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# Whyde headlining Yogi's Foodco concert at Roxy

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

It's a busy summer for Brandon Whyde. The Indiana native recently completed recording his new album with Jimmy Nutt at the Nutt House in Sheffield. He filmed a video for his first release on the album, "Come to Jesus," and he's traveling the country doing promotion and shows. And Whyde will be at Russellville's historic

Roxy Theater this Saturday, July 22 as part of the W.C. Handy Festival, as he headlines the Yogi's Foodco Customer Appreciation Concert, hosted by Mark "Yogi" Welborn. The show will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday night. Admission is free. Members of the Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council will be on hand to sell refreshments at the show. Welborn and Whyde are good friends, and



Brandon Whyde

See 'CONCERT,' Page 9

# County receives law enforcement grants

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Gov. Kay Ivey's office announced that more than \$925,717 in law enforcement grants have been awarded to Franklin County. The grants are part of the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division (LETS) of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, or ADECA. LETS, in conjunction with the governor, administers federal funding for an array of victims' services, law enforcement, juvenile justice and highway traffic safety programs. LETS staff members manage and monitor the awards throughout the grant period to

ensure compliance with all state and federal requirements. Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow and Sen. Larry Stutts are listed on the grant announcements as primary legislators.

**"We greatly appreciate Gov. Ivey's support of local law enforcement, demonstrated through the award of these grants," Morrow said.**

"We greatly appreciate Gov. Ivey's support of local law enforcement, demonstrated through the award of these grants," Morrow said. The grants include:

- \$225,540 to the Franklin County Commission to provide overtime salaries to local law enforcement agencies throughout FY 2018 to conduct high-visibility enforcement efforts to uphold the state's DUI laws. This grant is for overtime enforcement.
- \$52,780 to the Franklin County Commission to provide overtime salaries to local law enforcement agencies for the Labor Day weekend "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. This high-visibility enforcement will take place from August 17 through September 3, 2018. Overtime activities will primarily be conducting patrols and checkpoints focusing on impaired driving.

See 'GRANTS,' Page 9

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**Jeffrey Wade James**, Russellville, age 46

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**Doris Lee DeVaney Jackson**, High Ridge, MO (formerly of Russellville), age 87

Died Tuesday, July 11, 2017. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in DeVaney Cemetery.

**Carolyn Sue Kennedy McCullough**, Tuscumbia, age 70

Died Friday, July 14, 2017. Graveside service held at Gray Rock Cemetery in Phil Campbell.

**Irene Hutcheson Nix**, Phil Campbell, age 80

Died Wednesday, July 12, 2017. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Liberty Hill Cemetery in Phil Campbell.

**Othel Earl Potter**, Phil Campbell, age 83

Died Sunday, July 16, 2017. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in East Franklin Cemetery.

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# Sheriff's Department applies for COPS grant

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Sheriff's Department has applied for a federal grant that could open the door for school resource officers in Franklin County Schools.

Sheriff Shannon Oliver told the Franklin County Commission at its July 10 work session that the department had applied for a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant in the amount of \$125,000. The grant would be paid over three years and would be earmarked for a school resource officer (or officers) to be shared by Vina, Tharptown, Belgreen and East Franklin Schools.

The grant provides for 75/25 funding, meaning the sheriff's department, along with the assistance of Franklin County Schools, would be responsible for 25 percent of the total grant amount.

"We will try and work out the twenty-five percent between our department and Franklin County Schools," Oliver said.

Oliver said he expects to hear a decision on the grant application by October. If it's approved, school resource officers could be in place by the spring semester of 2018, he said.

"Our goal, if we get the grant, is to hire one full-time officer and, if the money's there, hire another part-time," Oliver said. "Either way, they will go to the rural schools in the county. The idea would be for the officer to spend time at several schools and be active going from campus to campus."

Commissioners supported the grant application and said it would fill a need that county schools have faced

for some time now.

"The presence of a lawman going in and out of the school makes a difference," said commissioner David Hester. "Vina and Belgreen are sort of out there on their own, as are Tharptown and East Franklin. This would make a big difference in school safety."

**The grant would be paid over three years and would be earmarked for a school resource officer (or officers) to be shared by Vina, Tharptown, Belgreen and East Franklin Schools.**

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**"Our goal, if we get the grant, is to hire one full-time officer and, if the money's there, hire another part-time," Oliver said. "Either way, they will go to the rural schools in the county. The idea would be for the officer to spend time at several schools and be active going from campus to campus."**

Franklin County Schools superintendent of education Greg Hamilton worked with Oliver in preparing the grant. Hamilton, who pledged during his campaign to address the need for school resource officers, said there would be a memorandum of understanding as part of the COPS grant stating that the officers would only be school resource officers and could not be pulled from the schools to perform other duties.

Hamilton said the sheriff would post the jobs and set the salary, and the officers would work under the sher-

iff; at the same time, they would be the county school system's resource officers.

"This has been and remains extremely important to me, and we're trying to do everything we can to get it started," Hamilton said. "The sheriff has been on board with this entire process. We had deputies on our campuses this spring when it was possible. Sheriff Oliver should be commended for it. We appreciate his willingness to help us, along with the support of the Franklin County Commission."

With his system facing severe financial issues, Hamilton said the COPS grant presented the best avenue to place school resource officers into Franklin County schools.

"Finances are tight across the board," Hamilton said. "We're keeping our fingers crossed that this is going to come to fruition. If it doesn't, it's not going to end there. I won't stop until we get school resource officers."

According to [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov), approximately \$137 million in funding is available for the COPS Hiring Program to hire and re-hire entry level career law enforcement officers in order to "preserve jobs, increase community policing capacities and support crime prevention efforts."

Grants provide 75 percent of the approved entry-level salaries and fringe benefits of each newly hired officer, up to \$125,000 over 36 months. Applicants must identify "a specific crime and disorder problem/focus area" and explain how CHP funding would be used to implement community policing approaches to that problem/focus area.

The deadline for applications came on July 10, 2017.

# CB&S Bank announces successor to Upchurch

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

With its longtime president and CEO Dennis Upchurch retiring at the end of this month, CB&S Bank announced last Thursday that Mike Ross will be named to replace him effective upon Upchurch's retirement.

Ross, a native of Montgomery, joins CB&S Bank from Renasant Bank in Birmingham, where he served as Central Region president and chief commercial officer. Ross led Renasant's retail franchise into Alabama and Florida, as well as the bank's commercial strategy, lines of business and product lines that supported the bank's \$8.8 billion in assets over five states.

Prior to joining Renasant Bank, Ross served as executive vice president and commercial middle market sales executive with Regions Financial Corporation. He has an M.B.A. through the Executive Program of the Manderson Graduate School of Business at the University of Alabama.

"On behalf of the board of directors of CB&S Bank, we welcome Mike to our organization," said Greg Batchelor, chairman of the board for CB&S Bank. "His extensive banking experience, along with his values-driven philosophy, are a great combination and will fit well



Mike Ross

with our bank's culture."

CB&S Bank is a \$1.6 billion community bank, headquartered in Russellville, with 55 branches across Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. The company offers full-service banking products and other related financial services to retail and commercial customers through its subsidiaries.


"I am delighted and honored to have this opportunity to serve the customers, employees and shareholders of CB&S Bank," Ross said. "This company has such a long heritage of outstanding service to its communities, and I look forward to being a part of continuing that tradition."

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# Honey Do: Asphalt repair

It's a hot and messy job, but if your asphalt driveway is in need of repair, now is the time to do it. Most asphalt-based products require a temperature of at least 65 degrees or more for proper application.

Here are a few tips for a good job. Products you may need include crack filler, bagged asphalt patch, spray-on driveway de-greaser, a tamper and a piece of plywood that will cover the largest hole in your driveway. Oh yeah, don't forget some old clothes and shoes.

Prepare by cleaning. A pressure washer is great, but a water hose with a good sprayer will work as well. Spray on asphalt cleaner that contains de-greaser, let it work according to the label, and hose it off. You will need to spray out cracks and get loose material out of holes.

Bagged asphalt patch usually comes in 50-pound bags that will cover about seven square feet. Cut the bag completely down three sides and dump the asphalt into the hole. Leave the product mounded up just a bit to allow for packing. You may need a shovel to spread it out or to move excess to another hole.

Lay the plywood over the hole and slowly drive over it with your vehicle several times. Be careful and don't get asphalt on your tires or vehicle. This should pack and smooth out the asphalt

patch. Some folks like to go back with a heavy tamper, especially around the edges, but this may not be necessary. (Did I mention it's hot while you're doing this?)



Doug Green

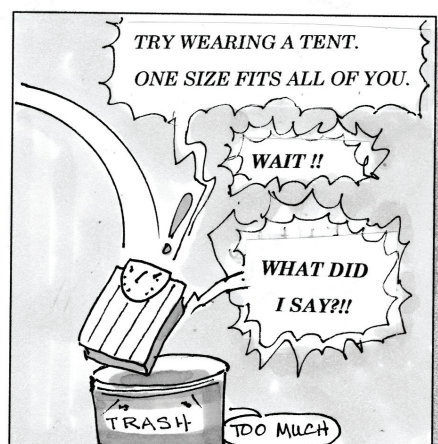
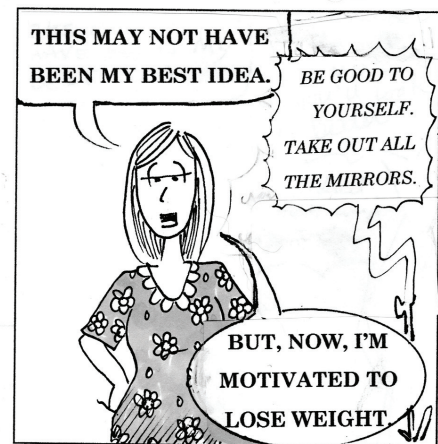
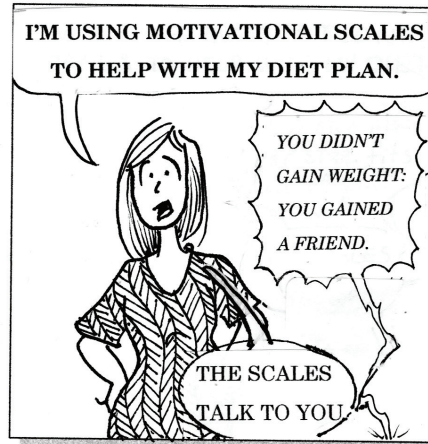
Cracks, up to one inch, can usually be filled with blacktop filler from a jug or caulking tube. I think the caulking tube is easier because the jug is heavier and has to be shaken occasionally. The caulking generally dries faster and can be coated with sealer in about an hour on a hot day as opposed to 24 hours with some other products. Deep cracks can be packed with foam filling rods or sand before applying the crack filler.

Now you are ready for sealing. A good quality sealer will have filler in it that will take care of very small cracks. Be sure to stir it well. It's a good idea to turn it upside down for a day or so to allow the settled product to mix in. But be careful. You don't want this stuff getting on anything, as it is very hard to clean off. You will need an applicator that looks like a squeegee on one side and a short, stiff brush on the other. Don't be stingy with it, and work it into the cracks as you go.

See 'ASPHALT,' page 11

# OUR BIG HOUSE

BY REE SHANNON



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# Trump policies, rhetoric isolate U.S.

Kadin Pounders  
Franklin Free Press

Let it be known: The world has witnessed a changing of the guard. The President of the United States is no longer the "Leader of the Free World," and we have Donald Trump to thank for that.

Not only is President Trump unpopular here in the United States, where his approval ratings have flattered consistently in the 30s, he is also unpopular around the world. According to a recently released Pew Research Center report, the image and confidence in the United States has suffered greatly in just the six months since Trump assumed office.

The Pew Research Center conducted a survey spanning 37 nations, including neighbors Mexico and Canada and U.S. allies like the United Kingdom, Germany and South Korea. That survey found that, compared to former President Barack Obama, confidence in Trump's ability to make the right decision was extremely low. In fact, the median confidence in Trump among those 37 countries was just 22 percent. Obama's was 64 percent at the end of his presidency.

Not only has the world's confidence in the U.S. president declined, the overall image of the country has taken a big hit. Again, comparing the first few months of the Trump era to Obama's marks at the end of his, the worldwide view of the U.S. has dropped from 64 percent favorability to 49 percent favorability.

Only two nations have more confidence in Trump than under Obama: Russia and Israel. Russia and Vietnam are the only two countries to view the U.S. more favorably under Trump.

Most of Trump's policies, including his desire to build a border wall, his Muslim travel ban, his climate policies and his view on trade agreements, are extremely unpopular around the world. Trump's

attacks against the media and his Twitter rants have done him no favors either.

Trump's, policies, his rhetoric and his combativeness have left him, and therefore the United States, isolated from the rest of the world. The reaction when Trump announced the U.S. would back out of the Paris Climate Accord and the reception he received at the recent G7 and G20 summits reflect that view.

On climate change, the G20 summit became the G19 when the United States was singled out in an official statement for its decision to leave the Paris agreement. Involving issues such as trade, a number of world leaders directed public remarks at Trump, condemning isolationism and protectionism.

It appears the title of "Leader of the Free World" now belongs to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the longest-serving democratic leader in the world. Highly respected in Europe, in the aforementioned Pew Research study, Merkel is also respected around the world.

Aside from just general respect, unlike Merkel, Trump has very few, if any, redeemable qualities that make him deserving of leading the democratic world.

Trump is rarely agreeable. He wears his emotions on his sleeve, tweeting off-the-cuff and generally unappealing remarks about anyone he disagrees with; he is incapable of diplomacy. Most politicians are at least occasionally able to rally others around a common issue. Donald Trump can not.

In the United States, with a majority in both the House and Senate, the president has still not signed a major piece of legislation. And on the world stage, he has not been much better. The North Korea nuclear program is an issue concerning to all nations and a problem Trump has been most vocal about. But while there were statements on things like climate change,

See 'TRUMP,' page 5



**Rental house being foreclosed**

Dear Dave,  
I've been living in a rental house for some time now. I was just told by the owners that the house is being foreclosed on next week. I've tried to call and email them, but haven't heard anything back. Should I go ahead and pay rent for this month?

John

Dear John,  
I wouldn't. The bottom line in a situation like this is: You're giving them money, and they're not paying the bills. I wouldn't give the owners another dime until they return your phone calls or talk to you in person and let you know the details as to what's going on with the house you're living in. In the meantime, I'd advise speaking with an attorney and a real estate professional in your area to find out exactly what your rights are at this point. Many places require a 30-day notice before renters are required to vacate a property. Good luck, John!

Dave

**Threaten to garnish**

Dear Dave,  
I got a call from a debt collector regarding \$2,000 I owe in medical bills. I'm trying to get my finances in order and pay this off, but I'm afraid they'll follow through on their threat to garnish my wages. Can you give me some

advice?

Mike

Dear Mike,  
First, I want you to take a deep breath and calm down. Debt collectors like to play on your emotions because they think you'll give in and do something you can't really afford to do. Most of them don't care about you or your situation as long as they get some money.

They won't garnish your wages, because they can't. They would have to go through the formal, legal procedure of first suing you and then winning the case. They broke federal law by saying they would garnish your wages but hadn't sued you. If I'm in your shoes, I'd be filing a complaint against these bozos with the Federal Trade Commission.

Don't react with fear and panic in the face of debt collector threats. Talk to them and explain your situation. See if you can work out a compromise. If they get nasty or break federal law again, let them know you'll be filing another complaint with the FTC. You'd be surprised how reasonable these people can be when faced with the possibility of government intervention.

In the meantime, do everything you can to scrape up as much cash as possible. Have a big garage sale and sell everything in your attic or basement you don't need. Then, when you get this mess cleaned up, pay off the rest of your debts—if you have any—and start living on a written monthly budget!

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.*

**'TRUMP,' from page 4**

women's entrepreneurship, rural youth employment, and illegal wildlife trade, no official statement condemning North Korea ever came out of the summit.

"A deft president would have found an issue around which he could rally most of the leaders, and [Trump] had the perfect one--North Korea's missile tests," said ABC political editor Chris Uhlmann, who was reporting from the G20 summit. "Where was the G20 statement condemning North Korea, which would've put pressure on China and Russia? Other leaders expected it and were prepared to back it, but it never came."

In 2017, leading the best military is not the sole qualifier for title of "Leader of the Free World." This role requires leadership in all areas and an ability to bring people to the table to find solutions to problems. Donald Trump does not have that ability.

Again, reporting from the summit, Uhlmann said it best.

"[Trump] has no desire and no capacity to lead the world," he said. "He was an uneasy, lonely, awkward figure at [the G20 summit], and you got the strong sense that some of the leaders are trying to find the best way to work around him."

Some here in the States--definitely some here in Alabama--like Trump's isolationism and nationalistic ideas, but while our president's actions and words alienate the U.S., Germany's Merkel has taken over the reigns.

Sadly, Merkel's leadership alone is not enough to fill the huge void left by the sidelined United States. Germany does not have nearly the economic power or military might of the U.S. The question now becomes how long before rivals like Russia and China fill up that vacuum?

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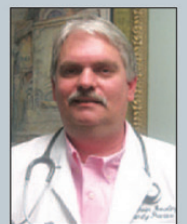
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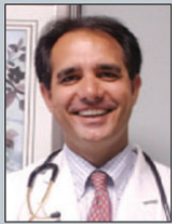
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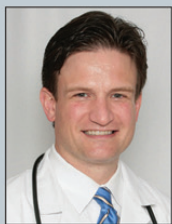
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# What's Happening

256.332.0255

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

**T**harttown High School will hold registration for new students this Wednesday and Thursday, July 19-20, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the office. All new students entering grades 7-12 at THS should register at this time.

**T**he American Red Cross will hold a community blood drive in the fellowship building of Russellville First Baptist Church (213 N. Jackson Avenue, Russellville, AL 35653) this Thursday, July 20 from 1-6 p.m. Sponsored by the RHS National Honor Society and RFB. To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter RussellvilleFBC.

**E**ast Franklin Volunteer Fire Department will hold a fundraiser selling William Bishop's smoked chicken plates this Friday, July 21 from 4-7 p.m. Your choice of barbecue or half-chicken plates, \$9 per plate. Proceeds benefit the East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department.

**N**ew Life Ministries Church will celebrate Homecoming this Sunday, July 23. A special singing with the group "Grace Way" will start at 1 p.m. The church is located on Hwy. 24, five miles west of Russellville and four miles east of Belgreen. Everyone is welcome!

**R**evival will be held at Pleasant Ridge Missionary Baptist Church on July 23-26, with Sunday service at 6 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday services at 7 p.m. each night. Evangelist will be Dr. Wade Wallace. Special music each night. Church is located 1.5 miles east of U.S. Hwy. 43 on Franklin Co. Hwy. 48. Pastor Jerry Pounders and congregation invite everyone to attend!

**R**evival will be held at Edgar Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Phil Campbell on Sunday, July 23 through Wednesday, July 26 with services at 7 p.m. each night. Evangelist will be Ronald Watson. Pastor Orbie Pierce and congregation invite everyone to attend!

**C**hildren ages three and up are invited to attend Vacation Bible School at Praise Tabernacle July 24-28 at 6 p.m. each night. Theme is "Galactic Starveyors." Parents, let your children learn about Jesus during this exciting time! For more information, call Cindy Roden, VBS director, at 256-412-8280.

**R**ussellville Middle School will hold registration for the 2017-18 school year according to the following schedule: Eighth grade on Tuesday, July 25 from 8-11:30 a.m.; seventh grade on Tuesday, July 25 from 1-4 p.m.; and sixth grade on Wednesday, July 26 from 8-11:30 a.m. Students must come during their designated time frame only.

**G**entiva Hospice offers a grief support group, "Grieving Well Together," that meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Lenox room at Calvary Baptist Church in Russellville. The next meeting will be held July 27. You are invited to attend.

**Y**ou're invited to a singing with Heaven's Mountain Band on Saturday, July 29 at 7 p.m. at Liberty Chapel Church, 10780 Highway 81 in East Franklin. Doors open at 6 p.m. Love offering will be received. For more information, call 256-324-8430 or 205-486-3026.

**N**ew Jerusalem M.B. Church (Hwy. 24 West) will have revival Monday, July 31 through Wednesday, August 2 with services at 7 p.m. each night. Rev. Robert E. Pearl, pastor of Pleasant Grove M.B. Church in Courtland, will be the evangelist. Everyone is invited to attend! Rev. Thomas Bates, pastor at New Jerusalem, asks that you come and be blessed with a word from God.

**I**f you are interested in the study of the Civil War and have an ancestor who was in the Confederate Army, join the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month (except January and July) at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center. Next meeting will be August 3. Membership in the SCV is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate Armed Forces. Membership can be obtained through either direct or collateral family lines, and kinship to a veteran must be documented genealogically. We hope you can join us for the celebration of our heritage! The minimum age for membership is 12. Call 1-800-MYDIXIE or 256-324-2317.

**R**ockwood Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School on Saturday, August 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be classes for children ages 4 through sixth grade. The church is located on Highway 36 in Russellville. Bro. Brent Palmer is pastor.

**T**his year's PCHS Alumni Day will be held Sunday, August 6 in the PCHS lunchroom. Program and meal will commence at 12:00 noon (immediately after church services.) Each plate lunch is \$10. Each alumnus is asked to bring a dessert to accompany the meal. All PCHS alumni from years past and present, including the Class of 2017, are invited and urged to attend. All PCHS faculty, administration, support personnel, coaches and sponsors, both present and from years past, are also invited. Donations will be accepted the day of the luncheon to cover the costs of this and future reunions. Due to the generous donations of alumni, we have been able to award two \$500 scholarships to a PCHS senior boy and girl for the past two years. This cash scholarship is for a senior boy or girl who plans on attending Northwest-Shoals Community College. Your support and donations are welcome in an effort to continue this new endeavor. Feel free to bring your yearbooks and old photos from the past for others to view. For more information, please contact Lynn Landers, PCHS Alumni, at 256-810-4572. We look forward to seeing you there!



# Handy Festival event aims to help local teachers

Submitted to the FFP

This Saturday, July 22, Medical Associates of the Shoals, P.C., will host a free W.C. Handy Music Festival event from 6-8 p.m.

Music will be provided by the band DeJa Vu. The location will be behind Helen Keller Hospital in the medical office building parking lot at 1120 South Jackson Highway, Sheffield.

The stage and seating area will be under a large tent. The event is free, and the entire community is invited.

Certified teachers in attendance who currently teach in city, county or private schools in Franklin, Colbert or Lauderdale counties will receive a free bag of classroom supplies. Items include products teachers often pay for out of their own pockets, such as dry-erase markers, flash drives, disinfecting wipes, markers, Post-it notes, card stock, paper and more. Supplies will be available for the first 1,000 teachers in attendance.

The supplies are valued at just under \$25. Teachers should bring their school name badge or school I.D. Card.

According to Josh Vacik, MD, FACP, a physician with Medical Associates of the Shoals, this event is a fun way for the physicians and staff to express their appreciation to the community and to support area teachers.

“Both of my parents were teachers, so I totally understand the challenges and rewards of being an educator,” Vacik said. “Studies show that better education leads to better health, and we want to do what we can to help our teachers as they encourage and motivate our children to achieve the best possible education they can.”

# ‘Great Pretenders’ highlight ‘Evening at the Roxy’

Submitted to the FFP

The Franklin County Arts Council is sponsoring the 17th annual “Evening at the Roxy” during the week of the W. C. Handy Music Festival. Entertainment will be presented by local talent featured as “The Great Pretenders” on Thursday, July 27 at 7 p.m.

The following are just some of the entertainers scheduled to perform—Konner Bendall, Hailey Peters, Alissa Young, Dana Hill, Jayne Wells, Chase Holland, Kaydee Holland, Ashley Cummins, Angela Townsel, Kelli Roberson, Anna Beth and Laura Oliver, Kelly

Copeland, C.R. Hood, Sydney Medley, Hudson Copeland, Gary Cummings, Ella West, Tammy West, Danyelle Hillman, the Gospel group “Still Here” featuring Larry Freeman, Rev. William Freeman, Jack Freeman, James Suggs, Lavert King, William Nelson, Wash Bates, Eric Goodloe, Willie Buchanan and Bryan Bonds, plus other entertainers.

Katernia Cole-Coffey will serve as emcee. All proceeds go to the historic Roxy Theatre. Tickets cost \$5 (children under age 6 free) and will be sold at the door.

Each year the W. C. Handy Festival grows larger. It brings people from all over the state, as well as from

other states, to northwest Alabama. This event promotes the tourism in our area and helps our local economy. Several local businesses, industries and individuals support this program by sponsorships. They will be acknowledged in the official W. C. Handy brochures, on its website, on the Roxy movie screen, and in the program.

The Arts Council takes pride in the restoration of the Historic Roxy Theatre. The Arts Council wants to present quality wholesome programs that the entire family can enjoy. This will be an entertaining evening that you will not want to miss.

## ‘GRANTS,’ from page 1

•\$53,720 to the Franklin County Commission for overtime salaries to local law enforcement agencies for the Memorial Day weekend “Click It or Ticket” campaign. This campaign will take place from May 21 to June 3, 2018. These overtime activities will primarily be conducting patrols and checkpoints focusing on seatbelt enforcement.

•\$155,000 to the Franklin County Commission. The North Alabama Highway Safety Office will continue implementation of the Child Passenger Safety program. The program will provide funds so that additional train-

ing of NHTSA-approved programs will continue to be available to each of the state’s Community Traffic Safety Programs districts.

The goal is to have more child restraint technicians available. By training more technicians, the goal is to educate parents as to the proper installation of car safety seats for children.

•\$182,837.72 to the Franklin County Commission. This Community Traffic Safety Program grant will provide funds for the north region of Alabama through the North Alabama Highway Safety Office and will be

used to provide resources and personnel for the coordination of the CTSP in the north region of Alabama and to improve traffic safety and reduce traffic-related crashes, injuries and fatalities.

•\$255,840 to the Franklin County Commission for the 402 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). The grant provides overtime salaries to local law enforcement agencies throughout FY 2018 so they may conduct high-visibility enforcement efforts such as checkpoints, line and saturation patrols to uphold the state’s DUI, seat belt and speeding laws.

## ‘CONCERT,’ from page 1

their friendship began by chance one night when Welborn heard Whyde sing at Swampers Bar and Grill in Florence.

“We met after his show,” Welborn said. “We found out we had a lot of common interest in some songwriters, started talking and soon became friends.”

Yogi’s Foodco on Waterloo Road in Russellville will celebrate its fourth anniversary on September 13, so Welborn, who sits on the W.C. Handy Board, wanted to do something special for his customers and the community.

This Saturday’s show is part of busy four-day stretch in north Alabama for Whyde, who will perform a total of four shows during Handy week.

Whyde describes his music as Americana, a style that incorporates elements of several genres of music, including country, roots-rock, folk, bluegrass, R&B and blues.

Although many of his shows are solo performances, Whyde does have a band consisting of Nashville brothers Matt and Kevin Nolan (his drummer and lead guitarist), Indiana-based bass player Chris Weller and Mina Keohane, who plays keyboard, accordion and sings background vocals.

“Americana carries such a wide umbrella these days,” Whyde said. “Some of my music can be described as triple-A [adult alternative] as well.”

Whyde will take the stage at Fame Recording Studios this Thursday, July 20, as part of the Sam Phillips Music Corporation’s Muscle Shoals to Music Row

show. Although the show is not open to the public, Whyde’s fans can watch online at [www.ms2mr.com](http://www.ms2mr.com) at 8 p.m.

Whyde’s musical journey began after high school. He was a four-sport athlete at Beech Grove (Indiana) High School, so there wasn’t much time for music or music training. His first public performance came at a coffee shop in his hometown, Whyde said.

Although he attended college, Whyde left school and headed to Nashville. Through some musical contacts, Whyde was introduced to Josh Kelley and Ryan Cabrera. Kelley, a popular singer-songwriter who’s charted four hits on the Hot Adult Top 40 list and wrote and performed the opening theme song on the television show *Mike and Molly*, liked what he heard with Whyde, and soon the young singer had his first break.

“I made some great contacts ten years ago, touring with Josh and Ryan and just being on the road,” Whyde said.

After Nashville, Whyde spent time in New York, Atlanta and back to Indiana before “regrouping” three years ago and returning to Nashville.

Whyde has some impressive company on his new 10-song CD, including the legendary Spooner Oldham, who played on the “Come to Jesus” cut; Marie Lewey and Cindy Walker, the Shoals Sisters, who’ve contributed to numerous big-name studio recording sessions with their unique vocal talent; and bassist Jimbo Hart, who plays with Jason Isbell.

“The new album is a complete original work,” Whyde

said. “Writing is my passion, and I always wanted to be a writer. It just happened that the medium I chose to do writing also involved singing and playing the guitar.”

Whyde writes what he’s experienced in his life and describes himself as a very personal songwriter.

“Even the songs that seem devoid of me or a personal story are still steeped in some bit of my personal life,” Whyde said.

Nashville may be Whyde’s home now, but he’s been made to feel right at home everywhere he’s gone in the Shoals area, he explained.

“People in north Alabama have been nothing but welcoming,” he said. “I’ve played here three or four times and have been able to talk with all the big-name guys here who’ve come to see me at Swampers. Here, they’re not worried about keeping up appearances like in Nashville.”

“It’s about music and people. I love music and getting to know people, and it’s easy to make friends here. Every time I pull into town I feel like it’s my home base already.”

In addition to his Russellville show and several dates in the Shoals, Whyde will be busy in the coming days preparing for Nashville’s Americana Fest 2017 (in September) and he’ll jump feet-first into marketing his new album.

“We’ll be reaching out to booking agents in the coming months,” he said, “and I’ll be focused on the marketing and branding aspects of my artistry. The Americana Fest is a great place to make contacts.”



# Classifieds

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Two refrigerators FREE. One in working condition, one not. Need removed from our yard. 491 Bates Landing Road, Phil Campbell. Call 256-668-3561. Ask for Linda.

Puppy free to good home. Part Shih Tzu and part Schnauzer. 10 weeks old. Tan in color. Call 205-412-4166. (3)

Free to a good home: Four baby kittens in Russellville, real cute. Call 1-828-269-8598. (5)

**YARD SALES/ ESTATE SALES**

Yard Sale this Thursday-Saturday, July 20-22. 780 Camp Road, Phil Campbell. Two miles out of Phil Campbell going south on Hwy. 13. Come to County Road 10, turn left, cross railroad

tracks, take left at fork in road, then one mile down on right.

Inside yard sale this Thursday-Saturday, July 20-22 from 7 am-until. Saint house, 4826 Hwy. 77, Mt. Star. Washer, dryer, two fridges, two Lazy-Boy recliners, BR suite, LR suite, TVs, oak claw-foot table, chairs & china cabinet, sewing machine & cabinet, Kitchen-Aid mixer, odd dresser & night table, pictures & glassware. You load.

Yard sale at 411 Norton Avenue this Friday & Saturday from 8 am-until. Baby clothes, baby items, too much to mention!

Yard Sale this Friday & Saturday, July 21-22, at 161 First Street in Russellville. 7 am-until on Friday and 7-12 on Saturday.

Yard Sale this Saturday, July 22 at 3989 Hwy. 83, Russellville. Antique glassware, clothes, furniture, odds and ends.

Estate Sale next Thursday-Saturday, July 27-29 at 505 N. Washington Ave, Russellville.

**LAND FOR SALE**

2 adjoining lots. Approximately 1.7 acres in north Russellville. Convenient to Shoals area. \$19,900. Call 256-366-7924 or 256-366-4734. (5)

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Apartment for rent. Duplex, 2 BR, stove, fridge, patio porch. Call 256-332-5081 or 256-332-1916. (3)

Houses & Apartments For Rent in Russellville. Call 256-483-2405. (4)

House for sale in Phil Campbell. 3 BR, kitchen, den, living room, 1.5 baths, outside garage, stormhouse. On 3/4 acre. \$85,000. Call 256-443-2919 or 256-320-

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9.4 acre mini farm overlooking Cedar Creek Lake. This property is fenced and ready for livestock. Home is over 1,900 sq ft with 2 bedroom and 2 baths, large deck on front with a lake view. Barn has an attached workshop with water and electricity. Barn, stalls, movable gates are set up for horses. Boat ramp is 1/4 mile away. Oversized garage with sitting area and lots of storage. Call today for showing.  
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House for sale in Phil Campbell. 3 BR, kitchen, den, living room, 1.5 baths, outside garage, stormhouse. On 3/4 acre. \$85,000. Call 256-443-2919 or 256-320-

7010. (4)

**PETS**

Boxer puppies, \$75 each. Call 256-332-4354.

Husky mixed puppies for sale. \$50. Call 256-436-8940. (5)

Puppies for sale. Six weeks old. Half poodle, half Shih Tzu. One male, two females. \$150 each. Call 256-332-4137. (5)

**FURNITURE**

3 piece bedroom suit, dark wood, full size, mattress and springs, chest and night stand, excellent condition. \$500. Please call 256.810.4530. (4)

2 living room chairs, like new. \$50 each. 3-drawer wooden desk, nice, \$25. Call 205-993-5961. (4)

Metal filing cabinet w/4 drawers, good condition, \$20. Call 205-993-5961. (4)

Youth bed, complete and in good shape, \$40. Call 205-993-5961. (4)

Wood for sale from recently torn down hundred-year-old house. Will sell separately or all together for \$1,500. Tongue-and-groove wood, wide boards. Also have some stone. Call 256-221-7814. (3)

Posture Beauty mattress for sale. Full Set. \$100. Pick up Russellville. Call 256-762-9551. (4)

Hello Kitty child's watch, 30th anniversary, silver band, pink & blue watch head w/white center. HK letters in blue on band. \$20. Call 256-577-5843. (4)

Discontinued Corelle "wild flower" pattern dishes. 2 sets, a few pieces missing. \$45. Call 256-577-5843. (4)

King-size floral sheet set, used only a few times. \$35. Call 256-577-5843. (4)

Pinky & Blue Boy wall prints, really pretty. \$20/set. Call 205-993-5961. (4)

Beautiful set of bowls & pitchers. \$20/set. Call 205-993-5961. (4)

Old sewing machine in cabinet, \$20. Call 205-993-5961. (4)

Franklin Free Press Classified Rates: **FREE, Deadline Monday at Noon; Real Estate-Homes, acreage, lots for sale or rent. \$25 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 40 words per ad; Vehicles, Boats, RVs, Motorcycles for sale. \$15 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Pets For Sale only \$10 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Free of Charge: Lost & Found, Giveaways, and Items Under \$100 (Private Parties Only). 15-word limit; Commercial Classified Rates: \$25 for Businesses, 15 words or less for six weeks. Ads exceeding word limit add \$10 per additional 15 words. The number in parentheses represents the number of times the ad has appeared. Call us at 256-332-0255 to place, cancel or renew your ad. Payment is required in advance of publication for ads.**

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Sewing machine cabinet. 20"x40", 32" from floor. Four-drawer. 72-inch table unfolded. \$30. Call 256-332-5081 or 256-332-1916. (3)

Chess set, marble board, crystal figurines. Regular \$350. Asking \$95. Call 256-332-5081 or 256-332-1916. (3)

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# Civitan Club hears tale of tragedy, bravery

## Local reverend, Navy chaplain recounts details of Chattanooga attack

Kadin Pounders  
Franklin Free Press

Last Tuesday afternoon, in the back room of Kelly's Kitchen, the Russellville Civitan Club met as it does nearly every Tuesday to hear from an invited speaker.

Last week, the speaker was Reverend Jim Storie of First Christian Church in Florence.

Storie's purpose in speaking to the members of the Civitan Club was not to preach from scripture but to speak from his heart. Reverends attempt to help and comfort those dealing with loss and sorrow on a regular basis, but in this area Storie has an experience unique to most pastors. Aside from being the full-time reverend at his church, Storie also serves as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

"This is a story that needs to be told," he said.

On July 16, 2015, Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez killed five and wounded two others when he attacked a U.S. military recruitment center and a U.S. Navy Reserve center in Chattanooga. Storie recounted, in detail, the actions of the lone-wolf terrorist Abdulazeez and told of the heroic actions of the Marines and sailors on the base that day.

Specifically, Storie identified the five victims—Sergeant Carson Holmquist, Logistics Specialist Second Class Randall Smith, Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Sullivan, Lance Corporal Squire "Skip" Wells and Staff Sergeant David Wyatt—who each died while returning fire, providing cover or otherwise attempting to protect others fleeing the scene.

"The actions and bravery of those five individuals and others, I believe, saved a lot of lives," said Storie, who served in the National Guard from 1987-93 and became a Navy chaplain in 2008. "I tell the story because people should know these Marines were acting like Marines. They weren't in Iraq or Afghanistan but here at home, and they were doing what they were trained to do."

Storie, a Tennessee native, was not on the Chattanooga base the day of the attack, but he was sent to Chattanooga the following day to be there for those who needed emotional and spiritual support. For the next few weeks, Storie was there serving as chaplain for the men and women on the base and for the families of the fallen.

"I spent the next thirty days ministering to families," he said, "I attended five funerals in five days in four states. Those few weeks I spent with the families were very special, and I can not describe the honor and privilege I felt to be able to talk to them and be with them during that time."

After the attack, Storie participated in events honoring the fallen military personnel and helped set up memorials and monuments in their name, he said.

To this day, Storie continues to tell people about July 16 and about the actions taken by those on the base. Even though it was just two years ago, he said many people have already forgotten about it.

"Unfortunately, the nature of the news is something happens and then a day or two later, people forget about it," Storie said.

**Storie identified the five victims—Sergeant Carson Holmquist, Logistics Specialist Second Class Randall Smith, Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Sullivan, Lance Corporal Squire "Skip" Wells and Staff Sergeant David Wyatt—who each died while returning fire, providing cover or otherwise trying to protect others fleeing the scene.**

**"The actions and bravery of those five individuals and others, I believe, saved a lot of lives," said Storie. "I tell the story because people should know these Marines were acting like Marines. They weren't in Iraq or Afghanistan but here at home, and they were doing what they were trained to do."**

Speaking to those gathered in the room last Tuesday, Storie recreated the scene from a horrible day that many have already forgotten, but a day that changed his life forever.

"My goal is to remind people that the men and women in our military aren't just making sacrifices on the battlefields in different countries; they're heroes right here at home, too."

### 'ASPHALT,' from page 4

When tackling this project, try to get a couple of days with no rain in the forecast to allow all products to dry and cure out.

a couple of days, and you should have a beautiful driveway that will make the whole place look better.

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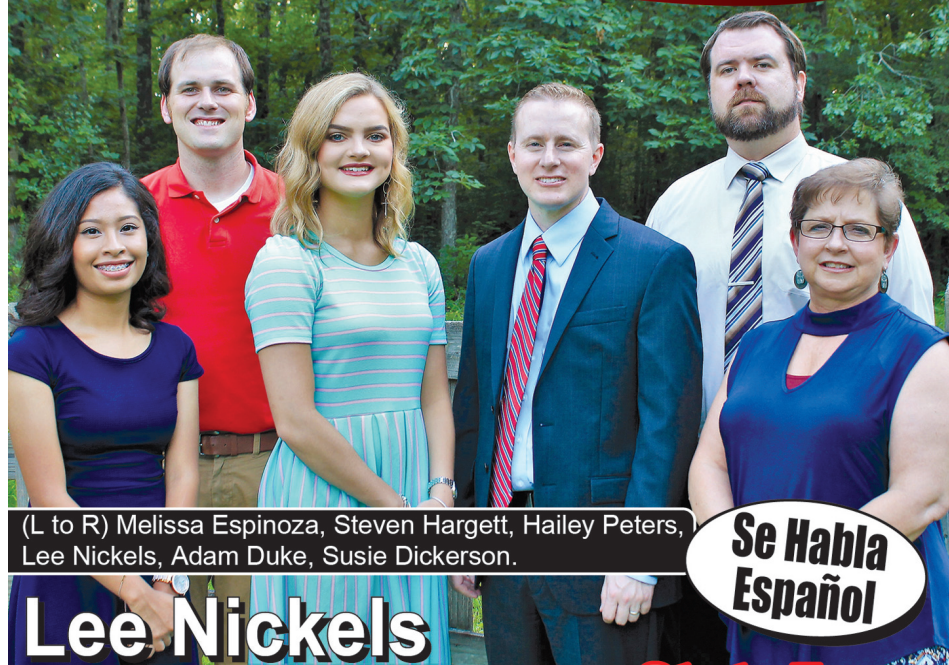
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**All-Star Coaches**  
Russellville's Trey Stanford (left) and Mark Heaton (right) were selected as coaches for this week's AHSAA All-Star Sports Week in Montgomery. Stanford was chosen to help coach the boys' soccer team for the North All-Stars in Tuesday night's match at Emory Folmar Soccer Complex, and Heaton will help coach the North Football All-Stars in Thursday's game at the Cramton Bowl.



## Have a Sports Story?

Mike Self, Executive Editor  
franklinfreepress@yahoo.com  
256.332.0255

## Did the SEC Media get it right this year?

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

For the third time in the past five years, the SEC Media has collectively predicted Alabama and Georgia to meet in the conference championship game. That was also the pick in 2013, when neither team held up their end of the bargain [Auburn and Missouri made it to Atlanta], and in 2015, when Alabama won the West but Florida knocked off Georgia to take the East division title.

Surprisingly, prior to 2013 the SEC Media had not predicted an Alabama/Georgia matchup in the conference title game a single time this century. [And, to the media's credit, the two teams didn't hook up in Atlanta until their classic, down-to-the-wire battle in 2012.]

So, did the media get it right this time? History suggests the answer is...probably not. Since 2000, the media has nailed the championship game matchup just once—when super-powers Alabama and Florida squared off in 2009. And in the 25 years since the SEC went to divisional play, the media has correctly predicted the overall league champion only six times. Not exactly a great track record.

But Nick Saban and his Crimson machine are in The Process of making things much easier in the prediction business. The media correctly picked Alabama to win the SEC title in 2014 and 2016, and the Tide were an overwhelming choice last week in Hoover to win it again, receiving 217 out of a possible 243 points in the voting for conference champion.

Now that the 2017 picks are on the record, we'll tell you whether we agree or disagree with the media's predicted order of finish for each division, starting this week with the SEC West.

**Alabama (1st in media polling with 1,683 points)**

**FFP: Agree**

A few weeks ago in this space, we highlighted the growing gap between the Tide—winners of three straight league titles and 17 consecutive games in conference play—and the rest of the SEC. Of Alabama's first 22 players (11 starters on offense and 11 on defense), 15 received preseason All-Conference honors from the media last week. Nine of those (quarterback Jalen Hurts, receiver Calvin Ridley, linemen Jonah Williams and Ross Pierschbacher on offense; corner Minkah Fitzpatrick, safety Ronnie Harrison, linebacker Rashaan Evans, linemen Da'Shawn Hand and Da'Ron Payne on defense) were named first-team All-SEC.

Superior talent, superior coaching and a very manageable conference schedule [Tennessee and

See 'MEDIA,' page 18

# Trial by FIRE



PHOTO/KYLE GLASGOW  
Senior Robert Hamilton, who caught 12 passes for 129 yards, was one of nine different Golden Tigers with at least one reception.

A series of close contests against quality competition—not to mention the scorching summer heat—gave Russellville coach Mark Heaton a golden opportunity last Friday to evaluate the toughness of his new-look team. So far, he likes what he sees.

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - On a sweltering day at Golden Tiger Stadium, Mark Heaton got the opportunity to see how his new-look Russellville football team would respond in the heat of battle.

And it wasn't just the mid-90s temps or the 100-plus-degree heat index that tested the Golden Tigers last Friday at their annual Northwest Alabama 7-on-7 Camp; five of their seven games were decided by three points or less, and four came down to the very last play.

Russellville answered the bell all day long, posting a perfect 5-0 record in pool play to earn the top seed for the single-elimination tournament and then slipping by West Morgan 20-18 in the quarterfinals. The Golden Tigers' run ended in the tournament semifinals when W.S. Neal converted a critical third-and-eight to salt away a 16-14 win and earn a date with Deshler in the championship game.

"Pretty much every game we played today was down to the wire, and that's good for us," said Heaton, whose team finished the day 6-1 overall. "Our guys were fighting and battling and competing all day. We had so

many different kids step up and make big plays when we needed them.

"We go 6-1, and [the one loss] comes down to a third-down play where we're fighting and scrapping to make a play on the ball, but their kid just makes a nice catch. We're inches away from breaking up that pass and maybe getting a chance to play for a championship. The goal is to keep working and keep progressing so that the next time we're in that situation, instead of *almost* getting there we go ahead and make that play and finish the job."

**"Pretty much every game we played was down to the wire, and that's good for us," said Heaton, whose team finished the day 6-1 overall. "Our guys were fighting and battling and competing all day. We had so many different kids step up and make big plays when we needed them."**

Freshman Luke Barnwell took every snap at quarterback on Friday, leading the Golden Tiger offense to 15 touchdowns in 28 possessions. Barnwell attempted

See 'FIRE,' page 14

# 'FIRE' from page 13



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

**COOL HAND LUKE** - Barnwell, a rising freshman, took every snap at quarterback for Russellville last Friday, completing 63 of his 100 attempts with 15 touchdown passes and four interceptions.

exactly 100 passes in seven games, completing 63 of them for a total of 779 yards and 15 touchdowns with four interceptions. [Games lasted 20 minutes and were played on a 40-yard field with first-down markers at the 25 and the 10 and three downs to either move the sticks or reach the end zone.]

"Luke has made tremendous progress since the spring and the start of the summer," said Heaton, who had only one starting quarterback (2017 graduate Payton Nichols) in his first three years as Russellville's head coach. "We've been developing him in the vertical passing game, and he threw some deep balls today with accuracy. He also had a few where he didn't quite have the right touch. He's still progressing as far as knowing when to turn it loose right when a guy is coming out of his break and when to be a little more patient and let things develop a little bit.

"It's just a matter of confidence with him and continuing to get those reps. But he's come a long way."

Barnwell and dual-threat junior Devin Buckhalter have been splitting snaps at quarterback all summer. Buckhalter played exclusively at receiver on Friday (catching a team-best 18 passes for 242 yards and four touchdowns), but Heaton said that doesn't mean his days at quarterback are done.

"Not at all," Heaton said. "Devin is still gonna get a ton of snaps at quarterback. Today was more about progressing in the area where it's hardest to progress—playing a ninth-grade quarterback in [Class] 5A and competing at a state-championship level.

"We know what Devin can do. In a lot of these competitions, it's been about getting Luke as many snaps and as much experience as possible. I discussed that with Devin the other day. I told him he was gonna have to be patient, and he's done that. I'm so proud of him."

Russellville's offense is bound to look different with the dynamic Buckhalter (a 5'11, 170-pound athlete who runs a 4.68 forty) taking snaps than it does with Barnwell (who's more of a pure pocket passer) at the helm. Heaton acknowledged as much last Friday.

"Today was good because we got a chance to work on our passing game with Luke at quarterback," Heaton said. "When we get to the fall and we start incorporating some of the stuff we'll do with Devin back there, that picture is going to look totally different than the picture you saw out here today."

In the meantime, Buckhalter—blessed with a 36-inch vertical, great body control

See 'FIRE,' page 16

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# 'FIRE,' from page 14

and strong hands—continues to demonstrate his play-making skills at outside receiver. In Friday morning's first game against West Morgan, he roasted the Rebels for 58 yards on four receptions, including a leaping grab for a 19-yard touchdown on a third-and-nine play. Buckhalter saved his best performance for the final game, catching four passes for 71 yards and two scores in the semifinal loss to W.S. Neal.

As good as he was, Buckhalter might not have been the most impressive Russellville receiver on Friday. Logan Jones (a 5'9, 170-pound senior) showed off some breath-taking after-the-catch moves and outstanding elusiveness, scoring a team-best seven touchdowns (including a pair of 40-yard bombs in the quarterfinal win over West Morgan) in seven games. Jones finished the day with 13 catches for 193 yards—115 of which came in the two tournament games.

"Logan is exciting," Heaton said. "He's got such great hands, and his routes are getting cleaner. When you start talking about him and Devin at receiver with Robert [Hamilton] and Bernard [Phinizee] and some of those younger guys like Rowe Gallagher and Cole Barnett—that's really tough to defend."

Hamilton (a 5'8, 153-pound senior with 4.5 speed in the forty) played almost exclusively on defense last season as Russellville's top cover corner, but Heaton has been pleased with his progress at receiver. Hamilton caught 12 passes on Friday for 129 yards and a touchdown. Phinizee (another senior and one of just three returning starters on offense, along with Jones and senior left guard John David Palmer) added nine catches for 103 yards and a score.

Other receivers who contributed last Friday were senior Kevin Partrich (four catches, 51 yards), juniors Wylie Boyd (two catches, 22 yards) and Theran Pounders (two catches, 15 yards, one touchdown), and freshmen Rowe Gallagher (two catches, 17 yards, one touchdown) and Cole Barnett (one catch, seven yards).

Defensively, the Golden Tigers allowed only 12 touchdowns in 28 possessions—an outstanding rate for 7-on-7 football. Pounders, Partrich, Buckhalter and Jones each had one interception.

With only one event (an OTA at Haleyville High School on July 24) remaining on the summer schedule, Heaton said he's pleased with how the Golden Tigers have progressed heading into his fourth fall camp at Russellville.

"We've had a really good summer," he said. "As far as adhering to our standard for how we wanna do things on the field and off the field, we're doing that better than we ever have. The trash talk on the field has been cut down. Our guys are working hard. They're here, and they're here on time. I love the leadership and the attitude we're getting from our older guys. Whether we make a mistake or somebody makes a big play, our guys are encouraging each other. They're not degrading each other."

"If we'll keep battling for each other and getting better every day, I believe this group will have an opportunity to do some good things."

Last Friday's camp provided an extensive look at the Golden Tiger offense without running back Zaye Boyd, who rushed for 1,401 yards and scored 25 total touchdowns as a sophomore in 2016. Boyd is no longer enrolled at Russellville and has transferred to Lawrence County High School.

See below for a game-by-game breakdown of last Friday's action. [Remember that teams were awarded six points for a touchdown, with the option of going for a one-point conversion from the 5-yard line or a two-point try from the 10-yard line; three points for an interception; and two points for forcing a turnover on downs.]

### Russellville 23 West Morgan 11

The Golden Tigers jumped out to a 23-0 lead in their first pool-play game of the day and cruised past the Class 3A Rebels.

Luke Barnwell completed 15-of-22 passes for 139 yards and three touchdowns—one each to Devin Buckhalter, Logan Jones and Rowe Gallagher. Buckhalter caught four passes for 58 yards, and Robert Hamilton had five catches for 44 yards.

### Russellville 16 Crossville 15

See 'FIRE,' Page 17

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## 'FIRE', from page 16

The Golden Tigers fell behind 9-0 in their second pool-play game before reeling off 16 unanswered points and then stopping a potentially game-tying point-after try in the final seconds to hold on and edge Class 5A Crossville.

Luke Barnwell threw for 92 yards and two touchdowns on 9-for-11 passing, hooking up with Robert Hamilton three times for 27 yards and Devin Buckhalter twice for 30 yards. Logan Jones and Theran Pounders each had an eight-yard touchdown reception.

**Russellville 18 W.S. Neal 16**  
Linebacker Nate Green broke up a pass at the goal line to deny a two-point conversion attempt by W.S. Neal on the final play of the game, giving the Golden Tigers a tight win over the Class 4A Eagles in pool play.

Russellville jumped out to an early 9-0 lead on an 11-yard touchdown pass from Luke Barnwell to Bernard Phinizee and an interception by junior corner Theran Pounders. W.S. Neal got a stop and a score to get within a point at 9-8, but Barnwell responded with a 14-yard touchdown toss to Devin Buckhalter with 8:15 remaining.

An interception by Kevin Partrich stretched Russellville's lead to 18-8 before the Eagles mounted a late rally that fell two points short.

Barnwell finished 10-for-17 for 105 yards and two touchdowns—one each to Phinizee (four catches, 40 yards) and Buckhalter (three catches, 28 yards).

**Russellville 21 Sheffield 13**  
The Class 2A Bulldogs were leading 13-12 with less than six minutes remaining when Russellville receiver Robert Hamilton beat double-coverage down the left hash and hauled in a 36-yard strike from Luke Barnwell

for the decisive touchdown.

Barnwell found Devin Buckhalter on a fade route for the point after, and then senior linebacker Connor Stults broke up a third-down pass by Sheffield to secure one final stop and seal the win.

Barnwell completed 7-of-12 passes for 123 yards, with two touchdowns and two interceptions. Hamilton caught three passes for 46 yards, and Logan Jones had a 24-yard touchdown reception. Devin Buckhalter caught one pass for 16 yards and also had an early interception.

**Russellville 18 Central-Florence 15**  
The Golden Tigers were leading the Class 4A Wildcats by just three points in their final pool-play game when Luke Barnwell found Logan Jones for a 19-yard touchdown with a little more than three minutes remaining to seal the win.

Barnwell was sharp, completing 9-of-12 attempts for 105 yards and two scores. Jones caught both touchdown passes and finished with three receptions for 28 yards. Devin Buckhalter also caught three passes for 28 yards.

**Russellville 20 West Morgan 18**  
Logan Jones got behind the Rebel defense twice for a pair of 40-yard touchdowns, the last of which put the Golden Tigers ahead to stay with less than three minutes remaining in their quarterfinal win.

Jones finished with four catches for 85 yards and also came up with an interception on defense. Luke Barnwell was 7-for-13 for 114 yards and two touchdowns.

**W.S. Neal 16 Russellville 14**  
Trailing by eight with less than two minutes remain-

ing, the Golden Tigers got a 40-yard touchdown pass from Luke Barnwell to Devin Buckhalter to cut the lead to 16-14. The two couldn't connect on the ensuing two-point try, however, and W.S. Neal converted a critical third-and-eight on a 12-yard completion in the final half-minute to seal the semifinal win.

Barnwell threw for 101 yards and two touchdowns on 6-for-13 passing. Buckhalter had a big game, hauling in both touchdowns and finishing with four catches for 71 yards. Logan Jones added a 30-yard reception.

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**'MEDIA' from page 13**

LSU come to Tuscaloosa, leaving the Iron Bowl as the only legitimate road test] make the Tide a no-brainer pick to reach Atlanta for a fourth straight year.

**Auburn (2nd in media polling with 1,329 points)**  
**FFP: Disagree**

If new offensive coordinator Chip Lindsey and transfer quarterback Jarrett Stidham can breathe life back into a dormant passing attack, then Auburn is fully capable of winning 10 games this season. The running game (led by pre-season All-SEC selections Kam Pettway and Kerryon Johnson) should be excellent again; a defense that held nine opponents to less than 20 points last season returns standout contributors like end Marlon Davidson, tackle Dontavious Russell, linebacker Tre' Williams, safety Tray Matthews and corner Carlton Davis (all of whom received pre-season All-Conference honors); and first-team All-SEC kicker Daniel Carlson is a game-changing weapon.

[Here comes the *but*.]

But...the back half of Auburn's schedule this season is a beast—three straight road games in a four-week stretch at LSU, at Arkansas and at Texas A&M, followed by home games with pre-season division favorites Georgia and Alabama. Smart money says the Tigers drop at least a couple of those games, and if one of those happens to be in Baton Rouge (where Auburn hasn't won since 1999) then that could be the difference between second and third.

**LSU (3rd in media polling with 1,262 points)**  
**FFP: Disagree**

Much like Auburn, LSU is banking on a new coordinator (Matt Canada, hired away from Pittsburgh in the off-season) to liven up the offense. Former Purdue transfer Danny Etling is nothing special at quarterback, but first-team pre-season All-SEC tailback Derrius Guice (who rushed for a league-best 1,387 yards last season on just 183 carries) is all kinds of special. The defense could be, too, assuming a return to full health by dynamic edge rusher Arden Key, a first-team pre-season All-Conference pick.

The Tigers' road schedule (which includes trips to Florida, Tennessee and Alabama) is brutally tough, but a 3-2 league record away from home should be enough to secure second place in the West—provided they continue their home-field mastery of Auburn.

**Arkansas (4th in media polling with 796 points)**  
**FFP: Disagree**

Austin Allen put up some big passing numbers last season, but tailback Rawleigh Williams III was the heart and soul of the Arkansas attack. Williams, who rushed for 1,360 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2016, announced his retirement from football in May after sustaining a second scary neck injury during spring drills. His departure is another big blow for an offense that must also replace four of its top five pass-catchers from a year ago.

Barring drastic improvement from a defense that gave up more yards per play (6.75), rushing touchdowns (39) and 40-yard pass plays (13) than any other unit in the league last year, it's difficult to see Arkansas escaping the bottom three in the West.

**Texas A&M (5th in media polling with 722 points)**  
**FFP: Disagree**

The Aggies will open the season with a different starting quarterback for the eighth consecutive year, but they do boast two of the most explosive and dynamic game-breakers in the SEC in junior receiver/returner Christian Kirk and sophomore tailback Trayveon Williams. Kirk, a first-team pre-season All-SEC selection, has caught 80-plus balls in each of his first two seasons, totaling 1,937 yards and 16 touchdowns. He's also taken five punts to the house on just 27 career returns.

Williams, meanwhile, rushed for more than 1,000 yards as a true freshman in 2016 despite only carrying the ball 156 times. Those two—along with veteran running back Keith Ford—will pose plenty of problems for SEC defenses.

Factor in a schedule that features only one conference game in an opponent's home stadium—at Florida on October 14—prior to November 18, and we'll put the Aggies fourth in the West.

**Mississippi State (6th in media polling with 633 points)**  
**FFP: Agree**

QB Nick Fitzgerald is back after putting up some monster rushing numbers in 2016, but how much help will he get from the rest of the offense? There are even more pressing questions about a defense that surrendered 33 touchdown passes in 2016, the most any SEC team had allowed in a single season in nine years. The Bulldogs are one of only three teams (along with Arkansas and Tennessee) in the SEC that did not have a single defensive player receive pre-season All-Conference honors.

The conference schedule, which opens with a home game against LSU and then road trips to Georgia and Auburn, could put Mississippi State behind the 8-ball early.

**Ole Miss (7th in media polling with 379 points)**  
**FFP: Agree**

Sophomore quarterback Shea Patterson could be special, and the Rebels are stocked with big, young receivers (A.J. Brown, D.K. Metcalf, Van Jefferson) on the outside. Pass-rushing end Marquis Haynes is a difference-maker on defense, but there just seem to be too many holes to fill for a program teetering on the brink of NCAA purgatory.

This probably isn't a good year to draw Alabama, Auburn and LSU in the first half of the conference schedule. A bad start could bury a team already dealing with a self-imposed bowl ban.

Ole Miss has more talent than your typical last-place team, but the off-field factors are hard to ignore.

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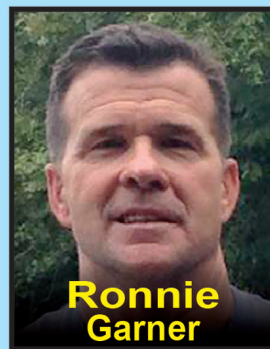
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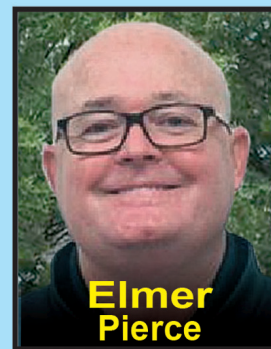
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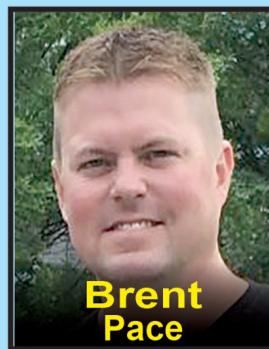
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