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## Franklin principals Moss, Gillespie tabbed to fill new roles

Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press

Two Franklin County principals are changing jobs after the Franklin County Board of Education approved 24 personnel moves at its May 26th meeting. Bart Moss was hired as the new Phil Campbell High School Principal, and Brent Gillespie moves from Vina High School Principal to fill a new position, 7th-12th Grade Curriculum Director for Franklin County Schools. Moss was hired as Tharptown High School Assistant Principal in 2019

and Principal in 2020. The move gives Moss the opportunity to return to his high school and the school where his parents, Bill and Nelda Moss, were so impactful as educators for decades. Moss graduated from Phil Campbell in 1989. He was an All-State place-kicker for the Bobcats his senior year. Additionally, Moss' daughter will be a freshman at Phil Campbell this fall. Moss met with Tharptown faculty and staff Friday morning to tell them he would be leaving. "Telling my staff was the hardest

See 'MOSS,' Page 7

## RV Hospital first in nation with new CT scanner

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Russellville Hospital is the first facility in the nation to have a new, state-of-the-art computerized tomography (CT) scanner, the Atlas 4 CM. The new CT scanner arrived at Russellville Hospital May 10th and this was the first installation for United Imaging, the manufacturer of the Atlas 4 CM. A CT scan uses a series of X-ray images taken from many different angles and using those images, creates a cross-sectional image of bones, blood vessels and soft tissues inside the body. The Atlas 4 uses 160 images, or slices, to create a more detailed

image for doctors to review. It uses a four-centimeter detector and .25 second rotation times. It incorporates the same technology as the uAI Vision 3D camera, which United Imaging CEO Jeffrey Bundy said will be a game changer for hospitals. "We take all of those software capabilities and bring them to a broader segment of the market. I believe it will have a huge impact in the hospital setting and the acute care setting," Bundy said. The 700-pound scanner arrived at Russellville Hospital in three large crates. United Imaging officials completed the installation. Russellville Hospital CEO Stephen Proctor said a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Atlas 4CM will be set for next month.

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**Alice Ann Glasgow Pennington, 90, of Phil Campbell, passed away Friday, May 26, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.**

**Dick Frederick Smith, 84, of Killen, passed away Friday, May 26, 2023. Akins Funeral Home assisted the family.**

**Jimmy Boyd Seal, 85, of Tusculumbia, passed away Saturday, May 27, 2023. Akins Funeral Home assisted the family.**

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## Franklin Free Press

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## Washington should block data collection rule to preserve small-business lending

Brad Bolton

(This is a guest column. Your opinions and or comments are welcome.)

At a time of growing threats to privacy and security in an increasingly plugged-in world, a new federal regulation threatens to make the problem worse for the residents and small businesses of Red Bay and other communities nationwide. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau recently finalized a rule that will require financial institutions — including Community Spirit Bank — to burden small-business customers with invasive questions and then publicly report the data they collect to the federal agency.

Policymakers in Washington should step in to block this misguided rule given its harmful impact on privacy and its potential to restrict access to credit to the small businesses that drive the nation's economy, particularly the women- and minority-owned businesses this rule is designed to help.

### Big Rule for Small Businesses

The CFPB's new rule implements a section of federal law requiring lenders to collect and report data on credit applicants. The law specifies several data points financial institutions must compile on applications from women-owned and minority-owned businesses, including the race, sex, and ethnicity of the principal owners as well as gross annual revenue.

While these requirements are mandated by Section 1071 of the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010, the CFPB has the authority to exempt any class of financial institutions from the standards it develops and to limit mandatory data points to those required by the law. Unfortunately for applicants served by community banks — which make roughly 60 percent of the nation's small-business loans and are leaders in meeting the credit needs of women- and minority-owned businesses — the CFPB has opted to apply the rule to the vast majority of local financial institutions and the businesses they serve. And the data points it requires these institutions to collect and report far exceeds those required by law, compounding its impact on small businesses and community banks.

### Harming Local Economies

The CFPB's rule will have a substantial negative impact on small-business lending for several reasons.

First, the rule raises significant concerns about the privacy of applicants for commercial credit, particularly in smaller communities and rural areas. Community bankers are concerned for small-business customers that are the only business of their type in their local community, such as the town dentist or auto repair shop — a significant concern in Red Bay and communities like it. Requiring financial institutions to collect and report data on loan applicants will make it possible for them to be identified, potentially driving small businesses away from community banks and local communities.

Second, the CFPB's rigid data collection requirements will hamper the ability of Community Spirit Bank and other community banks to tailor loans to meet the unique needs of local businesses, which is a hallmark of relationship-based lending. While community banks look at each small business individually and make highly customized loans based on numerous borrower characteristics and market variables, the Section 1071 rule requires a homogenized approach that will degrade their ability to offer small businesses the type of credit they need in a timely and efficient manner. Small-business lending is not and should not be a commodity.

Third, these requirements and their chilling effect on small-business lending will ultimately harm the borrowers the bureau is trying to help — women-owned and minority-owned businesses. These mandates would compound the regulatory and paperwork burdens that disproportionately affect community banks, limiting their ability to make small-business loans. By targeting the community banks that are outpacing larger institutions in serving minority and women borrowers, the CFPB's self-defeating rule threatens to undermine a part of the banking sector that is working as it should.

With the U.S. Supreme Court considering a case challenging the constitutionality of the CFPB's funding structure, the bureau should first issue a stay on the rule's effective date until the high court issues a decision, which will likely come next year. Meanwhile, the CFPB should use its authority to exempt more community banks and small businesses from its rule and limit mandatory data points to those required by law. Finally, Congress should

See 'WASHINGTON,' Page 9



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## Wynette birthday celebration set for Saturday, June 3 in Red Bay, Tremont

Submitted

On Saturday June 3, 2023, The Annual Tammy Wynette Birthday Celebration will be held at the Red Bay Museum in Red Bay and The Tammy Wynette Legacy Center in Tremont, MS.

The Red Bay Museum will be open, with no admission charge, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For those that cannot come to the museum during weekdays, this is your perfect opportunity to view the displays with several new items added recently. Numerous new items have been added to the Wynette exhibit since the last celebration one year ago, with Tammy Wynette related items to sell. The Red Bay Museum currently has the largest collection on Tammy Wynette on display.

The Legacy Center in Tremont will have live music from 10:00 AM until 8:00 PM, along with the restaurant Kelly’s Kitchen open and the Wynette display available to view.

Several Tammy Wynette related items for sale will be there as well. Vendors will also be set up outside at the Center.

At 3:30, one of Tammy Wynette’s personal cars, a 1982 Buick Riviera, will be unveiled. A dress belonging to Tammy Wynette will also be included in the display on loan from the Red Bay Museum.

The car is on loan from Laura Peters of Georgia, who will be on hand for the unveiling along with two of Tammy’s daughter’s, Jackie Daly, and Gwen Nicolas.

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Several new items had been added to the Tammy Wynette Exhibit which is the largest display on Tammy Wynette at this time. Several Tammy Wynette items for sale also

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# RHS students honored at May 23rd board meeting

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education recognized the accomplishments of three students before approving a number of personnel moves at its May 23rd meeting.

RHS student Kaitlyn Balding made All-State Choir and was presented with a Meritorious Award from the board. Will Morgan was honored for placing third at the State Future Business Leaders of America competition in Political Science, and Ashlee Moon was honored for her first-place finish in Business Calculations.

Board members set the time for its meetings to the second Thursday of each month at 8 a.m., starting in June 2023.

Greg Trapp was elected president of the board and Jerry Groce vice-president. Their terms begin with the board's next meeting.

Outgoing RCS Board President Kim Clonts reflected on her one year in the office.

"It's been a privilege to serve as president this past year. It was a learning experience, but also a pleasure and honor representing this board," Clonts said.

In other agenda items, the board:

--accepted a low bid of \$16,900 from H&H Enterprise for new volleyball lockers.

--accepted a low bid of \$74,220 from Global Fire Sprinklers for fire alarm installation at the Russellville High School Gym and old administrative building.

--approved the following personnel moves:

--Employment in Position: Maria Juarez, Holly Wigington, Chloe Young, West Elementary School teachers (using ESSER funds), Gracie Martin, RMS teacher, Alyssa Landry, RES special education teacher (using ESSER funds) and Tyler Malone, English Language Arts teacher at RHS.

--Voluntary Transfer: Jessica Cantrell, WES teacher to RMS teacher.

--Resignation: Maria Madragal, EL Aide WES, A.J. Vang, RMS teacher, Lauren Flanagan and Katherine Wilson, WES teachers and Kayla Thorne,

WES teacher.

--Retirement: Caroline Patrick, CNP worker.

--Resignation of Supplement: Alissa Moore, Girls' 8th grade basketball and Brett Voss, head track coach for RHS and RMS.

--Leave of Absence Request: Madison Berry, RES teacher, from August 14, 2023-November 3, 2023, and Olivia Barksdale, WES speech teacher, from August 8, 2023 through September 29, 2023.

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**A**shaKiran serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking across Alabama. Their vision is to be a 'ray of hope' by bridging the gap between service providers and culturally diverse communities. Their 24-hour crisis line number is 1-800-793-3010. Learn more about AshaKiran by visiting [www.ashakiranonline.org](http://www.ashakiranonline.org). Consultations are free and confidential, and available in 45 different languages.

**T**he annual Woodruff Family Reunion is set for Saturday, June 17th, from 10-2 at Cedar Buff Farm, 3449 County Road 78.

**L**iberty Chapel Freewill Baptist Church will hold its Revival June 4-7, 2023. June 4 at 5 p.m. June 5,6,7 at 7 p.m. Evangelist Bro. Bradley Long. Pastor Bro. Brian Galloway and congregation welcome everyone! The church is located at 10780 Highway 81, in the East Franklin community.

**F**ranklin County Schools will provide a Seamless Summer meal program at the following Franklin County Schools: Belgreen, East Franklin, Phil Campbell, Red Bay, Tharptown and Vina Monday through Thursday, Breakfast - 7:30 – 9:30 a.m, Lunch - 10:00 - 12:00 p.m. June 5-8, 12-15, 20-22, 26-29; July 10-13, 17-20 All meals are FREE and served to children ages 0-18. Students do not have to attend a Franklin County school to participate. If you have questions, please contact Robynn Bragwell at 256-331-2136 or by email at [robynnbragwell@franklin.k12.al.us](mailto:robynnbragwell@franklin.k12.al.us)

**P**ets Unleashed Vacation Bible School. Kickoff on June 11 at 5:00 p.m. hotdogs and inflatables. VBS on June 12-13 6:00-8:30 p.m. Family Night June 14 6:00p.m. At Siloam Missionary Baptist Church, 1657 Hwy. 60, Russellville, AL 35654, across from King Drive-In. If you need a ride or have any questions call 256/331-9502.

**RV Council approves abatement**

*John Pilati*  
 Franklin Free Press

At its May 17th meeting, the Russellville City Council approved the abatement of a nuisance at a house on Franklin Street where the officer attempting to serve the homeowner with the compliance complaint found the homeowner deceased inside the house.

Russellville Police Officer Chad Sheffield went to 310 Franklin St. NE, on May 15th to serve the property owner, Jose Domingo Martinez, with a code violation for overgrown weeds, some of which towered above the fence around the property and debris in the yard.

Sheffield knocked on the front door several times with no answer. He noticed a strong odor coming from inside the house and a large amount of flies on the front windows.

After RPD supervisors arrived, they contacted Russellville Utilities and found out the power had been turned off since last month. Additionally, the property had been sold at a tax sale due to unpaid ad valorem taxes, officers learned.

Upon entering the house, officers found the homeowner's body laying in the hallway. Sheffield said it appeared the homeowner had been deceased for 'some period of time.'

In other agenda items, the council:  
 --approved hiring Eric McKinney as Equipment Operator II in the Russellville Street Department.  
 --approved additional engineering expenses of \$3,500 on the 2023 Russellville CDBG Demolition Project.  
 --accepted a letter of authorization from the Alabama Department of Transportation to advertise for bids for sidewalk improvements on Jackson Avenue, Limestone Street and Montgomery Street.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council will be June 5, 2023, with work session at 6 p.m., and meeting to follow.

# 'MOSS,' from Page 1

thing I had to do. I could have stayed at Tharptown the rest of my career. They have a wonderful faculty and staff and a great student body," Moss said. "I am very excited and ready for the challenge that awaits me at Phil Campbell."

Moss succeeds PCHS Principal Darit Riddle, who submitted his letter of retirement after more than 25 years of education and administration in Franklin County Schools. Riddle's retirement takes effect at the end of June 2023. Moss begins his new job immediately.

Moss was hired 16 years ago as a business and economics teacher at Tharptown and has been a teacher or administrator at the school ever since. He was selected to lead PCHS after interviews were conducted for the top three candidates.

"Mr. Moss has done a good job at Tharptown and this gives him the chance to return to his home school," said Franklin County Superintendent of Education Greg Hamilton. "We think he was the best fit for Phil Campbell and we have a number of aspiring administrators at Tharptown."

Gillespie was hired in 2018 as Vina principal. He previously served as Hatton High School assistant principal for nine years and principal for seven years before coming to Vina.

Hamilton said Gillespie will fill the new High School Curriculum Director position that was created as a result of the Alabama State Department of Education's 'changing landscape' with the Literacy Act and the Alabama Numeracy Act. These acts, designed to improve reading and mathematics proficiency for Alabama public education students, place increased importance on a school system offering courses that best prepare students to meet the proficiency standards.

"(High School Curriculum Director) is a position we just can't do without with these acts in place," Hamilton said. "When we hired Jennifer Warhurst we had never had an Elementary Curriculum Director.

"Mr. Gillespie has done a good job at Vina the last five years. It was a little emotional after graduation (May 25th). In the past five years, Vina has a 100 percent graduation rate," Hamilton added.

Hamilton said the positions of THS and VHS principals will be posted as of May 26th.

Franklin County Schools will offer Summer Learning Camp at six sites this summer to help students attain state proficiency standards in reading and math. The 70-hour program includes 10 days of seven-hour instruction. While it is mandatory for school systems to offer the camps, it's not mandatory for students. School administrators recommend which students should take part based on assessment scores, Hamilton said.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers will again be offered at six sites this summer. On the west end of the county, at Vina and Red Bay Schools, the centers will open at 5:30 a.m., daily.

In other personnel moves, the board approved:

--Resignation: Rebecca McGee, Vina elementary teacher.

--Employment: Teresa Strickland, Brittany Pannell, Dana Hill, Summer Learning Camp Substitute Teachers. Danna Garrison, Reading Specialist, East Franklin Junior High. Ben Guin, Summer Learning Camp Bus Driver. Shannon Benford, P.E. Teacher, Phil Campbell Elementary. Skye McGee, Elementary Teacher Phil Campbell. Megan Rogers, Special Education Teacher Phil Campbell. Elisabeth Lerch, Elementary Teacher, Belgreen. Brady Ramey, Math Teacher, Red Bay High School.

--Personal Leave of Absence: Lindsey Marecle, Elementary Teacher, Red Bay, for 2023-24 school year.

--Volunteers: Will Bonner, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach Belgreen.

--21st Century Community Learning Centers Summer 2023 Program: Jacie Harris, Student Aide. Angie Daily, Aide. Timothy Vandiver, Bus Driver/Aide. Lexi Crittenden, Aide. Katie Howard, Dana Balding, Jonathan Trent Gonzalez Eleanor Counts, Teachers. Traci Britton, Nurse.

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# Alabama eighth-most mosquito prone state

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Alabama finds itself in the top ten of a new state ranking that we would much prefer to have finished last.

A new study by [www.insur-anks.com](http://www.insur-anks.com) shows our state to be the eighth-most mosquito prone state in the United States. The study included five criteria for each state:

Average temperature from May-July, average annual rainfall for May-July, number of species of mosquitoes in the state, West Nile virus cases and Google searches for mosquito prevention or control by residents of each state.

Louisiana is the number one most mosquito prone state, followed by Florida, South Dakota, New York and Texas to round out the top five.

The least mosquito prone states? Surprisingly, Michigan, followed by the more predictable Nevada.

Alabama has 60 species of mosquitoes, with the Asian Tiger the most prevalent. These pesky bloodsuckers are particularly hearty and can survive, and thrive, even with small amounts of water. They are also faster and more aggressive than other species of mosquitoes, according to [www.orkin.com](http://www.orkin.com).

And Asian Tiger mosquitoes are known carriers of West Nile virus, and St. Louis and LaCrosse encephalitis.

With average temperatures from May-July of 78.4 degrees, and a 14.01 average rainfall for those months, Alabama is a mosquito hotbed. The state had five reported cases of West Nile virus in 2022.

Alabama's mosquito season begins in early March. Mosquitoes can lay up to 300 eggs in a single bottle cap containing water, so you can see how standing water creates to a mosquito hotbed.

Experts recommend emptying ponds, bird baths, fountains, plant pots and buckets where water may gather. Also, cleaning out gutters to remove standing water is recommended by [www.orkin.com](http://www.orkin.com).

Trash cans, tire swings and recycling bins also hold water and provide fertile breeding ground for mosquitoes, so consider drilling holes in the bottom of these to prevent water from collecting.

Leaky outdoor faucets are attractive to mosquitoes as well.

And if you need any extra motivation to keep your lawn and shrubs neatly trimmed, remember that adult mosquitoes gather to rest in



The Asian Tiger is Alabama's most common mosquito.

## 'Washington,' From Page 3

step in and pass legislation to eliminate these harmful requirements once and for all.

Community bank small-business lending is a complex process that cannot be commoditized like consumer or mortgage lending, which would have a chilling effect on access to credit, particularly for the borrowers Washington is seeking to help. To avoid disadvantaging small businesses in local communities, including right here in Red Bay, Washington should suspend and ultimately block this misguided policy.

Let Congress know that you want to support local small businesses by sending your Senator or Representative a letter about Section 1071. Find your local Congressman here: <https://www.congress.gov/contact-us>

Brad Bolton is President and CEO of Community Spirit Bank in Red Bay and the Immediate Past Chairman of the Independent Community Bankers of America.



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## Lara, Parrish tabbed for North All-Star soccer, tennis teams

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

Two Russellville juniors are among the elite athletes selected for the upcoming North-South All-Star competition sponsored by the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

Varsity soccer player Brian Lara is among the 18 boys selected for the North All-Star squad. Peams are comprised of rising seniors and are considered a way for athletes to showcase their talent to college recruiters.

The AHSAA will host all-star games in eight sports during All-Star Week, July 17-21.

Lara is a Midfielder/Forward on Coach Trey Stanford's team. Lara scored the winning goal in Russellville's 2-1 playoff win over Boaz this spring.

He was recently named to the All-State 2nd Team for Class 5A.

Parrish, a standout player on Coach

See, 'ALL-STAR,' page 14



Courtesy of RHS

## RHS grad taking her soccer talents to the University of Arkansas Cossatot

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

When Ahsly Garcia Aguirre started playing varsity soccer for the Russellville Golden Tigers, she wasn't even in high school yet.

Garcia Aguirre was part of the RHS girls' varsity program since seventh grade. She was a talented young star who helped build the new program.

And more than 100 goals later, she's headed to De Queen, Arkansas, to help build Coach Justin Hinman's new women's soccer program at the University of Arkansas Cossatot.

Garcia Aguirre will receive a partial soccer scholarship and, combined with an Ambassador Scholarship, it will equate to a full ride.

UA Cossatot expanded its athletics program by adding men's and women's soccer beginning with the 2023 season. The team will compete in Region 2 at the Division 2 level and will compete with schools from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas.

Garcia Aguirre, a left striker on Coach Dalany Roberts' Golden Tigers varsity squad, scored more than 100 times in her Russellville career, including 38 goals her junior season and 24 this spring.

"She's been a significant part of this program since it began at Russellville," Roberts said. "She played from the very beginning and has deep roots in the program. This season she was really a key on our team with her positive attitude. Her skill level is phenomenal.

"When you come in as a new coach like I did this season, it can be different especially for a player who's been there a long time and is in her senior season. But she is an extremely

See, 'RHS,' Page 12



Ahsly Garcia Aguirre, center, and her parents at last week's signing ceremony.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Local martial arts team fares well at tournament

Submitted

The All American Tang Soo Do team competed in the World Tang Soo Do Association Region 6 tournament on April 22nd. The competition included forms, weapons and sparring.

Emma Kate Gerstman placed 1st in forms, and second in weapons. Lamndon Gerstman won first in forms, second in sparring. Stephen Strickland was 2nd in weapons, co-3rd in forms. Shaler Stone was 1st in weapons, 2nd in forms, third in sparring. Jacob Hartsell was 2nd in weapons, forms and sparring. Jonathan Brown was 3rd in weapons.

The team meets weekly at American Health & Fitness.



Pictured from left to right: Jennifer Hogan, Brilyn Green, Emma Kate Gerstman, Landon Gerstman, Stephen Strickland, Jonathan Brown, Shaler Stone, Crews Kroger and Tom Jones.

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## 'RHS,' from Page 11

coachable player who took feedback and tried to implement it on the field. She'd seek input even late in the season on what she could do to get better," Roberts added.

Garcia Aguirre, the daughter of Martha Garcia and Alex Acosta, becomes the second Golden Tiger girls soccer player to sign a collegiate soccer scholarship, following Katlyn James, who signed with Tougaloo College last year.

Garcia Aguirre said she's extremely competitive and it's important to maintain that tenacity throughout the game.

"Always work hard and never give up and fight to the end because it's never really over until the whistle blows," she said.

At Garcia Aguirre's signing ceremony held at the Russellville Fieldhouse, Roberts spoke about how Garcia Aguirre's soccer scholarship can be a motivator for her younger teammates.

"That's something we really highlighted. There are many student athletes who want to play at the next level but aren't sure how to navigate that," Roberts said.

Through a program called Field Level, Roberts created a platform to showcase her players' talents to college coaches. In order to complete their profiles, players have to take time to upload game footage and highlights. Roberts said Garcia Aguirre was diligent in keeping her player profile updated.

"We really just started promoting her in April and by May she had a scholarship," Roberts said. "She had many coaches interested in her from across the country. We're very thrilled for Ahsly. A player like her puts Russellville City Schools on the map.

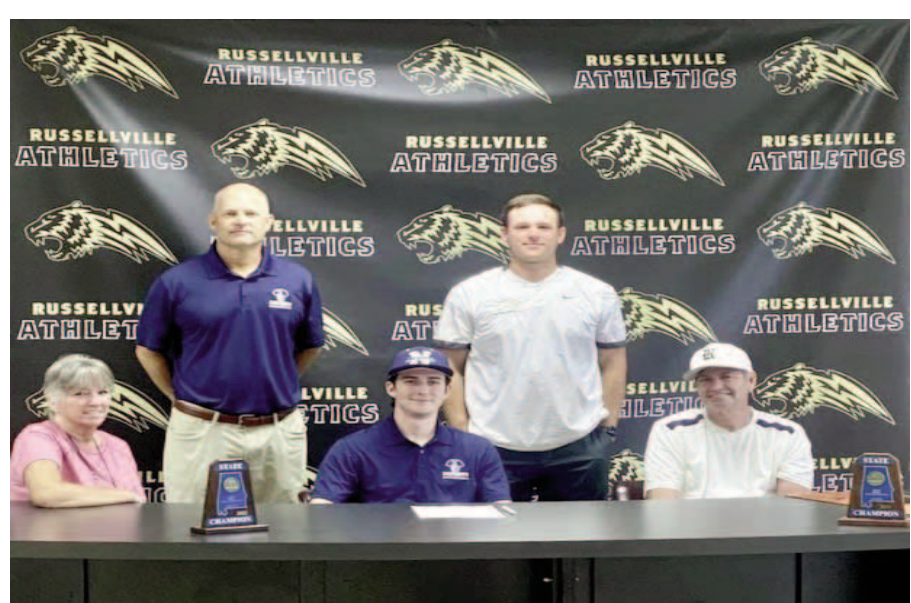
"She set a precedent for our younger players. We already have some freshmen and sophomores making accounts and uploading footage. We have several juniors who are already receiving searches so it's really exciting to see," she added.

With UA Cossatot's Coach Hinman bringing Garcia Aguirre into his new program, Roberts said there could be a pipeline for other players to the school, particularly if Ahsly's playing career with the Colts is successful.

"To see Ahsly continue to flourish in her soccer career is all we could ever hope for. We appreciate Coach Hinman for his interest in adding Ahsly to his team roster for the 2023 season," Roberts said.

As she prepares for collegiate soccer, Garcia Aguirre said it's something she never anticipated being part of.

"I never thought of having the opportunity to get this far and well, with the help of my parents, I managed to get where I am now and I can't wait for what the future has for me," she said.



**AN 'ACE' IN THE HOLE:** Russellville High School pitcher Logan White signed his letter of intent to join Coach David Langston's baseball program at Northwest-Shoals Community College. White had a tremendous season as the number one pitcher for Coach Jess Smith's Golden Tigers, including a complete game playoff win over Leeds.

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# 'ALL-STAR,' from Page 11

Charlotte Dollar's girls' varsity tennis team, was among the 12 girls chosen for the North All-Star Team.

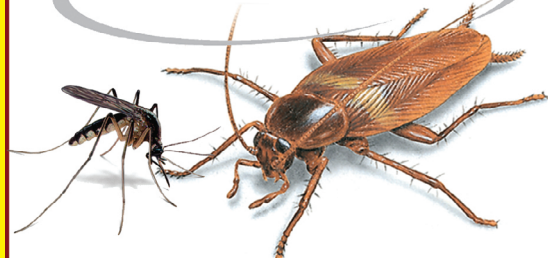
Playing No. 1 singles, Parrish advanced to the semifinals of the 5A State Tournament this spring. Partnered with Sofia Tiffin in Girls No. 1 doubles, Parrish/Tiffin made it to the 5A State Championship match before falling to a team from UMS-Wright High School

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