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6.14.17 PageFlip feature enhances FFP website

Staff reports

The Franklin Free Press is happy to announce a new way for readers to enjoy the latest editions of Franklin County's largest-circulating newspaper, with the introduction of a new online feature called PageFlip.

When visiting the Free Press website at franklinfreepress.net, on the left-hand side is a visual preview of the latest newspaper. By clicking on it, visitors can view and read the newspaper online just as it appears physical.

This new feature allows readers to view the

FFP's advertisements and event calendar online, something that could only be done in the past by picking up a physical copy of the print edition.

"With the entire issue of each Franklin Free Press now available on our website," said publisher John Pilati, "readers have at their fingertips not only our award-winning articles



but also our classifieds, our advertisements, our community calendar and all the other helpful features of the Franklin Free Press. It's yet another way for our advertisers to share their message with a consistently growing audience."

PageFlip is a great edition to the FFP's growing online presence and can be viewed on both desktop and mobile devices.



Huntsville mayor Tommy Battle speaks at the Reed Building open house.

Battle attends special event at Reed Building

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

The Reed Building in downtown Russellville hosted a special guest when it held its open house on Sunday afternoon. The recently renovated building, which consists of a downstairs office space and two upstairs loft apartments, was packed with people, among which were many elected officials.

Russellville mayor David Grissom, whose company Made in USA

Properties, LLC owns the building, was in attendance, along with many members of the Russellville City Council and Alabama state senator Larry Stutts.

But the man people came to see was Huntsville Republican mayor Tommy Battle, who has mounted a 2018 gubernatorial campaign.

Prior to announcing Battle at Sunday's event, Grissom thanked a number of individuals and businesses for their help in getting the building renovated and

See 'BATTLE,' Page 9

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Truman Broadway, Russellville, age 69
Died Thursday, June 8, 2017. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel.
Interment in Jonesboro Cemetery.

Ralph Delano Chappell, Phil Campbell, age 83
Died Thursday, June 8, 2017. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Blue Springs Cemetery in Phil Campbell.

Kittie J. Steward, Phil Campbell, age 79
Died Tuesday, June 6, 2017. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Shady Grove Cemetery in Liberty Hill.

Bratie Eugene "Bubba" Underwood, III, Russellville, age 76
Died Tuesday, June 6, 2017. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

Linda Carol Underwood, Russellville, age 70
Died Tuesday, June 6, 2017. Graveside service held at Franklin Memory Gardens. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Frances Sue Uptain, Russellville, age 86
Died Monday, June 12, 2017. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

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AU Development Institute presents report to council

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council met on Monday, June 5 to discuss a number of items on the agenda.

During the work session, members from the Human Resources Consulting Government and Economic Development Institute at Auburn University met with the council and citizens and presented a report of their progress in regards to developing policies and procedures for city departments and employees.

The institute has already been working with the city of Russellville since 2015 to improve the city's employee management system.

"They've come in and really done a great job," said Russellville mayor David Grissom. "These updates are something that we've needed for a long time. It's really a rejuvenation and revamp of the whole system."

The improvements included implementing a new pay plan, which the city council has already approved, and re-writing the job description for every position.

"We knew we had a problem with our pay plan," Grissom said, "and with their help we've gotten it to a level where it should be competitive with others in our area. They re-wrote every job description for every position in the city, and within those job descriptions they've made sure that we're compliant with all state and federal laws."

The new pay plan increased the hourly rate for nearly all city employees. Grissom said no one's pay decreased as a result of the new pay plan.

The next step will be updating the policies and procedures for each department.

The institute has already been working with the city of Russellville since 2015 to improve the city's employee management system.

"They've come in and really done a great job," said mayor David Grissom. "These updates are something that we've needed for a long time. It's really a rejuvenation and revamp of the whole system."

Maria Tamblin, who presented for the institute at the council meeting, said the updates and changes, specifically to the policies and procedures, are meant to save the city money in the long term, as the changes will make the city less susceptible to lawsuits and other legal issues. Like the job descriptions and pay plan, the policy and procedures update will ensure Russellville is in compliance with all laws.

"It's a process that takes a long time to get done, but when we're through we'll be a lot better off than we were," Grissom said.

In other business at its June 5 meeting, the council:

- Retroactively passed 2017 Russellville High School Baseball Championship Resolution.
- Passed resolution in remembrance of St. Paul CME pastor Eric Williams.
- Accepted resignation of police officer Daniel Cruise from the Russellville Police Department.
- Hired Phillip Clay Wilson, Macy Ann Hughes, Antonio Melecio and Dakota Demastus as RPD patrol officers.
- Appointed Matt Cooper to Russellville Industrial Development Board.
- Approved agreement between Russellville City Schools and City of Russellville for Afterschool Care Program for 2017-18.

Mission-minded



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Mission Medical held its ribbon cutting last Friday, June 9 at the office located in Franklin Shopping Center. CRNPs Jean Hester Stowe and Melanie Malone welcomed a crowd of more than 100 to their newly renovated office. To schedule appointments at Mission Medical, call 256-398-7212.

On the road again



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Highway 24 West was formally dedicated into two parts last Friday, with the David Morrow Highway running from Russellville to Belgreen and the Tammy Wynette Highway from Belgreen to the Mississippi line. A formal dedication ceremony was held last Friday afternoon at Belgreen United Methodist Church. Above, Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow and members of the Red Bay community stand with the two signs.

Honey Do List: Why D-I-Y?

There are many reasons to be a D-I-Yer (Do-It-Yourselfer). Many of us grew up watching our dads and moms build, repair, maintain and grow almost everything around the home with their own two hands. In many of us, this instilled a certain mindset that makes us attempt projects, figure them out and either make a royal mess or enjoy the great sense of accomplishment of a job well done. We take pride in providing for our family, just as the caveman did when he came home with the daily meal or invented a better way to catch it or prepare it.

Our D-I-Y side may come out as a result of economics, boredom or curiosity, or maybe it's just how we do things. We cut our grass, we grow our food and we fix our leaky plumbing, because that's who we are.

It's always exciting to see folks take on projects or repairs that, you can tell, are getting them out of their comfort zone. Usually they are eager to talk about it and share the story of the challenges. "I figured out how to..." or "That was hard work, but..." or "Let me show you a picture..." are phrases that make it fun to be in the hardware business.

Your Honey-Do List is actually a list of love, and this is a shout-out to all those who continuously work at this list of projects that, of course, never gets

any shorter.

Oh, and a very special HAPPY FATHER'S DAY, especially to the dads who try to instill the D-I-Y gene into the next generation.

Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green



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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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Reviewing the latest legislative session

By Taylor Dawson
Alabama Policy Institute

It's baffling when legislators run for office on a platform of limited government and individual liberty and then use their elected office in the Alabama Legislature to defeat legislation that promotes these principles.

Legislation supporting school choice and Second Amendment rights suffered this fate this past legislative session. Don't blame the Democrats. Enough Republicans joined them to defeat amendments to the Alabama Accountability Act, and a Republican committee chairman in the Alabama House scuttled constitutional carry.

Changes to the Alabama Accountability Act

Parents with children trapped in failing schools did not have a real school-choice option in Alabama prior to 2013. With the passage of the Alabama Accountability Act (AAA), families zoned for Alabama's worst-performing schools finally had better opportunities through scholarships and tax credits.

After a drop of \$5.9 million in scholarship donations through the AAA last year, some lawmakers came to this year's session prepared to remedy the funding problem. Amendments would have improved the law by raising the limit on tax credits that could be claimed for donating to student scholarships, adding a tax credit for utility tax, allowing estates and trusts to donate, and reserving half of the cumulative cap—which would remain unchanged—on donations for individual donors.

In February, these amendments passed by a close margin in the Senate. It wasn't until the last 48 hours of the legislative session that SB 123 hit the floor of the House.

Getting the bill to the House floor wasn't an easy

task, but education reforms rarely are. Enough legislators were swayed by the voices of public-education superintendents and the Alabama Education Association (AEA) to kill the bill. The AEA makes no bones about its intent to keep education in Alabama just the way they like it—even if it means children trapped in failing public schools.

We should give positive education opportunities to all families, not just families who can afford them. The Alabama Accountability Act needs to be strengthened, and it's certainly worth another try next session.

It's baffling when legislators run for office on a platform of limited government and individual liberty and then use their elected office in the Alabama Legislature to defeat legislation that promotes these principles.

Constitutional Carry

The Second Amendment states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Although the Supreme Court allows certain types of gun-ownership restrictions, a few of our legislators in Montgomery want our rights to be as free and clear of hindrances as possible. Senator Gerald Allen (R-Tuscaloosa) introduced a bill this session that would allow constitutional carry—otherwise known as permitless carry—in Alabama.

After receiving "yea" votes from every Republican legislator to easily pass the Senate, SB 24 died in House committee without making it to the floor for a vote. When a public hearing was held for the bill in a House committee several weeks ago, the pro-permit side was represented entirely by law enforcement, but

See 'SESSION,' page 9



DAVE SAYS
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by Dave Ramsey

What to do with the leftover?

Dear Dave,
When you use the envelope system, what should you do with any leftover money?

Mandy

Dear Mandy,
My suggestion would be to carry it over to the next month. Lots of folks don't use all the money in their clothing envelope during a month. There's nothing wrong with letting a little extra build up in one of your categories if you don't spend it all in a given month or two.

You should be hitting the budget pretty close each month on categories like food. Getting out of debt and managing your money wisely doesn't mean going hungry. If you do end up with a little left over in the food envelope, treat yourself to a nice dinner out, or buy something that's food-oriented.

But it's okay to carry a few categories over from month to month. Just make sure you don't get crazy and blow that money on something outside the intended category, or on stuff you really don't need.

Dave

Too much risk

Dear Dave,
I have some company stock my grandparents bought for me years ago. Would it be a good idea to cash out the stock and roll it into an IRA?

Dylan

Dear Dylan,
Technically, you wouldn't be rolling it into an IRA. You would cash it out and use the money to establish a Roth IRA. And yes, I would do that.

It was very kind of your grandparents to buy you a gift like this, but I think you can do better. You didn't mention an amount, but let's say you've got \$10,000 in that company's stock. Now, would you buy the stock if you had \$10,000 sitting on the table? Most people, myself included, would say no, because there's too much risk. I wouldn't advise having the majority of your wealth—the highest percentage of your net worth—tied up in one single company. That's bad news.

So yes, I would sell that stock and use the money to fund a Roth IRA or multiple Roth IRAs. I invest my Roth IRA money in mutual funds that have a solid track record of outperforming the S&P 500 for 10 years or longer.

Dave

*Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 13 million listeners each week on 585 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

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 **T**harttown Elementary School will hold registration for new students this Wednesday, June 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, please call 256-332-3404.

 **T**he East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department will sell plates of William Bishop's smoked chicken, barbecue or half chicken plates for \$9 each this Friday, June 16 from 4-7 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the East Franklin Fire Department. Come and join us!

 **T**he Franklin County Cattlemen's Association will have a steak sandwich sale this Friday, June 16 from 9:30 a.m. until sold out in the Russellville Foodland parking lot next to CB&S Bank. Ribeye steak sandwich, chips and a drink of your choice for \$8. Proceeds go to the College Scholarship Fund for Franklin County high schools and Russellville City Schools. For large orders of 15 or more, please call ahead to Orland Britnell at 256-810-9304 or Bonnie Hargett at 256-412-3468.

 **T**he 16th annual Phil Campbell Hoedown Car Show will take place this Saturday, June 17 at the Phil Campbell High School parking lot from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration is \$20 per car. 50/50 draw, \$20 per ticket. Judging from 11-12 and awards at 1 p.m. Door prizes drawn at random. Come show off your ride!

 **T**he 2017 Golden Tigers Summer Baseball Camp will be held Monday and Tuesday, June 19-20, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Russellville Baseball Stadium and inside the RMS gym. Camp is for players ages 5-13. Camp cost is \$90 (\$10 sibling discount) and includes lunch and drinks for both days, plus a camp T-shirt. Please make checks payable to RHS Baseball. Applications can be turned in on the day of the camp. Please text or call RHS baseball coach Chris Heaps at 256-345-0531 to get your name on the camp list ahead of time. Space is limited! Camp instructors will be Coach Heaps, RHS assistants Jay Stanley, Eli Fuller, Corey Flanagan, Nathan Vincent, Sander Tverberg and Jess Smith, plus current and former Golden Tiger players. Campers will receive quality instruction in the following areas: Pitching mechanics/drills, throwing fundamentals, hitting mechanics/drills, infield play by position, fly balls/outfield play, base running/sliding and speed/agility/quickness. Items needed for camp are a glove, baseball hat, cleats (outdoor), tennis shoes (indoor), a baseball bat and a helmet.

 **A**merican Legion Post 64 meets the second Thursday of each month at the Chamber of Commerce office on Jackson Avenue. Meal served around 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. Next meeting will be Thursday, July 13.



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Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

When driving through downtown Russellville, local residents probably do not stop to admire the small, brick building across the street from the police department and right next to the Chevron gas station. Nor do they likely realize that the company housed there operates on an international level.

Petro Chemical Energy, located at 107 East Madison Street, was started in 1998 by owner Darren Woodruff and has since become the world's leader in energy audits, surveys and leak detection.

Woodruff, a Russellville native, got his start in 1985 working for his father, Steve Woodruff.

"My dad started a business similar to this one, but he worked mostly in paper mills," he said. "He didn't work in oil refineries or chemical plants—I guess because it was more of a liability risk."

After spending a number of years learning and working with his father, Woodruff decided to start his own company.

"Like I said, my dad liked working in paper mills, so I told him I wanted to branch out and do oil refineries and other plants so we wouldn't be competing against each other," Woodruff said.



The elder Woodruff is now retired, and Darren's sister and brother-in-law, Cindy and Rocky Hudson, run the original business in Texas.

According to PCE's website, the company provides services ranging from air and nitrogen leak services to steam trap surveys to plant-wide energy assessments.

"Basically, what we do is provide surveys and assessments for, mostly, oil refineries and chemical plants, but other companies as well," said Woodruff, who has 15 employees. "Clients will bring us in, and we've got equipment that can determine if there's a leak, how many leaks there happen to be and where they are. Then we provide our clients with a database, including a description of the leaks, so they can get it fixed."

As an additional service, PCE is now offering to repair the leaks. Plants were always short of manpower, and it seems to be a good fit, Woodruff said.

According to the company website, PCE saves clients an average of 20 percent on their total annual energy costs. In some instances, PCE's services have saved clients tens of millions of dollars.

"It's like if you have a water leak at your house, that leak is costing you money," Woodruff said. "Except the magnitude of the leaks our clients have is much greater. A lot of air or nitrogen leaks could cost some of these companies over a million dollars per year, and our goal is to save them that money."

See 'ENERGY,' Page 9

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Local family travels to Ghana on medical mission trip

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As refugees in Ghana's 'witch camps,' more than a thousand elderly women have been banished from society after being accused of using black magic to cause injury or misfortune to another person.

These women have been cut off from their communities and families, left to fend for themselves or die. They end up in the 'witch camps' (six of which are located in northern Ghana) because they have nowhere else to go. They depend on the camp, and the charity of people across the world, to survive.

James Nipper, vice-president of Petro Chemical Energy in Russellville, and his family recently traveled to one of Ghana's 'witch camps' and spent a week on a medical mission trip.

Nipper serves on the board of directors of Ghana West Africa Missions, or GWAM. The organization started drilling water wells more than 30 years ago in the country. Volunteers would go into communities comprised of 95 percent Muslim populations and dig

wells and help convert the residents to Christianity by giving them fresh water.

GWAM's water program has drilled more than 960 wet wells fitted with hand pumps in nine regions of Ghana. Additionally, they have repaired 545 broken down wells, established and trained more than 1,300 water sanitation committees, disinfected 5,600 contaminated water points in 1,500 communities, trained 120 pump mechanics and established the largest water well equipment sales program in northern Ghana, according to www.gwam.org.

"It makes you appreciate what we have in the United States so much more," said Nipper, who serves on the board of directors of Ghana West Africa Missions.

Nipper's involvement in GWAM began when Colton Scott, a fellow church member at Sherrod Avenue Church of Christ in Florence, was hired as the group's marketing director. He asked Nipper last year to consider serving on the board of directors, and he was

placed on the board last November.

Along with his wife Heather, their daughter Hannah and 17 others, Nipper traveled to northern Ghana for a nine-day trip in late May.

Hannah, a certified nurse's aide, wanted to volunteer on a medical mission trip, so through the coordination of the Ghana Health Services, three doctors and three nurses joined the six volunteers to spend a week doing health screenings in a 'witch camp.'

The trip also saw the construction of a new water well dug in the city of Yendi.

"In three days we screened 550 people, and 56 of those had malaria," Nipper said. "We gave some type of medication to all the people, more than \$3,000 in all. We're going to make this a yearly trip."

Nipper, his family and another family raised \$10,000 to pay for the trip, including the medication administered to the residents.

Although he's traveled to Africa for business in the past, this was Nipper's first trip to Ghana.

"It makes you appreciate what we have in the United

See 'GHANA,' page 11

'SESSION,' from page 4

there was one notable dissenter from that side—Jefferson County sheriff Mike Hale.

Sheriff Hale values the rights of many over the fiscal preferences of few. Paying a fee is a burden on our right to bear a firearm. Those who take issue with constitutional carry justify their defense of permits as being pro-public safety rather than anti-Second Amendment. So, if opponents of constitutional carry are going to market their opposition in the name of safety, why is there a cost associated with getting a permit? Our constitutional right to bear a firearm

should not come at a price.

This bill's defeat was not at the hands of the law enforcement officers who were against it. Republican House members killed this bill, and the lawmakers in the Senate who passed the bill by an overwhelming margin should hold the House members from their party accountable for its defeat. At the very least, constitutional carry deserved a vote on the floor of the Alabama House.

Now that the 2017 session is over, let's hope our lawmakers use this break to think about these policies

they rejected and come back to Montgomery in 2018, headed into election season, prepared to stand for the principles they claim to support.

Taylor Dawson is Communications Director for the Alabama Policy Institute (API). API is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research and educational organization dedicated to strengthening free enterprise, defending limited government, and championing strong families. If you would like to speak with the author, please e-mail communications@alabamapolicy.org or call (205) 870-9900.

'ENERGY,' from page 8

PCE's leak detection service has saved several companies \$20 million per year, Woodruff said.

To perform their assessments, Petro Chemical Energy travels all over the United States and around the globe.

"In the states, we work coast to coast," Woodruff said. "We'll go to California. We work a lot in the Gulf Coast, but we spend a lot of time in places like Houston, Baton Rouge and New

Orleans, too. We've been as far as Saudi Arabia. We've been to England. We don't go international every year, but we do most years."

Some of PCE's clients include household names such as Exxon Mobile, Phillips 66, Chevron, Valero and Dow Chemical, as well as other smaller corporations. And when any of these companies have a problem, PCE is the first call they make.

"We're the preferred vendor for this kind of stuff," Woodruff said. "When one of our clients believe they have an issue, the first phone call they make is to us."

Given the work PCE does, the clients it has and the places they travel, its not unusual for Woodruff to get a weird look when he tells someone what he does for a living.

"I usually get a bit of a surprised reac-

tion," said Woodruff, who also serves as chairman of the Russellville Electric Board. "We're a small company in a small town, but we work all over the country and all over the world. That's not something you hear often around here.

"But I know where my success comes from; I give all the glory and honor to God. I would have nothing without Him."

'BATTLE,' from page 1

ready for occupants. Then, the Russellville mayor introduced his Huntsville counterpart, who received a long round of applause from the open house attendees.

"It's great to be here in Russellville," Battle said, speaking to the crowd gathered in the first-floor office space.

Battle addressed his campaign positions, emphasizing the need for state officials to "start working for the people."

"State leaders have become Montgomery-centric and have forgotten about the rest of the state," he said. "It's time to return state government to the people."

"The high tide raises all ships," he said, adding that the creation of jobs in one city or town benefits surrounding cities and towns.

Battle also congratulated Grissom and his partner Chris Wallace on contributing to the redevelopment in downtown Russellville through the Reed Building renovation.

"This is a great accomplishment, and the city of Russellville should be proud," Battle said. "Before long there will be nowhere to put the restaurants and businesses. That's a good problem to have."

Battle went on to address his campaign positions, emphasizing the need for state officials to "start working for the people."

"State leaders have become Montgomery-centric and have forgotten about the rest of the state," he said. "It's time to return state government to the people."

Battle opened up by thanking everyone for coming and bragged on the city, mayor and city council for their efforts to add jobs in Russellville.

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4027 Waterloo Road.
Furniture, clothing,
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June 16. Hwy 48,
Tharptown. First road to
the left after you pass
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jewelry, houseware, kids
books, toys, Nascar tires
and more!

Huge Yard Sale!! Six
families! This Friday &
Saturday, June 16-17
(weather permitting)
from 7 am-until. From
Russellville, take Hwy.
24 East, go 7 miles and
turn right on Hwy. 83, go
1 mile. 5th house on the
left. Furniture, name-
brand clothes, shoes,
toys, tools, dishes, lots
of household items. Too
much to mention! Well
worth the drive!

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Saturday, June 16-17 at
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Estate Sale inside house
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July 1. Hwy. 724 East,
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COURTESY PHOTO

James and Heather Nipper, with daughter Hannah, and some young residents of Ghana who will benefit from medical screenings and the construction of water wells in their country.

'GHANA,' from page 9

States so much more," Nipper said.

With few of the 'witch camp' residents speaking English, the group relied on a local church to help with translation and organization. Through the involvement of the church, several of the residents began attending services, Nipper said.

Ghana is a West African country that borders the Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Togo. The country gained its independence from Britain in 1957 and became known as Ghana rather than the Gold Coast.

Although the country is peaceful, it consists of more than 50 different ethnic groups, each with their own customs, beliefs and languages. Some of those beliefs include a belief that any misfortune or tragedy in a village must be attributable to witchcraft. Once a priest identifies the witch responsible for the act, she must be 'cast out' of the community.

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PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

A refined, more patient approach helped Thomas (above) hit a career-high 12 home runs in 2017 while batting .433.

Bobcats' Thomas named top hitter in 2A by ASWA

Mike Self
 Franklin Free Press

Whenever Peyton Thomas gets the itch to swing a baseball bat, he knows exactly who to call.

"Luke Baker. Any time I need to go hit, Luke is ready to go—without question," said Thomas, a rising senior at Phil Campbell High School. "He'll come throw to me for a little while. He's a good guy. He always says that if I ever make it to the home run derby, he's gonna be the one throwing to me."

At the rate Thomas is going, Baker—a 2015 graduate of PCHS—better keep his arm loose. Thomas has essentially been putting on a one-man derby show for the past two years, blasting a total of 21 home runs for the Bobcats as a sophomore and junior. His 12 homers this past season tied him for fourth in the state and drew the attention of the Alabama Sports Writers Association, which on Saturday chose Thomas as the 2017 Class 2A Hitter of the Year.

Fittingly, Baker, who has delivered countless batting-practice pitches to Thomas over the last few years, also got to deliver the good news. Thomas was taking part in a summer showcase at Troy this past weekend when his phone buzzed.

"It was Luke," said Thomas, who was in the midst

See 'THOMAS,' page 16

Greenhill is 5A Player of the Year

Three other Golden Tigers also receive All-State nod

Mike Self
 Franklin Free Press

For the second consecutive season, Russellville High School is home to the Class 5A Baseball Player of the Year.

After an outstanding senior season that saw him set school records for home runs and strikeouts while also becoming Franklin County's all-time leader in wins, Cody Greenhill was named Player of the Year by the Alabama Sports Writers Association on Saturday.

Greenhill, who led the Golden Tigers to a third straight state title in May, follows in the footsteps of RHS teammate and fellow Auburn signee Judd Ward,

See 'GREENHILL,' page 14



PHOTO/KG
 Greenhill did not allow an earned run in five playoff starts, finishing his senior season 12-2 with a 0.74 ERA and 144 strikeouts.

Local softball standouts receive All-State honors

Mike Self
 Franklin Free Press

Coaching third for Tharptown, Tanna Benford got to see plenty of Kaylee Bain and Shaylee Wieting this past season on their frequent trips around the bases.

Bain, a senior centerfielder, and Wieting, a freshman second baseman, combined to form a dynamic duo at the top of a Lady Wildcat lineup that averaged just shy of seven runs a game. Between them, they accounted for 104 hits and 106 runs scored—40 percent of Tharptown's total of 262 runs scored on the year.

"To have two hitters at the top of the lineup both batting over .400 is big," said Benford, who led the Lady Wildcats to a 22-16 record in 2017. "They both did a great job getting on base and starting things for us. Klaudia Harris [the team's senior three-hole hitter] had a career-high in RBIs this year, and a lot of that was because those top two were on base all the time."

For their efforts, Bain and Wieting both earned All-State honors in Class 1A from the Alabama Sports Writers Association last week. Bain, who batted .484 in the leadoff spot with 59 hits and 51 runs scored, was a second-team selection. Wieting, who hit .433 with 45 hits and 55 runs scored in the two-hole, received honorable mention.

Bain, a fleet-footed left-handed batter, was named All-State for the third consecutive season. She received second-team honors as a sophomore in 2015 and honorable mention as a junior in 2016.

See 'SOFTBALL,' page 14



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW
 Two shoulder surgeries forced Wieting to learn to throw left-handed, but there was nothing wrong with her bat. She hit .433 as a freshman with 17 extra-base hits and 55 runs scored.

'GREENHILL' from page 13

who won POY honors in Class 5A as a junior in 2016. Greenhill was also chosen by the ASWA as the Class 5A Pitcher of the Year for 2017. The 6'4, 215-pound right-hander went 12-2 this season, finishing with more wins than earned runs allowed (10). He posted a 0.74 ERA and tied Brewer's Dakota Bennett for the state lead with 144 strikeouts, breaking his own school mark from the previous season.

Greenhill went the distance in eight of his 18 starts, allowing just 57 hits and 17 walks in 95 innings pitched. He was virtually flawless in five postseason starts, going 5-0 with 44 strikeouts and zero earned runs allowed in 31 innings. He capped off that remarkable playoff run with a dominant outing against Faith Academy in Game 1 of the state finals, striking out 11 and allowing only two hits in a 9-1 win.

During the course of the 2017 season, Greenhill surpassed former Golden Tiger Jacey Wilson (29 wins from 2004-07), former Phil Campbell star Griffin Harris (34 wins from 2003-06) and former Russellville standout Cory Trapp (36 wins from 2005-08) to become the all-time wins leader in Franklin County baseball history. Greenhill finished his high school career with a record of 39-9, tying him with John Herring of American Christian Academy (1992-95) for fifth on the state's career wins list.

Greenhill compiled a career ERA of 1.29 in 305.1 innings, striking out 375 batters and walking only 65. He threw 26 complete games, including eight shutouts and three no-hitters. In 15 career playoff starts, he went 13-1 with a 1.48 ERA and 99 strikeouts in 84.2 innings.

Russellville's ace on the mound since his freshman year, Greenhill broke out at the plate with a monster senior season. He tied Decatur's Tanner Burns for the

state lead with 16 home runs, breaking the school record of 15 set by Seth Ferguson in 2007. Greenhill also led the state this year with 65 RBIs, batting .338 with 50 hits, 40 runs scored and more walks (21) than strikeouts (19). He drove in 16 runs in 12 playoff games.

Greenhill was also chosen as a member of the ASWA's Super All-State team, comprised of the top 10 players in the state regardless of classification. He finished fourth in the voting for Mr. Baseball behind Burns, McGill-Toolen outfielder Bubba Thompson and Cullman left-hander Jacob Heatherly.

Greenhill finished his high school career with 39 wins, tying him with John Herring of American Christian Academy (1992-95) for fifth on the state's all-time list.

Ward, meanwhile, capped off his brilliant prep career with a third consecutive first-team All-State selection in Class 5A. The 6'0, 190-pound centerfielder tied Cullman's Noah Fondren for second in the state with 59 hits, just one behind Tanner Allen of UMS-Wright.

Ward's sweet left-handed stroke produced a .410 batting average in 2017 with four home runs, five triples, 10 doubles and 24 RBIs. He finished second in the state with 58 runs scored in 48 games, drawing 29 walks and striking out just 12 times in 190 plate appearances.

Ward was an offensive force in the playoffs, batting .476 (20-for-42) with 10 extra-base hits and 19 runs scored in 12 games. He finished the season with 15 multi-hit games and a .521 OBP.

Ward finished his three-year varsity career with 207 hits in 443 at bats, good for a .467 average that ranks

16th in state history (according to AHSAA.com). He also ranks in the state's top 20 all-time with 43 career doubles and 189 runs scored.

Russellville, which finished 38-10 this past season and joined Hartselle (1990-92) and Spanish Fort (2010-12) as the only schools to win three consecutive Class 5A baseball championships, had two other players receive All-State honors from the ASWA. Senior pitcher Chad Wray was a second-team selection after finishing the 2017 season 8-3 with a 2.77 ERA in 16 starts.

Wray, a 6'4, 195-pound right-hander and a South Alabama signee, struck out a career-high 96 batters in 81 innings while allowing 77 hits. He threw four complete games and two shutouts, including a six-hit, eight-strikeout masterpiece in a 1-0 win over eventual Class 6A champion Helena on March 10.

Senior Skylar Holland received All-State honorable mention from the ASWA as a utility player. Holland, a first baseman/DH who also pitched for the Golden Tigers, tied teammate Landon Ezzell for the state lead this season with 18 doubles and ranked sixth in the state with 53 hits. Holland went 7-for-9 in three games at the state finals and finished the season batting .344 with six home runs, 45 RBIs and 26 runs scored. He recorded 14 multi-hit games and reached base at a solid .391 clip.

For his two-year varsity career at RHS, Holland batted .330 with 110 hits, including 13 home runs and 33 doubles, and 107 RBIs.

Elsewhere in the *Free Press* coverage area, Colbert Heights had two players receive All-State honors from the ASWA after advancing all the way to the Class 3A state semifinals. Senior pitcher Dakota McCreless was a second-team selection, and junior outfielder Brendan Borden earned honorable mention.

'SOFTBALL' from page 13

"She's been leading off for us since I've been here," Benford said on Sunday. "She does a great job getting on base, and Shaylee stepped right in there behind her and did the same thing."

Bain put together an outstanding senior season, hitting safely in 29 of Tharptown's 38 games. She recorded multiple hits in 20 games, including four games with three hits and three games with four hits. In a stretch of three games from April 20-25 against Colbert County, East Lawrence and Cherokee, Bain went 9-for-9 at the plate and reached base safely in 14 consecutive plate appearances.

Bain's speed was a great asset [she stole 22 bases in 24 attempts], but she wasn't just a slap-hitter; she finished the season with four triples and nine doubles while driving in 20 runs. She also drew 20 walks and struck out only eight times in 142 plate appearances, reaching base at a .556 clip.

Wieting, a right-handed batter, blossomed into a big-time contributor in her second full season at the varsity level, hitting safely in 26 of the Lady Wildcats' 38 games. She recorded 15 multi-hit games, including seven in a row during one early-season stretch. Wieting demonstrated plenty of extra-base pop, finishing the year with one home run, three triples and 13 doubles. She drew 27 walks on the season while striking out just six times in 140 plate appearances and posting a .550 OBP.

"She's just a great athlete," Benford said of Wieting, who also drove in 30 runs and stole 28 bases in 30 attempts. "She can do anything she wants. She can play small ball, and she can hit it to the fence. She's just a little bitty thing, but she's got some power. And she's aggressive on the bases, too."

Not to mention tough, both mentally and physically. Wieting is a natural right-handed thrower, but two shoulder operations cast some doubt on her 2017 season.

The solution?

"She taught herself to throw left-handed," Benford said. "She played some short-stop and outfield for us last year, but that wasn't an option this year. She taught herself how to throw left-handed so she could play second base for me."

Bain, meanwhile, continued to provide the Lady Wildcats with excellent range and a steady glove in centerfield, her home for the past several seasons.

"She's been out there since I've been here," Benford said. "She had some ninth-graders around her this year, so some of them will have to step up next year when she's gone."

Elsewhere in the *Free Press* coverage area, Colbert Heights sophomores Kylie Robinson and Emma James received All-State honors from the ASWA in Class 3A after helping the Lady Wildcats go 28-13 and reach the North Regional in Huntsville. Robinson, who batted .412 with 10 home runs and 44 RBIs, was a second-team selection at first base, while James, who hit .457 with 59 hits and 49 runs scored, earned honorable mention as a shortstop.

Robinson hit safely in 30 of Colbert Heights' 41 games and finished with 49 hits overall. She had 10 doubles to go along with her 10 homers and also scored 28 runs while reaching base at a .457 clip. Robinson did her best work at the North Regional, where she went 8-for-15 with four home runs and nine RBIs in four games.

James excelled as the Lady Wildcats' leadoff batter on her way to earning All-State honors for the second straight season [she was a second-team selection as a freshman in 2016]. She hit safely in 32 of 41 games this season and recorded 16 multi-hit games, including seven games with three hits and two with four hits. In a four-game stretch against Belgreen, Phil Campbell, Colbert County and Covenant Christian from March 9-16, James collected 12 hits in 13 at bats and scored 12 runs.

James packed a punch in the leadoff spot, finishing the season with three home runs, two triples, 14 doubles and 47 RBIs. She had more walks (10) than strikeouts (nine) and posted a .496 OBP.

In Class 2A, Red Bay eighth-grader Lila Blackburn received All-State honorable mention as a catcher from the ASWA. Vina junior Abby Hester was named All-State for the second consecutive season, earning honorable mention from the ASWA in Class 1A.

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RHS boys reload after stellar debut

*Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press*

It has been just over a month since the Russellville boys soccer team fell to top-ranked Randolph in the AHSAA Class 5A quarterfinals, ending what was a historic season for the first-year program.

Rarely, in any sport, is a team in its debut season as talented and as fun to watch as the Golden Tigers were in 2017. Consider this: Russellville finished the season with a record of 18-5 and captured the area title. Of its five losses, just one came against an unranked opponent. And in 22 matches last season, the Golden Tigers racked up 122 goals, good for an average of 5.5 per game. Conversely, they gave up just 20 goals, making them one of the best defensive teams in the state.

"Last season ended up being better than you could have ever imagined," said head coach Trey Stanford. "I was blessed with some of the best players I've ever coached. I knew we would be good, but I never imagined we would be as great as we were.

"I truly believe that team had the potential and the talent to win a championship; we just didn't have some things go our way in the end."

But as amazing as the 2017 season was for Stanford and his team, he did not have much time to think about what could have been. In the world of sports, even at the high school level, moving on is vital.



FILE PHOTO

Soccer coach Trey Stanford led the Golden Tigers to an 18-5 record and an area title in the program's inaugural season.

One major question to answer is this: How do the Golden Tigers replace, or attempt to replace, the 47 goals that now-alumni Jorge Bahena and *TimesDaily* 4A-6A Player of the Year Marvin Betancourt combined to score in 2017?

"No doubt it's going to be tough, because that's a heckuva lot of goals to account for," Stanford said.

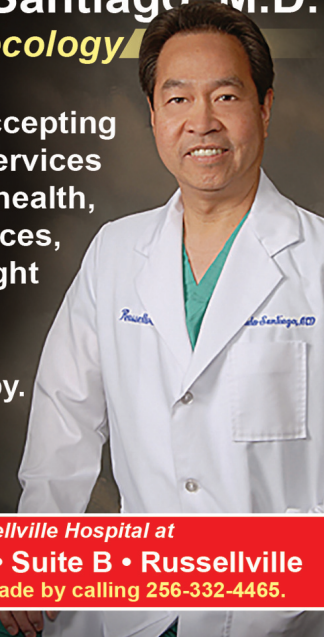
See 'DEBUT,' page 18

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"Last year was a year that I'll never forget," Stanford said, "but now it's time to get to work and start thinking about next season."

"Last year was a year that I'll never forget," Stanford said, "but now it's time to get to work and start thinking about next season."

And, so, go to work Stanford has. Russellville recently held tryouts and announced a new tentative roster, but as summer progresses and the 2018 season inches closer, there are still some fairly daunting challenges for the coach to tackle.

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'THOMAS,' from page 13

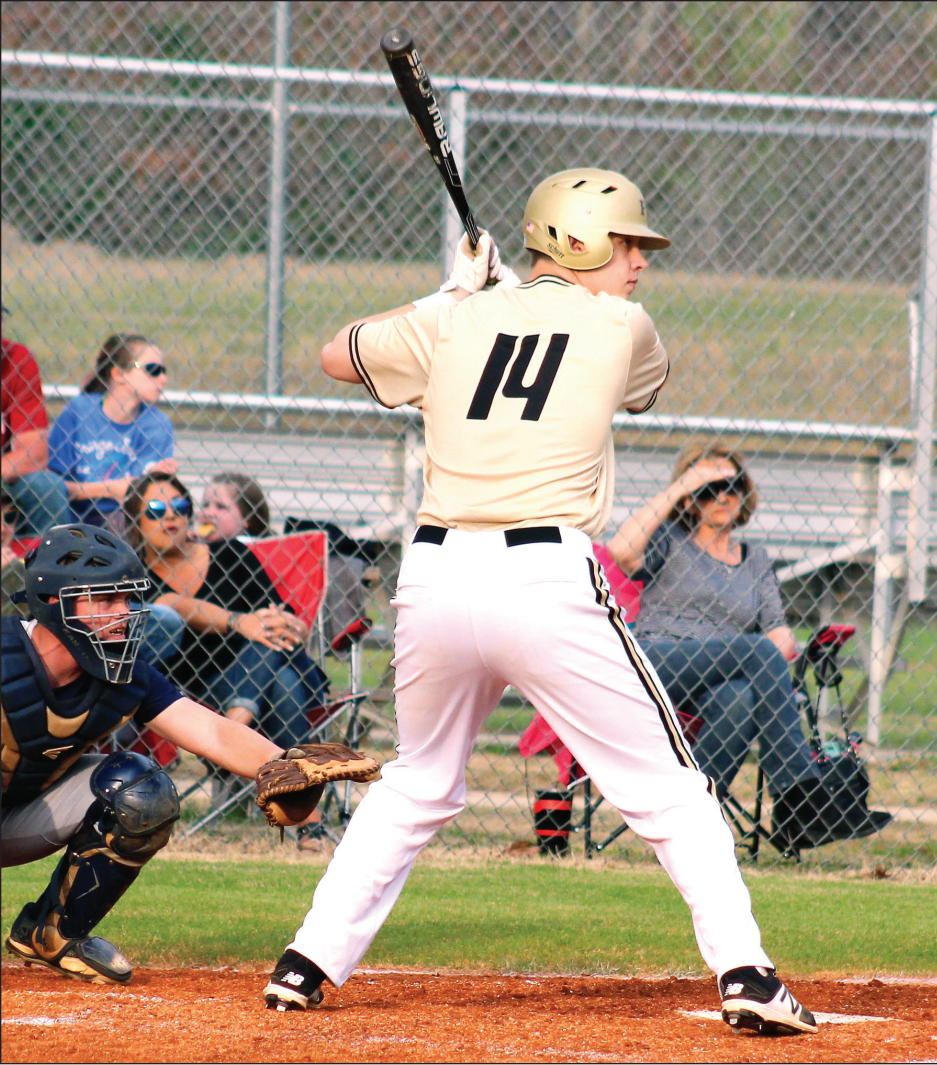


PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Copeland, a second-team All-State selection, sparked the Bobcats' offense from the leadoff spot, batting .415 with 46 runs scored and team-highs in walks (37) and stolen bases (28).

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of going 5-for-10 with (naturally) a home run in four games at the showcase. "He said, 'Just in case you haven't heard, you're the 2A Hitter of the Year.' I was like, 'Really?' He told me congrats and all that stuff. I was kind of excited. I'm not one to go around and say a whole lot about it, but I was kind of excited and proud of it."

Thomas prefers to let his bat do the talking, and this season he nearly hit himself hoarse. In addition to slugging those dozen long balls, Thomas led Phil Campbell in batting average (.433), hits (45), doubles (12), RBIs (33), runs scored (48) and on-base percentage (.585). He drew 29 walks and was just as likely to get hit by a pitch (nine times) as he was to strike out (nine times).

"Really just trying to use the other field with more power," Thomas said of his new approach. "Last year, my sophomore season, I hit nine home runs, and the majority of those were to the pull side. This year, I hit twelve, and I bet it was fifty-fifty to right field and left field, with some to center field, too."

Thomas credited his monster season to a refined, more patient approach at the plate.

"Really just trying to use the other field with more power," he said. "Last year, my sophomore season, I hit nine home runs, and the majority of those were to the pull side. This year, I hit twelve, and I bet it was fifty-fifty to right field and left field, with some to center field, too."

"I would say that's probably one of the biggest things, just letting the ball get deep. Instead of grounding out to short, you can hit one to the gap or over the fence the other way if you just wait that extra millisecond and let the ball travel."

Thomas lets the ball travel, all right. Since the start of his freshman season in 2015, he's sent 22 baseballs packing on a one-way trip to Souvenir City. In his three-year varsity career, he's also got 38 doubles, 105 RBIs and 120 runs scored, with more than three times as many walks (83) as strikeouts (28).

After earning All-State honorable mention as a freshman, first-team honors as a sophomore and Hitter of the Year as a junior, one wonders what Thomas could possibly have in mind for his final high school season.

"You know, I really don't know," said Thomas, a 6'1, 190-pound right-hander who plays shortstop and pitches for the Bobcats. "It would be nice to be Mr. Baseball. But, coming from a smaller school, that's probably not gonna happen. They usually give that to the bigger-school guys. I don't know. Jeremiah Jackson [a junior shortstop at St. Luke's] was 2A Player of the Year. To do something like that would be pretty awesome."

"Anything can happen. You never know. But the ultimate goal would be Mr. Baseball. We'll see."

Thomas, who batted second in the lineup for head coach Jonathan Raper in 2017, will have to adjust next year to life without Hayden Copeland, who put together a remarkable senior season in the leadoff spot. Copeland, a 6'5 left-hander, earned second-team All-State honors from the ASWA at first base after batting .415 with 44 hits, 24 RBIs and 46 runs. He reached base at a .579 clip, leading Phil Campbell in walks (37, against only eight strikeouts) and stolen bases (28 in 28 attempts).

"I'd be scared to say there was a better one-two punch at the top of the lineup anywhere in the state, especially at the 2A level," said Raper, whose team won an area championship and finished 26-10. "That's just my opinion, and everybody's got one, but you felt pretty good about those two guys every time up."

Thomas certainly grew accustomed to batting with Copeland on base somewhere in front of him. Suffice it to say, he didn't face too many pitchers working from the windup.

"He did a great job getting on base. I don't know how he did it," Thomas said. "It seemed like he would draw a walk or slap you a hit every time. Most of the time, it's different as a hitter when you come up with somebody on base. With him, it was different when he *wasn't* on base. He did a fantastic job all year of getting on and jump-starting our whole offense. He took on a big leadership role, too."

Thomas and Copeland were both honored for their exploits at the plate, but each played a key role on the mound for Phil Campbell as well. Thomas finished the season 7-1 with a 2.10 ERA, going the distance in seven of his 10 starts. He struck out 80 batters, walked only 17 and allowed just 46 hits in 60.1 innings. Copeland also made 10 starts on the mound, going 7-2 with a 3.24 ERA and three complete games. The big lefty struck out 46 batters in 41 innings.

"They're outstanding young men, and they deserve their awards," Raper said. "They both had a great year, especially at the plate, but also on the mound and defensively, too. I'm proud for them. They both had outstanding seasons. They did a good job for us, and both of them were good players for us this year. They were hard workers, and they got after it. They deserve all the recognition they're getting."

"It goes to them, but it goes to their teammates, too. Somebody's gotta be on base for them to drive in a run, somebody's gotta help them out. They didn't do it by themselves."

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Red Bay's Allen, Bragwell named All-State

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Attempting to single out Chandler Allen's best performance on the mound from 2017, Red Bay baseball coach Richard Maggerise must have felt like a hungry man lining up for an all-you-can-eat buffet.

The choices were overwhelming, and it all looked good.

Maggerise passed over Allen's 14-strikeout gem at Covenant Christian on March 16 and his 18-strikeout, one-hit shutout of Sulligent on April 6, ultimately settling on a pair of outings that might not have been as statistically appetizing but had a little more meat on the bone. The first game that jumped to mind for Maggerise was the opener of a doubleheader against area rival Phil Campbell on March 23, when Allen survived a shaky first inning to finish with 13 strikeouts and a complete game four-hitter in a 10-3 win. The second was an early-season start at Hackleburg on March 3, when Allen breezed through seven shutout innings on just 77 pitches, striking out eight and allowing just one hit in a 5-0 win.

"The Phil Campbell game, that was a huge area win for us," Maggerise said. "After giving up a two-run homer to Peyton Thomas in the first inning, Chandler shut 'em down the rest of the way. They only got one or two hits off him after that. And then there was the Hackleburg game at Hackleburg, where he was just unhittable. I think he had a no-no through six.

"Stat-wise, he had better games, but those two stand out to me, just for what he was able to do against a couple of quality opponents. Hackleburg ended up being a second-round playoff team, and so did Phil Campbell."

Red Bay (which finished 14-17) narrowly missed out on a postseason berth, but Allen certainly did his part. The senior left-hander posted a 6-4 record with one save and a 1.37 ERA across 15 appearances. He completed six of his eight starts and struck out a whopping 100 batters in just 55.2 innings, allowing only 23 hits.

For his efforts, the 5'10, 160-pound Allen—who has signed with Blue Mountain College in Mississippi—received All-State honorable mention in Class 2A from the Alabama Sports Writers Association.

"I know Chandler's overall record wasn't what he

wanted it to be," Maggerise said, "but his ERA and the strikeouts he had were impressive in themselves. We struggled to score runs and weren't able to back him up in a few of those close games, but he did a great job for us this year. That's probably the best he's pitched.

"Going into the summer, he had pitched a lot of innings, but his velocity and his stuff wasn't where he wanted it or where we needed it. He worked his tail off in the offseason. He threw all during football season. With the hard work he put in, he's very deserving, and I'm expecting big things out of him when he goes to Blue Mountain here in about a month."

Allen wasn't the only Tiger to earn All-State honors from the ASWA. Kolby Bragwell, a 6'2, 185-pound sophomore who played third base and pitched for Red Bay, was a second-team selection at designated hitter.

Bragwell led the Tigers with 33 hits, a .375 batting average and 26 RBIs—despite not really hitting his stride at the plate until late March.

"I thought, overall, the year was probably not as good as he had hoped it would be," Maggerise said. "He started out the year slow and then picked it up toward the end. When we got back from the beach and got into area play, that's when he started getting hot.

"He pressed a little early on. With a lot of the guys we had previously, like Troy Borden and Nick Thorn, the pressure was never really on Kolby to be the guy. This year, he was the guy in the lineup that everybody knew. So, early in the year, he was pressing a little and swinging at bad pitches."

Bragwell righted the ship and wound up leading Red Bay with eight multi-hit games. He struck out just 12 times all season in 100 plate appearances, finishing with one home run, five doubles, 20 runs scored and 13 stolen bases.

Maggerise believes that Bragwell—who also had his moments on the mound in 2017, including 12 strikeouts in six no-hit innings at Colbert County on March 2—has the potential to join Allen and a handful of other recent Tigers in one day signing a college scholarship.

"The sky's the limit as far as ability with him," Maggerise said. "He's gonna be one of those guys, in my opinion, who gets a lot of offers coming out of high school. We've talked about it with him, just basically telling him that the level he wants to play at depends on

how hard he works.

"He hovered around .400 the whole season, which sounds great and all, but he thinks he should have been able to do better. Still, this was well deserved for him. As a sophomore, it's impressive. The only other guy I've had that young to get that recognition was Troy Borden. So to be All-State your sophomore year is impressive."



PHOTO/KG
Allen struck out 100 batters and gave up only 23 hits in 55.2 innings this season.

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'DEBUT' from page 15

"There are some guys that I know can play the striker position; it's just a matter of putting guys in the position where I think they can best help us out at. That's what this summer is about."

Fortunately for the Golden Tigers, the loss of Betancourt and Bahena did not completely starve them of returning production. Andy Alonso, a rising senior, was second on the team last season with 30 goals and nine assists.

"Andy Alonso is a great athlete and a very hard worker," Stanford said. "We're definitely going to be relying on him this next season, not just because of his ability to score goals but because of the leadership he can bring, too."

Also returning are midfielders Danny Carranza and Cedrick Mojica, who were key cogs in the offensive machine last season. Carranza and Mojica were vital to Russellville's ability to control the ball in the middle, according to Stanford, and they are two of the better opportunity creators on the team.

Another player to look out for on the offensive end is upcoming junior Kenner Perez. Perez received a good amount of playing time last season, recording three goals from his defensive and midfield positions, but he was not a focal point of the offense. That could change in 2018.

"I think these play dates are really just a chance for a lot of these guys to get their feet wet," Stanford said. "Most of these guys, the freshmen coming up, have never played organized or team soccer before, so they're in learning mode right now. And I think it's important that they get to know who they're playing with and get into a kind of rhythm with them."

"I'm looking at playing Kenner at striker—he wants to play striker—but I haven't made a final decision yet," Stanford said. "Kenner is a great athlete, he's a good soccer player and he's got versatility, which is what you like to have. But like I said, my priority in the summer is seeing where we can put guys to put us in a better position to win."

The reason Stanford is reluctant to name Perez a striker is because the Golden Tigers may need him more on defense, an area which was devastated by the graduation of Andy Alvarez, Kevin Salgado and Jorge Flores. In fact, replacing those three players, according to Stanford, will be even tougher than finding the missing offensive production.

"We lost some of the best defensive players I've ever seen," Stanford said. "Defense is important to me already, so losing those guys really, really hurt. I may have to put Kenner in the back line. I'm not sure yet, but it'll be a decision I'll have to make later on."

To help shore up the defense, Stanford says he will have to get contributions from the underclassmen coming up.

"We're going to be young, that's for sure," he said. "With all of the guys we lost on the back line...yeah, you'll definitely be seeing some freshmen and some young guys back there, because we'll have to have them."

Moving his experienced goalkeeper from the net to the back line may also be an option for Stanford going forward.

"Jesus [Betancourt] is a beast back there in the goal," he said, "but we have a guy, Daniel Martinez, who is pretty talented, so if he can come in and play well for us then I might move [Betancourt] to center back. We'll just have to see what happens with that."

While Stanford is mulling over these decisions this summer, the players themselves will have the opportunity to show the coach why he should consider them. Russellville has already scheduled a number of summer play dates and has already played in one exhibition tournament in Florence.

Stanford said the summer games (home dates with Madison Academy on June 16, Florence on June 20 and Tanner on June 22, along with a trip to Tanner on June 24) are a good way for the new players to get to know the older players and to get some experience playing as a team.

"I think these play dates are really just a chance for a lot of these guys to get their feet wet," he said. "Most of these guys, the freshmen coming up, have never played organized or team soccer before, so they're in learning mode right now. And I think it's important that they get to know who they're playing with and get into a kind of rhythm with them."

Much like it was in his first year, Stanford said effort and relationship-building this summer will be vital to Russellville's success next spring.

"I think hard work and trust are two of the most important things we can focus on," he said. "A lot of these guys have to get used to summer workouts and conditioning, because they've never done it before. That'll take some time."

"Trust is huge, too. If these guys don't trust each other, then they won't pass it to each other and they won't play well together, but I think working together in the summer heat helps build that."

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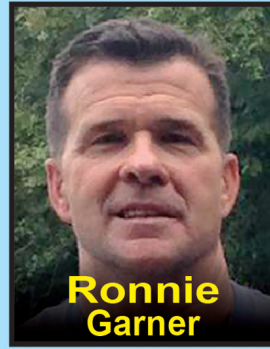
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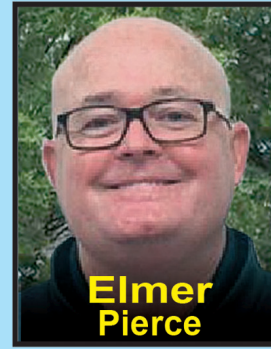
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