that I've been at," Winston said. "I got a chance to hone those coaching skills in AAU when I took a team to nationals. Every year we continued to get better until we got all the way to the championship. To me it's everything that I've learned from those coaches I've been around and even my dad and my brother PJ and Siran have helped me get to where I am."

The job will be the perfect situation for Winston to break into the head coaching ranks. Winston will be taking over an R.A. Hubbard program that is on it's way back up after a few years on a downturn following a string of dominance in the years before. The Chiefs were knocked out of the AHSAA playoffs in the sub-regional round last year after a loss to Skyline High School.

Getting back to that level of dominance that the program experienced years ago is number two

on the list of goals that Winston has.

The number one goal on his list? Winning a state title and doing it sooner rather than later would be the icing on the cake according to Winston.

"I talked to the guys about their loss to Skyline and they told me that the goal is to win a state championship. I told them that was good because I need you to understand the sacrifice is going to have to be given. Championships aren't given. You have to earn them," Winston said. "My personal goal is to get R.A. Hubbard



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back to being the dominant program that they used to be. And what I mean by that is them being the best they can be. Being the best young men they can be on and off the court. I would also love to win a state title in my first year. That would be a blessing and a dream come true and that's exactly what we are going to shoot for."

Growing up in a family full of basketball talent, Winston has had no shortage of outlets to bounce ideas off of. From his brother PJ to his brother Siran who is a member of the Harlem Globetrotters and goes by the name "Too Tall Winston", Bobby has been around incredible influences his entire life.

Of course with that much talent to go around in the family, one might think that would lead to some good old fashioned family rivalries.

Not in the Winston family.

Instead of having a rivalry, Bobby says that the family inspires one another and enables each of them to improve themselves.

"I would like to say that anything my little brother Siran can do, but I might mess around and break a light doing some of that stuff he does with the Globetrotters," Winston joked. "But it is fantastic the amount of work he puts in to do the things he does is just amazing. It all started with my brother PJ. He's the rock and he's behind the scenes giving us ideas and helping us out. When we work together it's just one amazing thing. The only rivalry we have is I wish I had their quickness and speed and they wish they had my height. You put us together and you've got the fantastic three instead of the fantastic four."

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PAGE 15 JULY 22, 2020 'CROSS COUNTRY,' from page 11

head coach of the Golden Tiger cross country coach for a majority of Momentey's career.

England, who left Russellville after 2017 to pursue teaching in Winston County, says that Momentey was a key part of the girls cross country team taking the next step that year.

"We started the program in 2013 and Naydelin came along and you could just tell that she was really excited about it," England said. "She came in as a young runner and just fell in love with it. Then my last year here at Russellville she actually won her first race and was actually the first year that our entire team won a race and she was a huge part of why we were able to do that."

Although he left Russellville in 2017, England has been following Momentey's cross country career through the news and says he will continue to follow along as she breaks into the collegiate level.

"The last three years I've been a part of cross country in Winston County and before or after races I'll try to find her and see how she's doing and how the season is going and I'll certainly be sure to follow her career as she goes to Kansas," England said.

England believes that the University of Saint Mary is getting a top-tier talent and that Momentey will make the most of her opportunity.

"Saint Mary is getting an elite runner and a fierce competitor. I can remember that she would be out there after our practices racing other girls and eventually started running with the guys and she was outrunning half of the boys team," England said. "I've been a part of a state championship in cross country before and I knew that she was that caliber of athlete. She's going to leave her mark in college. She's just that kind of competitor."

While she had other offers, Momentey says that in the end she knew that the University of Saint Mary was the place she needed to be.

"I had another offer from a school in Kentucky but Saint Mary just made a much better offer in the end. They offered me a better position and was just the best choice for me and I'm really excited to get started," Momentey said.

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