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Blackburn, Bohannon receive Agricultural Lifetime Achievement Awards at Farm-City luncheon

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A slate of Franklin County families, individuals and businesses were honored for their positive impacts on farming at the 2025 Franklin County Farm-City Awards Luncheon, sponsored by the Franklin County Extension Office, held Thursday at the A.W. Todd Centre.

Farm-City Week is designed to deepen understanding of the relationship between rural farmers and urban workers. Since 1955, Farm-City committees have hosted educational events and invited city folks to

visit local farms for a first-hand look at how their food is raised.

Speakers at Thursday's event included Franklin County Extension Director Katernia Cole-Coffey and Franklin County 4H Extension Agent Alicia Swann. Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore delivered the invocation before the meal was served.

This year's Farm-City Week was themed "Grow Alabama."

Two Franklin County men received the 2025 Agricultural Lifetime Achievement Award, J.C. Blackburn and James Bohannon. Brief bios of both honorees are listed:

See 'FARM-CITY,' Page 4

Qualifying for federal, state and local elected offices begins in January

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Soon after the calendar changes to 2026, Alabama residents wanting to run for federal, state or local office will see the short qualifying window open.

The Alabama Democratic Party and Alabama Republican Party will open qualifying for federal and state office on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. Candidate qualifying will close at 5 p.m., Friday, January 23, 2026.

The Franklin County Democratic Party will follow these qualifying dates for Franklin County residents wanting to run for local office in the May 19, 2026, primary elections.

Local parties may set their own window for qualifying, but that window must close no later than the January 23rd state and federal

deadline.

In addition to electing a new United States Senator, Alabamians will elect all U.S. Representatives, and state offices including governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, Secretary of State, Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, state treasurer, state auditor, State Board of Education Seats 2,4,6 and 8, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Places 7 and 8, Court of Civil Appeals Justices Place 4,5, Court of Criminal Appeals Justices Place 4, 5, and Public Service Commission Places 1 and 2.

Alabama voters will also decide all 105 State House seats and 35 State Senate seats next year.

Franklin County offices on the 2026 Primary Election Ballot (May 19, 2026) and general election ballot

See 'QUALIFYING,' Page 8



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**Ruby Lee Streetman Britton, age 92, of
Belgreen passed away on November
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the family.**

**Judith "Judi" Ann Ayers, age 80, of Rus-
sellville, passed away on Sunday, No-
vember 16, 2025, at Burns Nursing
Home. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted
the family.**

**James Russell Bingham age 65 of
Spruce Pine, died Saturday November
22, 2025. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted
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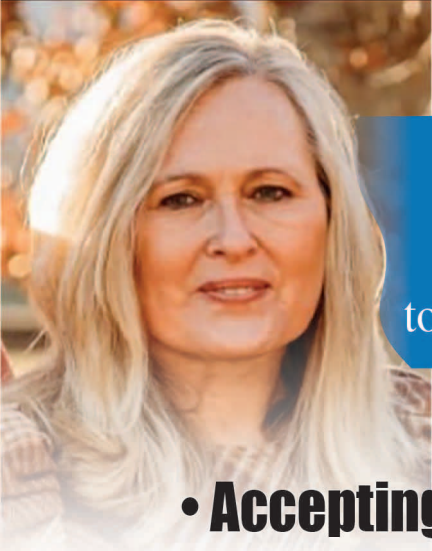
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Correction Policy

The Franklin Free Press strives for excellence and accuracy, and we will be pleased to correct any error in our newspaper. To request a correction or clarification, call or e-mail our office.

Letters to the editor

The Franklin Free Press is published by

hometown people, for hometown people. We urge contributions of all kinds, including guest columns, picture submissions, cartoons or letters to the editor. Send any letters to our office via U.S. Postal Service or e-mail, and we will gladly publish them. Letters must be signed and contain the hometown and phone number of the author. The Franklin Free Press reserves the right to edit letters for style, length and content.

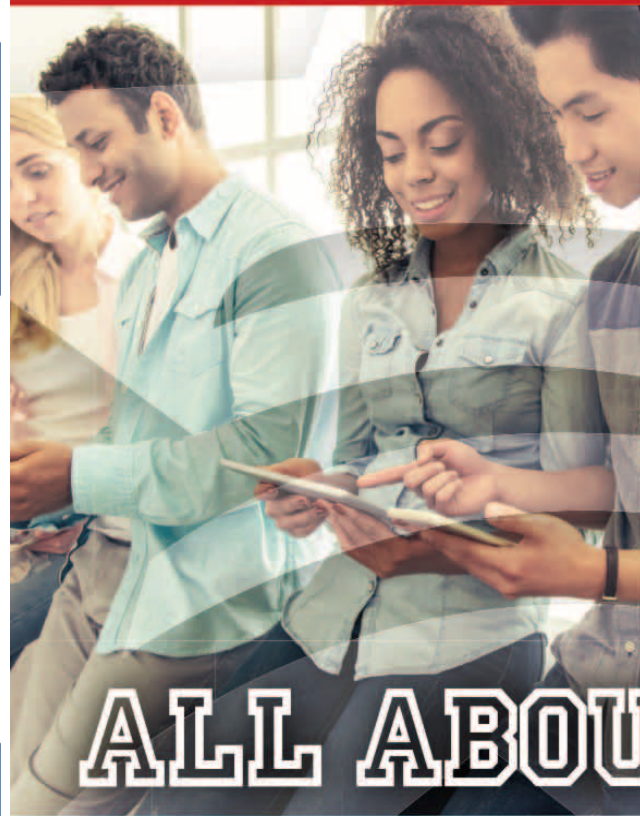
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'FARM-CITY,' from Page 1

JC Blackburn:

J.C. Blackburn was born in 1951 at Hurricane Creek, where he grew up on a family farm that produced row crops—including cotton—as well as cattle and hogs. He began farm work at a young age, driving a tractor by six years old and picking cotton with a sack nearly as big as he was.

After marrying, he continued the tradition of livestock farming by starting his own cattle operation. In 1980, J.C. and his wife, along with his in-laws, began raising chickens for Marshall Durbin, a venture they continued until around 2006. He maintained his cattle herd for many years before selling his remaining cattle in August 2025. Today, he remains active in agriculture, focusing on his hay crop.

James Bohannon:

James Bohannon was born and raised in Phil Campbell, Alabama. Born on May 3, 1934, he is now ninety-one years old. He graduated from Phil Campbell High School as a member of the Class of 1953.

On April 14, 1954, he married Marjorie Rice. Together, they raised three children—Paula McDowell, Jim Bohannon, and Joel Bohannon—and are blessed with four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. James is a devoted member and deacon of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

James and Marge purchased their farm in 1955 and soon built two poultry houses, which they operated for more than twenty years. They began raising cattle in the early 1960s, developing a cow-calf operation that James continues to run today. Over time, they expanded both their acreage and their herd, all while James worked full-time at Reynolds Metals Company. With Marge's support, he successfully balanced farm life with his career.

After retiring from Reynolds, James remained committed to the daily work of the farm. He continues to feed his cattle, maintain and repair fences, and bush hog the pastures himself. He is a man who genuinely loves spending time outdoors, tending to the land, his cattle, and his garden.

Russellville farmer Jamie Harris received the Farmer of the Year Award, and M5 Farms was presented the award for Farm Family of the Year. Their bios follow:

Jamie Harris:

Jamie Harris manages a 250-head cow/calf operation and 750 acres of pasture and hay land. He is an active member of Russellville First Methodist Church and is the director of the Franklin County SPAN Program.

His current farm improvement goals focus on expanding and enhancing the operation. He recently purchased an additional 52 acres, continues to strengthen herd genetics through the selection of high-quality bulls that have increased weaning weights and improved replacement heifers, and maintains a consistent pasture management program that includes fertilizing and spraying to boost forage quality and productivity across his pastures and hayfields.

M5 Farms:

In 1978, Brandon McDuffa received a registered Angus heifer from his grandfather, Jack Lovett, on the day he was born. That heifer later produced a bull calf, which sold for \$480. With an additional \$20, his grandfather purchased a \$500 CD in Brandon's name at the local bank. The foundation of the entire farming operation can be traced back to that single heifer, the \$500 CD, and the steadfast support and encouragement of his grandfather.

Brandon built his herd by retaining heifers and reinvesting the income from calf sales. At just seven years old, he rented his first piece of land, continuing to lease the property until 2004, when it was purchased by his parents. From these humble beginnings, the farm has grown significantly.

Today, the operation includes a herd of 45 registered Angus females. The commercial herd consists of 50 Angus-, Charolais-, and Hereford-influenced females. The family uses artificial insemination in their registered herd and Angus bulls on all commercial females. They market registered Angus bulls to local farmers and retain all registered heifers as breeding stock.

The farm also includes four broiler houses under contract with Mar-Jac, producing a 4-pound bird on a five-week grow-out.

The operation is family-run, with Brandon and Kendra serving as owner-operators. Their children—Blain, Dacey, and Brody—work daily on the farm and have each begun developing their own cattle herds. The family attends Mt. View Church of Christ.

Kendra has been a teacher in Marion County Schools for 23 years. She spent her first three years at Phillips High School and the past 20 years teaching at her alma mater, Hackleburg High School. Five years ago, she had the opportunity to reopen the agricultural education program and reestablish the school's FFA chapter.

Blain, Dacey, and Brody are active FFA members who participate in livestock judging and a variety of other competitions. The entire family is involved in the Alabama Cattlemen's Association; Kendra is a member of the Cattlewomen's Association, and the children are active in the Junior Cattlemen's Association.

This year's Agricultural Tourism and Education Award was presented to Overton Farms. The 2025 Commercial Horticulture Award recipient was the Nursery at Hurricane Creek. The bios that accompanied their nominations are listed below:

Overton Farms:

Nestled along the scenic waters of Bear Creek, Overton Farms carries a legacy that stretches back to its establishment in 1819. For more than a century, the property served as the homestead of the Overton family, becoming a cornerstone of local history. Later, the Tennessee Valley Authority transformed the land into an educational center, enriching the region with programs focused on agriculture, heritage, and environmental stewardship. Although the center closed in the early 2000s, the property was revitalized in 2022 and reimagined as a picturesque event venue. Today, Overton Farms continues to honor Alabama's heritage—blending natural beauty, historical significance, and community spirit—while offering a meaningful setting for gatherings, celebrations, and educational experiences. The site also provides visitors the opportunity to enjoy horseback riding, adding a unique and immersive way to experience the farm's landscape.

The Nursery at Hurricane Creek:

A family-owned commercial horticulture operation in Northwest Alabama, the company specializes in growing high-quality branded woody ornamentals and perennials for wholesale markets. They proudly serve independent garden centers and landscapers, providing exceptional plant quality paired with reliable, top-tier customer service.

Several Franklin County students were presented cash prizes for their winning entries in the Farm-City coloring contest, poster contest and essay contest. Winners are listed below:

Farm-City Coloring Contest Winners: (Pre-Kindergarten) 1st place Abe-Mazing McArthur, Tharptown Elementary, 2nd place Lilly Lawson, Tharptown Elementary, 3rd place Leland Gray, Tharptown Elementary and 3rd place Noah Tidwell, Tidwell Homeschool.

Poster Contest Winners (Kindergarten-3rd Grade): 1st place Bryan King, 2nd grade, Red Bay Elementary.

Poster Contest Winners (4th Grade-6th Grade): 1st place Eli Humphries, 6th grade, Red Bay Elementary, 2nd place Jonathan Tzep, 4th grade, Tharptown Elementary, 3rd place Sam Barton, 4th grade, Russellville Elementary School, Honorable Mentions to Brenton Tyde Greenhill, 5th grade, Belgreen High School and Addison Frederick, 6th grade, Red Bay Elementary.



James Bohannon, left, and J.C. Blackburn with their Agricultural Lifetime Achievement Awards. (Courtesy photo)

RCS Board honors RHS volleyball team's record-setting season

The Russellville High School varsity volleyball players and coaches were the guests of honor at the November 18th meeting of the Russellville City Board of Education.

Each player and coach was presented certificates of recognition for their outstanding season that recently ended with several school records set, including total wins of 41.

The team and coaching staff were also honored at the previous night's meeting of the Russellville City Council.

In agenda items at the board's November 18th meeting, the following actions were taken:

—approval of facility use requests for the RCS Auditorium and Fine Arts Building January 9-10 and 16-17 for the RHS Marching Hundred to host the Northwest Alabama Honor Band, the RCS Auditorium and Fine Arts Building February 13-14 for the RHS Marching Hundred to host the Alabama Bandmasters Association District 3 Honor Band and the Russellville Middle School gymnasium for varsity boys/girls basketball program to host the TBVA Youth Basketball League games December 6, January 10, 17, 21 and 31, and February 26-March 1.

—approved trip requests by RHS basketball, indoor track and Scholars Bowl for overnight and any out-of-state travel for games.

—approved a recommendation by the RCS Textbook Committee to adopt textbooks for Career Technical Education that are outside the ALSDE textbook list but can be adopted by the LEA.

—approved the following personnel moves: Resignation: Madison Berry, RES teacher. Leave of Absence: Nov. 3, 2025 thru January 20, 2026 for WES teacher Sydney Scott, up to 12 weeks for RES CNP worker Robin Fugate, up to eight weeks for WES teacher Jake Ward, November 13-21, 2025, for RES aide Anna Lopez Torres. Temporary Employment in Position for: Easton Hutcheson, Miranda Gutierrez, Hudson Hutcheson, Darius Christian as Park and Rec student workers, Nicole Jensen, Amanda Ridge, Lauren Hellums and Lisa Shipman as Saturday School teachers.

—heard a report from RCS Superintendent Dr. Tim Guinn about the system's grade of 'A' in the 2024-2025 State Report Card.

"Each of our schools showed wonderful improvement. I congratulate our administrators, faculty, staff and students on a job well done," Guinn said.

'FARM-CITY' continued from Page 4

Essay Contest (7th-9th Grade): 1st place, Saxton Oliver, 8th grade, Phil Campbell High School.

Essay Contest (10th-12th Grade): 1st place Emma Rambo, 12th grade, Phil Campbell, 2nd place Sadie Hill, 12th grade, Phil Campbell, 3rd place Kye Baker, 11th grade, Phil Campbell.

Phil Campbell High School senior Emma Rambo read her first-place award winning essay, with the "Grow Alabama" theme, as part of Thursday's event.

And a special thank you was given to the teachers of these award-winning students for encouraging student participation in Farm-City Contests: Charla Lewis, Helen Campbell, Tharptown Elementary, Anna Tidwell, Tidwell Homeschool, Anna Cox, Lindsey Marecle, Red Bay Elementary, Erin Singletary, Russellville Elementary, Ina Taylor, Belgreen School, Caleb Beason, Phil Campbell High School.

Phil Campbell High School senior Emma Rambo read her first-place award winning essay, with the "Grow Alabama" theme, as part of Thursday's event.

Cole-Coffey also recognized several organizations, businesses and individuals for their support of this year's Farm-City Awards Luncheon, including Alabama Farm Credit, CB&S Bank, Community Spirit Bank, the Franklin County Commission, the Franklin County Cattlemen's Association, the Franklin County Farmers' Federation, Northwest Alabama RC&D Council, Phil Campbell FFA and the Russellville Parks and Recreation Department and the A.W. Todd Centre staff.

Special recognition was given to several Franklin County students and teachers for various awards they won in the past year. They include: Caleb Beason for placing 1st runner up in the Excellence in Agriculture Contest with Alabama Farmer's Federation—Young Farmers Division, Phil Campbell student Jackson Posey for 1st place Safe Tractor Driving in the state FFA competition, Phil Campbell student Derek Mays for FFA Degree for Wildlife Production, Red Bay High School FFA String Band for Conduct of Chapter Meetings, third place in state, FFA String Band, 2nd place in state, Red Bay's Kayson Johnston for 2nd place in state for beef production, State FFA Degree recipients from Red Bay, including Reagan Gordon, Anna Richardson, Melee Weaver, Khloe James and Jackson Miller, and Hackleburg High School FFA member Blaine McDuffa for 1st place in state Beef Production Entrepreneurship.

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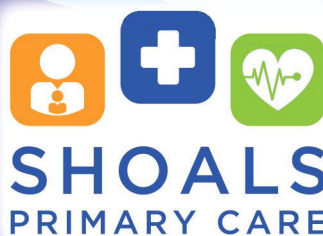


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Bids in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Lawn Care Service Bids", should be mailed to the Russellville Housing Authority, P.O. Box 966, Russellville, Alabama 35653, or delivered to 73 Flippen Street, Russellville, Alabama 35653, in time to be opened and publicly read aloud at 9:00 a.m. on December 3, 2025. Bids received after this deadline will not be opened and shall not be considered. Any questions, comments, or requests to schedule a site inspection can contact Omar Tompkins at (256) 332-1561.

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The Cowboy Church of Franklin Cohntu will host Pictures with Santa on November 30th at 2pm. Bring your own cameras. Free event for everyone. Church is located at 25100 Hwy 24 in Russellville.



Everyone is invited to the Sunday night singing at Red Bay First Baptist Church at 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 30, 2025, with bluegrass gospel duo Gavin and Ashton Johnson. A fellowship meal will follow. A love offering will be received.



The Northwest Regional Library is proud to announce audiobooks are now available through our Books-By-Mail program. This program is completely free to those that are medically homebound, live more than 10 miles from a town with a public library, or require large print or audiobooks only. Must be a resident of Marion, Franklin, or Lamar counties.



Bethsaida Missionary Baptist Church will hold a Live Nativity on Friday-Saturday, December 5-6, from 6-8 p.m. The church is located on Highway 48.



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LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that Mid-Western Commercial Roofers, Inc., Contractor, has completed the contract for Reroof of Russellville High School Main Classroom Wing, at 1865 Waterloo Road, Russellville, Al., 35653, for the State of Alabama and the City of Russellville, the Russellville City Board of Education, and have requested final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify Ward Scott, Morris Architecture, Inc., 1606 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, Al., 35401, (205)345-6110.

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'QUALIFYING' from Page 1

(November 3, 2026) include sheriff, coroner, revenue commissioner, Franklin County Board of Education District Three and Franklin County Commission District One (special election to finish term).

Declarations of Candidacy must be filed with the state party chair for candidates seeking federal or state office, circuit or district or legislative office, and with the county party chair in all county races. Qualifying fees for the party primaries are set at the local level for county level candidates.

Republicans hold every Franklin County elected office, as well as all state-level offices. Franklin County voters are represented by Republicans in House District 18 and Senate District 6.

Primary runoff elections are set for June 16, 2026.

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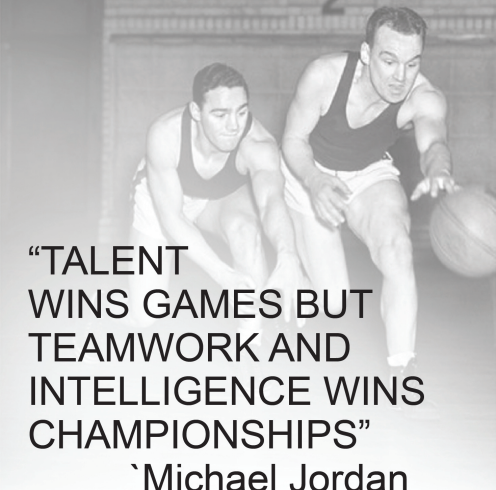
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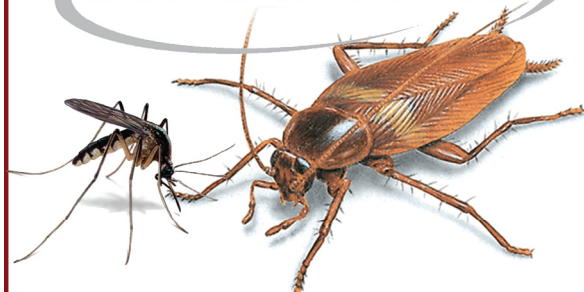
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SPORTS

11.26.25

Goodwin: RHS' nine senior players will be successful in life as they were on the field in 2025

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

When you ask Russellville High School varsity football coach Dustin Goodwin about his 2025 senior football players, he sounds a bit like a proud father.

For Malaki Groce, Connor Devaney, Houston Askew, Bryson Cooper, Tyrese Wilson, Andres Gaspar, Jerney Velez and David Tomas, preparing for their final season of Golden Tiger football involved drowning out the noise and discord resulting from an eventful off-season that saw the team part ways with its All-State running back, along with his 2,331 rushing yards and 28 touchdowns.

"Our focus initially was on building the best team possible and for our seniors to grow in their leadership roles and maximize our potential no matter what that means," Goodwin said.

"They heard a ton of negative coming into this year and all the things they couldn't do, so we wanted to preach to them all the things they could do and for the most part, I think we had a really good year. They fought all year and went far beyond what everyone was telling them they could do. And that speaks to their character, work ethic and their willingness to grow and learn," he

See, 'SENIORS,' Page 13

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The FFP announces its 2025 All-Franklin County Football Team

First Team Offense

QB: Hayston Scott, Jr., Phil Campbell
RB: Jaxon Vinson, Sr., Red Bay
RB: Braxton Downey, Soph., Phil Campbell
OL: Tyrese Wilson, Sr., Russellville
OL: Jeremy Velez, Sr., Russellville
OL: Rhett Lockhart, Sr., Red Bay
OL: Carson McGee, Jr., Red Bay
OL: Brady Williams, Jr., Phil Campbell
WR: Davien Colburn, Soph., Red Bay
WR: Connor Devaney, Sr., Russellville
WR: Austin Elliott, Jr., Phil Campbell
TE: Hagen Raper, Sr., Phil Campbell

First Team Defense

DL: Dylan Barber, Sr., Belgreen
DL: Daniel Aycock, Jr., Russellville
DL: Patrick Johnson, Jr., Russellville
LB: Keifer Hallmark, Jr., Russellville
LB: Braxton Duncan, Soph., Russellville
LB: Ethan Hallman, Sr., Phil Campbell
LB: Jaxon Vinson, Sr., Red Bay
DB: Chandler Benford, Jr., Phil Campbell
DB: Jaxson Swann, Jr., Red Bay
DB: Ben Pounders, Sr., Russellville
DB: Darron Jones, Soph., Russellville

First Team Special Teams

K/P: Carson McGee, Jr., Red Bay
KR/PR: Jaxson Swann, Jr., Red Bay

Second Team Offense

QB: Whit Goodwin, Soph., Russellville
RB: Tarus Davis, Jr., Russellville
RB: Cody McCluskey, Soph., Tharptown
FB: Logan Cooper, Sr., Phil Campbell
OL: Angel Morales, Jr., Belgreen
OL: Ty Hamilton, Soph., Belgreen
OL: Colton Patterson, Soph., Red Bay
OL: Lucia Dircia, Sr., Tharptown
OL: Zach Sparks, Sr., Vina
WR: Bryson Cooper, Sr., Russellville
WR: Jaxson Swann, Jr., Red Bay
TE: Daniel Aycock, Jr., Russellville

Second Team Defense

DL: Lucia Dircia, Sr., Tharptown
DL: Rhett Lockhart, Sr., Red Bay
DL: Hayden Sartain, Soph., Red Bay
LB: Logan Alexander, Soph., Belgreen
LB: Cody Sneed, Jr., Phil Campbell
LB: Aiden Pruitt, Sr., Red Bay
LB: Hagen Raper, Sr., Phil Campbell
DB: Branson Vick, Soph., Vina
DB: Davien Colburn, Soph., Red Bay
DB: Zed Wilson, 8th, Belgreen
DB: Miguel Willingham, Sr., Belgreen

Honorable Mentions

QB: Jeremiah Thorne, Sr., Red Bay
QB: Rush Berryman, Soph., Belgreen
RB: Joshua Thorne, Soph., Red Bay
OL: Jackson Cooper, Soph., Phil Campbell
TE: Aiden Pruitt, Sr., Red Bay
KR/PR: Ben Pounders, Sr., Russellville
KR/PR: Chandler Benford, Jr., Phil Campbell

2025 Franklin County Coach of the Year

Tyler Jeffreys, Red Bay (1st season)

The 2025 *Franklin Free Press* All-Franklin County Football Team was selected by the FFP staff based on nominations made by the head coaches from each school. The Coach of the Year award was voted on by the coaches.

The Franklin County Coach of the Year, Tyler Jeffreys, selected by his fellow coaches, orchestrated a complete turnaround of the Red Bay football program in his first season in charge, taking the Tigers from 2-9 last year to a 9-3 season in 2025. Under Jeffreys, RBHS went undefeated in region play to win its first region title since 2019, went unbeaten at home in the regular season, and hosted and won its first playoff game at Fred Bostick Jr. Stadium in five years.

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Go Teams.

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'SENIORS' from Page 11

added.

While the nine seniors' careers ended in the second round of the Class 5A playoffs with a loss to Briarwood Christian, their lifetime of memories about being a part of Russellville Golden Tiger football will stay with them long after graduation.

And Goodwin will always have a special appreciation for these nine senior players, their success on the field and their leadership and character off the field.

"This season is a testament to them," Goodwin said. "These nine young men are going to be successful when they graduate no matter what path they take, and I'm a fan of each one of them, no doubt."

From their freshman year of 2022 through the end of the 2025 season, this year's seniors finished 30-17, including 22-2 in 5A Region 7 play, and reached the second round of the 5A playoffs in three of their four seasons.

Goodwin sat down recently with FFP Publisher John Pilati to share his thoughts on the each member of his senior class.

Malaki Groce (47 total tackles, 5.5 tackles for loss, two interceptions, three receptions for 51 yards): "The majority of the year he was on the defensive side as safety, but he also contributed for us on offense at receiver. This was only his second year playing football so last year was a learning year for him. This year he stepped into a starting role and did a real nice job."

Connor Devaney (60 receptions, 643 yards (avg. 59 yards/game and scored five TDs): "Connor played slot receiver and led our team in receptions. He's a very versatile guy. He's not a real big player but he plays with a lot of heart and grit. He had a nice year for us."

Houston Askew (12 receptions, 79 yards, one TD. 38 total tackles on defense): "Houston did a really good job at receiver and he played a lot at cornerback. he did a really good job for us there as well. We even practiced him at safety some. He was a guy we knew we could count on, for sure."

Bryson Cooper (23 receptions, 398 yards, five TD): "We worked him at defense some early in the year, but he found his home at receiver because we had to find a way to have him on the field. He's long and rangy and was really consistent. He started at receiver just about every game. Bryson is a very intelligent guy who did a nice job for us and he had a really good senior year."

Ben Pounders (21 receptions, 278 yards, two TD, 12 rushes, 57 yards/74 total tackles on defense): "He was going to be a starter for us last year but he got hurt on the Tuesday of the first game week. That was a real shot to us. We were able to get him back and fortunately he stayed healthy throughout the course of the year. He played slot receiver and really did a little bit of everything. He was a safety on the defensive side. Ben is a great kid who doesn't say much, but he's a really hard worker and leads by example.

"The mental aspect of coming back from a serious injury takes some time. It's definitely a process to get back, rehab and work, then have the confidence to test the old injury out. He handled that very well and I'm real proud of him for coming back when it would have been easy just to walk away after last season."

Tyrese Wilson (LT): "Tyrese was probably our highest grader of our front five week in and week out. He's a really good player who has one of our bigger bodies. He brought a great attitude every day. He did a great job for us and continued to get better through the year by listening to everything Coach (Austin) Stidham told him."

Andres Gaspar (DL, 46 tackles, avg. 3.8 tackles/game): "He got a lot of snaps last year and was one player we were really counting on coming into this season and he lived up to it and did a great job. He's one of those quiet guys who sets the tone by example. He's a really tough kid who is hard to block."

Jermey Velez (OL/C): "Jermey was our center and I can't remember many, if any, bad snaps this year. There's a lot of communication required in that position and he handled it great. He's a very fun-loving kid, smiling all th time. He's not real big but he gave it everything he had for our team."

David Tomas (K/P, hit 29 PAT, avg. 35.5 yards on 30 punts): "David was our place kicker and punter. He did a really nice job for the majority of the year. He missed only one extra point and had one blocked. He is a very consistent player. This was his first year playing football. He's also the goalie on our soccer team. He said he was glad he came out for football and went through the season. That's what we want is for all these guys to be encouraged to be part of our football family and also experience everything in other sports they can during their high school years. He got all he could out of being part of this team. It's nice to have a reliable kicker for sure. Our kickers are a big part of this team."

Goodwin said these nine players set a standard for what he expects from his seniors.

"They're all going to be successful, quality young men an good husbands and dads one day, and we hope they learned that consistency matters, that they have their priorities in order and they know there's a plan and purpose for their lives and that they chase it every day," Goodwin said.



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Franklin County Board of Education



Best of Luck to all Franklin County Teams!



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Terry Welborn
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Carol Murphree
Board Member



**Kacey Hester
Johnston**
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Board Member



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2025-26 Important Dates

Aug. 8: First Day of Class
Sep. 1: Labor Day
Oct. 11-14: Fall Break/Columbus Day
Nov. 11: Veterans Day
Nov. 24-28: Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec. 20-Jan. 7: Christmas Break

Jan. 19: MLK Day
Feb. 16: President's Day
Mar. 30-April 3: Spring Break
April 24: Students Half Day (Dismiss 11:30)
May 22: Graduation
May 22: Last Day of School



*Best of luck to our Russellville
Golden Tigers Basketball Team.*

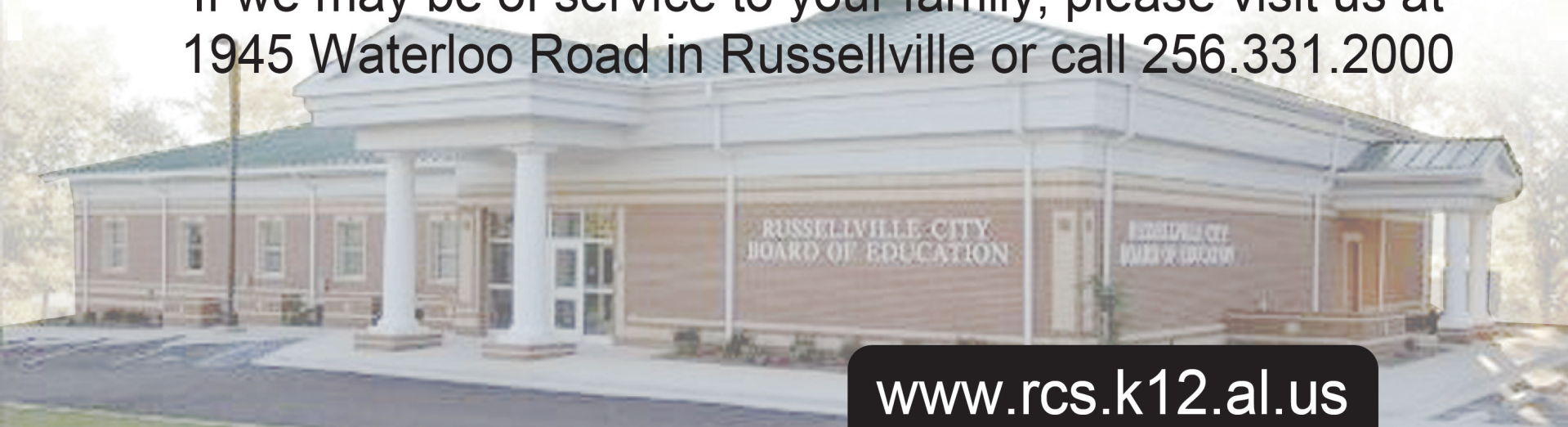
Have a great season!

*2025-2026 School Calendar
Dates to Remember:*

July 30-Aug.5: Teacher Days
Aug. 6: First Day for Students
Sept. 1: Labor Day
Oct. 6-7: Fall Break
Oct. 17: Homecoming,
Early Dismissal
Nov. 11: Veterans Day

Nov. 24-28: Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 19: Early Dismissal
Dec 22-Jan. 6: Christmas Break
Jan. 19: MLK Day
Feb. 16: President's Day
Mar. 30-Apr. 3: Spring Break
May 22: Graduation

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What's Happening with Your Franklin County Extension Office!

Franklin County Extension Director Katernia Cole-Coffey was named the 2025 County Extension Director of the Year.

She received the award at last month's annual meeting of Alabama Extension County Directors.

This award is given to a director who demonstrates exceptional educational impact through programming and partnerships, professional development and active involvement in professional organizations.

As the Franklin County Extension director, she has positioned Extension as a vital and responsive resource for a county that is marked by poverty and growing diversity.

Serving the community for more than 20 years, Cole-Coffey fosters a positive and inclusive culture by engaging all community members, regardless of their background.

And we are fortunate to have her in Franklin County!



Congratulations County Extension Directors

Their outstanding work and contributions were recognized at the annual Alabama Extension county directors meeting.



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Late fall through late winter is the time to plant. From variety selection, planting tips, watering, fertilizing, and more, Extension has the resources to help.