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PRSR-T STD US POSTAGE
PAID Franklin Free Press
113 Washington Ave. NW
Russellville, AL 35663

Ergle retiring as PCES principal

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As principal at Phil Campbell Elementary School, Jackie Ergle has a ritual she does each time one of her teachers retires.

Ergle finds a special gift, often a book, to present to the retiring teacher. Ergle looks for that certain book she thinks is best suited for that particular teacher.

As she looked for a book three weeks ago for one of her retiring faculty, Ergle found a book whose message hit home with her.

And she's decided to follow the message, as Ergle will retire from PCES effective June 1, 2018.

"I look for a book to present to each retiring teacher," Ergle said of her decision to step down. "I found one while looking, and as I skimmed through it, the book spoke to me. It reminded me of God's plan for me, and that plan is now for me to be a mother, grandmother and a wife."

"I look for a book to present to each retiring teacher. I found one while looking, and as I skimmed through it, the book spoke to me," Ergle said. "It reminded me of God's plan for me, and that plan is now for me to be a mother, grandmother and a wife."

Ergle became principal at PCES in 2001. Her teaching career in Franklin County Schools began in January 1974 with a full-time teaching position at

See 'ERGLE,' Page 14



COURTESY PHOTO

Jackie Ergle is retiring as principal at Phil Campbell Elementary School after a 44-year career in education.

Vote **Barry Moore**
PROBATE JUDGE

Pd. Pol. by Barry Moore, 399 High Pine Dr., Russellville, AL, 35654

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Morrow submits BCDA to Sunset

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Following through on something he foreshadowed earlier this year, Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D-Red Bay) has submitted the Bear Creek Development Authority to the Alabama Legislature's Sunset Committee, a step that could lead to the reorganization or elimination of BCDA.

Morrow sent a letter to Rep. Howard Sanderford, chair of the Sunset Committee, on May 25, 2018, in which he describes BCDA as having been a "dysfunctional entity for some time."

Morrow cited the board's inability to have a quorum of members present at board meetings as a major problem. Additionally, he cited the February 9, 2018 meeting where officer elections took place in a manner Morrow believes is violative of the board's own policy.

The election of officers was conducted by voice vote, and Connie Morrison was elected to be the new chairperson

of the board of directors. Morrow maintains that election was void based on an opinion from attorneys with the Alabama Department of Examiners and Public Accounts and the Legislative Services Agency.

Morrow sent a letter to Rep. Howard Sanderford, chair of the Sunset Committee, on May 25, 2018, in which he describes BCDA as having been a "dysfunctional entity for some time."

Morrow contends former chairperson Trisha Montgomery should have remained in her position because the February 9 vote was not conducted in accordance with BCDA board policy.

BCDA attorney Jeff Bowling said he has reviewed the bylaws and the election procedure, and Bowling's opinion is Morrison's election was legal and there is no reason to set aside the vote.

At the February 9 meeting, Haleyville attorney Jeff

See 'SUNSET,' Page 15

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Robert Wade Adams, formerly of Phil Campbell, age 33
Died Monday, May 21, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Shady Grove Cemetery.

James Clifton King, Russellville, age 91
Died Monday, May 21, 2018. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

Joey E. Oden, Tuscumbia, age 65
Died Monday, May 21, 2018. Funeral held at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Phil Campbell. Interment in St. Paul Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

Olen B. Searcy, Russellville, age 95
Died Saturday, May 26, 2018. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

Myrtle Ilene Vandiver, Tuscumbia, age 74
Died Friday, May 25, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Vandiver Hollow Cemetery.

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Safe Arbor



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Officials with Andrea's Arbor, the Franklin County location for the Cramer Children's Center, held an open house last Thursday at its Russellville facility on North Jackson Avenue.

Cramer Children's Center opens facility in Franklin

Andrea's Arbor already busy serving local families

Submitted to the FFP

Franklin County now has a location of its own as part of the Cramer Children's Center (CCC), a non-profit children's advocacy center whose main office is in Florence.

Andrea's Arbor, located at 508 North Jackson Avenue in Russellville, held an open house May 24 to introduce the program and its advocates to Franklin County.

The facility has been open one month and has already worked with 31 children in Franklin County related to allegations of abuse.

According to its web site, www.cramerchildrenscenter.com, the mission of the CCC and Andrea's Arbor is to "lessen the trauma of children who have been abused at the hands of someone else."

The CCC became affiliated with One Place of the Shoals, Inc., in 2014. The resulting organization is a collaborative effort "to provide services to victims of domestic violence, adult rape and sexual assault, child sexual and physical abuse and elder abuse" in one location.

The Franklin County facility is named in the memory of Andrea Gonzalez, whose disappearance in 1993 still leaves unanswered questions 25 years later. Kim Bevis, CCC executive director, said she had worked with Gonzalez before she went missing.

"So when we went looking for a name for our Franklin County location, that hit home with me," Bevis said.

In addition to Florence and Russellville, the Cramer Children's Center has a location in Double Springs with planned expansion to Lawrence County.

Monica Haddock will serve as program manager for the Russellville office, with Amelia Cain as victim advocate. The facility is located in the former law office of David Lowery, which is now owned by Russellville mayor David Grissom and Chris Wallace.

Among the Franklin County members on the CCC's Board of Directors are Dianne Pace, Chris James, Jerry Groce and Maudie Bedford.

Andrea's Arbor serves children under the age of 19 who may have experienced abuse or have witnessed a crime or violent act. Services include forensic interviews, mental health services, medical services, family and victim advocate services and coordination of investigations by the multidisciplinary team.

More than 370 children were assisted by the CCC last year out of the Florence location alone.

See 'CRAMER,' Page 11

Answering the Call...



A Family Man... A Service Man...

"Just as he was dedicated to serving his country as Sgt. 1st Class Barry Moore, Probate Judge Barry Moore is dedicated to serving the people of Franklin County.

Barry Moore answered the call in March 2004 when his National Guard unit was activated and assigned to Mosul, Iraq. Sgt. 1st Class Moore served his country willingly.

As Probate Judge, Barry Moore works every day to improve the roads, economy and quality of life for Franklin County citizens. He is a fine example of how a public servant truly serves the public.

Please join me and fellow Veterans in supporting Probate Judge Barry Moore on Tuesday, June 5th in the Republican Primary."

Sincerely,

Bill Jackson

Vietnam Veteran and

Fellow VFW (Veteran of Foreign Wars) Member

Vote Barry Moore

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Honey Do: Pressure washers

One more time on pressure washers, and then we'll move on.

As mentioned before, pressure washers are becoming a common tool around many homes, farms and businesses. These are great tools, but running one may not be the easiest thing you've ever done. A couple of hours spent holding on to one of those high-pressure wands can certainly wake up some sore muscles.

You can make the job go smoother and more efficiently by using the best spray pattern for the task. You can also do a lot of damage by using the wrong spray pattern or getting too close to the surface being cleaned. A high-pressure tip designed for etching concrete would really do some damage to your car's paint job.

Some smaller machines have an adjustable nozzle that will concentrate or spread out the spray by twisting it. Most heavy-duty machines have a variety of tips, labeled by degrees, that fit into the end of the wand by a "quick-connect" fitting. There are also high-powered turbo nozzles available that spin and create even more power for extra tough jobs.

It's always a good idea when start-

ing a cleaning project to start in a small, hidden area. Start out with a setting, or tip, smaller than what you think you need. You can always move up if needed.



Doug Green

One of the common mistakes I see with these machines is managing the long pressure hoses. With gas-powered machines, the hose can get against the hot muffler and melt quickly. Repairing a high-pressure hose can be tricky, and usually the best option is replacing it.

Always wear goggles, gloves and closed-toe shoes. Never operate a pressure washer while standing on a ladder.

Follow the instruction manual for your machine for maintenance. If you plan on storing your machine for a long period (two to three months), add a good fuel additive to the fuel tank, and, if over the winter, you can add "pump saver" to the pump to prevent damage from freezing.

Now you are ready to tackle any cleaning job around your home. Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.

Our House

by Ree Shannon



FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

113 WASHINGTON AVE. NW
RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35653
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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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DAVE SAYS
Financial Straight-Talk
www.davesays.org
by Dave Ramsey

It takes two

Dear Dave,

My husband has an old car that has become a real sticking point between us. He bought it for \$2,400, and it needs about \$4,000 in repairs and restoration. Together, we bring home \$50,000 a year, and I feel like this car is interfering with our ability to save money and pay off \$35,000 in debt. We already have two decent cars we drive to work, so what should I do about this?

Stacy

Dear Stacy,

There are lots of guys out there who like shiny toys—especially cars. I get it, because I'm one of them. But these kinds of things are luxuries, and stuff like this should wait until the household and finances are in order. The family should always come first.

Dumping money into this while you two are struggling financially doesn't make sense. On top of that, it's causing problems between you two on a deeper level. I'm sure your husband isn't a bad guy, so try sitting down with him and explaining

how it makes you feel. Let him know what it's doing to your finances *and* your marriage. You might even write the financial side down, so he can see exactly what kind of shape you two are in and where the money is going.

Once you do this in a kind but concerned manner, it may be a real eye-opener for him. On top of that, you might consider giving him a little incentive to get on board with the idea of getting your finances in order. Suggest that once the debt is gone, and you've got some savings in place, there might be a little extra cash on hand to help get that car up and running.

Good luck, Stacy!

Dave

Postpone the marriage?

Dear Dave,

My fiancé and I are planning to be married in less than a year. We've both been through your class at church, and the other night we started wondering if we should wait to have the wedding until we're both completely debt-free. Would you give us your opinion?

Michelle

Dear Michelle,

Congratulations! I hope you two will have long and happy lives together.

To answer your question, I don't think there's a reason to wait. When two people know they really love each other, they should get married whenever they feel in their hearts the time is right.

At this point, you shouldn't be thinking about money as anything except an indicator of where you're going. It doesn't matter who got into debt

City officials meet to address field conditions at Lee

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

After a recent youth baseball tournament held at John Blackwell Fields, a/k/a the Lee Sports Complex, it wasn't the wins or losses fans were talking about at tournament's end. Rather, it was the condition of the fields and facilities during the tournament.

But a Thursday meeting organized by Russellville mayor David Grissom was designed to make sure "everyone was on the same page" moving forward with the mutual goal of making Russellville's facilities the best they can be.

Teams from several states came to Russellville to participate in a USSSA baseball tournament last weekend. Parents and spectators complained about the field conditions as well as the condition of the bathrooms and concession stand throughout the event.

"People were literally shin-deep in grass, having to leave to use the bathroom and players tripping over the step up from the dirt to the grass on the field," a Dixie Youth parent posted on social media. "I understand that obviously children's sports are not a priority for the city of Russellville, but at least take pride in what it looks like when people do come to play every weekend."

The complaints spilled into social media, where a slew of comments expressing disappointment to outrage followed the original post of Tamara Hester, whose son plays Dixie Youth and USSSA baseball, described conditions at the Lee Complex she called 'a disgrace.'

"People were literally shin-deep in grass, having to leave to use the bathroom and literally players tripping over the step up from the dirt to the grass on the field," Hester posted. "I understand that obviously children's sports are not a priority for the city of Russellville, but at least take pride in what it looks like when people do come to play every weekend."

Hester and others say the field conditions at Lee and Hal Kirby, Jr., fields have been sub-par all spring. Hester said she wasn't trying to attack anyone personally with her post. Rather, she wanted to call attention to what has been an ongoing problem.

"I'm not sorry about what I said, because it's the truth," Hester said, "but I am sorry some people felt attacked by the post, because that was not my intention at all."

Grissom met Thursday with interim Parks and Recreation director Leaman Mosley, employees Jackie Bradford, John Carter (both of whom recently came out of retirement to help the Parks and Recreation Department) and Carrie Dover, city clerk Belinda Miller, Carla Trapp and Brian Hamilton with Dixie Youth Baseball, and Parks and Recreation Board members Brandon James and Kevin Stone.

"All the key people were there," Grissom said. "There was some confusion about this past weekend, but we've got to turn the page. I'm confident all sides have turned the page and are ready to move forward."

"Russellville has two former players contributing to Auburn's baseball team. We want our kids from T-ball up to have the best opportunities they can have through their time in high school and to excel to the best of their abilities."

The Russellville City Council approved a contract that began January 3, 2018, with Cory Trapp, d/b/a Precision Turf and Sports Fields, to perform landscaping and maintenance work at the city's recreational ball parks and facilities, including the Hal Kirby, Jr. Park, John Blackwell Fields (a/k/a the

'DAVE,' from page 4

or how, because everyone makes mistakes. But if you're both serious about getting out of debt, living on less than you make, and are in agreement about how the dollars are going to be handled, then—where money is concerned—you're ready to be married.

Many relationship experts say that if a couple can agree on four important things—kids, money, religion, and how to handle the in-laws—they have a great statistical chance of a happy marriage. I believe this, too. And make sure you meet with your pastor for some good pre-marital counseling before the big day. With all this going for you, I think you two will be okay.

God bless you both!

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 14 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.*

Lee Complex), Southside, Eastside Park, Chucky Mullins and Tom Strange Field.

Hamilton said last Thursday's meeting was productive and he has confidence that city officials want to see their facilities in quality condition.

"I definitely think the meeting was good," Hamilton said. "The city is committed, and the Parks and Recreation Department employees are committed to improving youth sports in Russellville. I'm excited about what the future holds for Russellville youth sports. I know some actions already taken are major steps in the right direction."

Under the contract terms, the city provided the necessary equipment for Trapp to landscape and maintain the fields, including clay, infield dirt conditioner, sand, seed, fertilizer, plants, chalk for base lines, paper products and bathroom supplies including necessary cleaning supplies.

The contract called for Trapp to ensure the fields are "in top playing condition" for the season.

Trapp received \$950 for each two-week period under the contract terms. The contract runs through December 31, 2018, but had a 30-day termination option for either party. Trapp, according to city officials, turned in his notice to terminate the contract earlier this month and was no longer working when the USSSA tournament took place.

With Mosley, Bradford and Carter working for the Parks and Recreation Department, Grissom said there was more than 70 years of experience working for the people of Russellville.

The city is accepting applications for the permanent Parks and Recreation Department director through June 30, 2018.

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"I definitely think the meeting was good," Hamilton said. "The city is committed, and the Parks and Recreation Department employees are committed to improving youth sports in Russellville. I'm excited about what the future holds for Russellville youth sports. I know some actions already taken are major steps in the right direction."

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Attention all young ladies of Colbert, Franklin and Lauderdale counties entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grades in the Fall of 2018!!! The Distinguished Young Women Scholarship Program will be held Saturday, August 4 at Norton Auditorium on the campus of The University of North Alabama. Young ladies entering the 12th grade will have the opportunity to compete for cash scholarships as well as many other scholarships to colleges and universities. Also, each county winner will have the opportunity to represent her county at the state program in Montgomery in January of 2019. Young ladies entering the 10th and 11th grades have the opportunity to be "DYW Little Sisters." For more information, contact Susan Hargett at 256-710-9239 or Katernia Cole-Coffey at 256-332-8880, or check information on our Facebook page at Distinguished Young Women of Northwest Alabama, or email dshargett@aol.com. Other information and sign-up is available at www.DistinguishedYW.org. Please contact us no later than June 23, 2018.

The 2018 "Sea Valiente" ("Be Brave") Assembly of Jehovah Witnesses is set for this Friday-Sunday, June 1-3, at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville. The program includes interviews/discussions, a conference on "The Hope of the Resurrection," a multimedia presentation and movie. Log onto jw.org for program times and information. The assembly will begin daily at 9:20 a.m. and run through 4:50 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and through 3:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Kiwanis Club of Corinth proudly presents the 21st annual "Leon Frazier Memorial Sing." The concert is set for this Saturday, June 2, at the Historic Corinth Coliseum Civic Center, 404 Taylor Street in downtown Corinth. The night will be filled with great southern gospel music featuring Gold City, the Perry's, Jeff and Sheri Easter, Josh and Ashley Franks, and Dujuana Frazier Thompson. Doors will open at 5 p.m., and the concert begins at 6 p.m. For more information, call 662-665-1175.

Everyone is invited to attend a Candidate Supper at Jonesboro Community Center this Saturday, June 2. Bean plates will be \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. Supper starts at 4 p.m. Candidates will speak at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Dianne at 256-332-0525 or Helen at 256-332-8078.

Liberty Chapel Free Will Baptist Church invites you to revival services on June 3-6. There will be a different speaker each night. Sunday night service begins at 5 p.m. with Bro. Darrel Rambo. Monday features Bro. Larry Crumpton at 7 p.m. Tuesday is Bro. Marcus Lipscomb at 7 p.m., and Wednesday is Bro. Caine Coffee at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The church is located in the Oak Grove community on Hwy. 81. For more info, call Delmer Duboise at 256-324-8430.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833 will meet Thursday, June 7 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center on Ash Avenue in Russellville. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For more information, call 256-324-2317. Everyone welcome!

The Shoals Area Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will meet in the Sheffield Room at Park Place (501 N. Montgomery Avenue in Sheffield) on Thursday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. Wendy Sellers will teach on the subject "Alzheimer's: Can Food Fix It?" Prayer for healing will be offered. We believe that God heals spiritually, physically and emotionally. All are welcome.

The Franklin County Sheriff's Department will host its annual Sheriff's Rodeo, presented by 3-A Rodeo Co., June 8-9 at 8 p.m. at the Cowboy Church Arena, 25100 Ala. 24 in Russellville. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Children five and under admitted free. This is a sanctioned IPRA event. For more information, visit [@longhornfarmsarena](https://www.facebook.com/longhornfarmsarena) on Facebook.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre in downtown Russellville on Saturday, June 9 at 7 p.m. General admission seating. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6.

Nitrate City Baptist Church, 6175 Second Street in Muscle Shoals, invites you to "Game On" VBS, Monday, June 11 through Wednesday, June 13 from 6-8:30 p.m. Registration is Monday, June 11 at 5:30 p.m. Classes for students who have completed grades 1-6 (children) and grades 7-12 (youth). Tyler Pendley is the pastor.

American 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 June 14.

Orange Baptist Church will hold Vacation Bible School on Saturday, June 16 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The church is located at 8153 Highway 34 in Russellville. VBS will be one day only. For more info, call 256-332-2296.

Mountain Valley Hee Haw features live music every Friday and Saturday night. Show time is 6 p.m. Karaoke at 7 p.m. on Thursday nights. Free admission. No alcohol or drugs. From Russellville, take 243 to Hwy. 79, turn right, go 1/4 mile, third building on left. Call 256-332-5479 or 256-810-4840.

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

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Morrow still seeking answers on scrapped Bevill State downsizing

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Although a planned downsizing of programs offered at Hamilton's Bevill State Community College was scrapped last week, Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D-Red Bay) is continuing his quest for answers from the college's president as to why she announced the closing of four programs in the first place.

In April, BSCC president Dr. Kim Ennis announced the elimination of four work force development programs at the school's Hamilton campus. They included diesel mechanics and the auto body program, drafting, auto mechanics and machine tool programs. Three of the programs were set to still be available at the school's Sumiton or Jasper campuses.

According to a press release from BSCC spokesperson Tana Collins, the decision was "strategic and data-driven based on quantitative data over several years."

Bevill officials decided to discontinue the programs they believed were no longer effective in training students with industry standards to get jobs in those fields, even though the same programs would still have been offered at the Sumiton campus.

Morrow sent Ennis a letter dated May 17, 2018, expressing his outrage at the planned closings and requesting she "immediately cease any plans or activity aimed at closing any program at Bevill State," saying that his constituents in Franklin County depend on Bevill State at Hamilton for educational and career development.

Morrow also questioned Ennis' authority to unilaterally make the cuts and asked for the criteria she used in her decision.

In a follow-up letter on May 21, 2018, Morrow requested Ennis "consult with industry and education leaders within Marion and Franklin Counties," adding that "it is apparent this was not done before you recently announced the closing of the Bevill State programs at Hamilton."

Morrow asked specifically for a copy of the "study" that was done which formed the basis for Ennis's action, adding that he was told "not one school board official or industrial leader in our area was contacted as part of your study."

Additionally, Morrow wants to know if any of the programs announced for closing receive federal funding, and whether the funding was based on the program being offered at a specific location.

"Answers to all of these questions are vital to my understanding why you, less than one month as President of Bevill State, made the decision to close these programs at Hamilton," Morrow said in his May 21 letter.

Finally, Morrow requested to be notified when any open or closed meeting is scheduled and the closure of any program at Bevill State Hamilton is on the agenda.

"This was nothing but an effort to build the Sumiton campus up at the expense of Hamilton," Morrow said. "And I'm not going to stand for that. Bevill State at Hamilton is too important to this area to allow this to happen."

A Bevill State spokesperson released a media statement May 22, which said in part: "Bevill State Community College is announcing that the career tech programs slated to close, as announced on April 18, will remain open...After meeting with local business and industry leaders, the college understands there is a demand in the career tech fields. In light of this decision, BSCC will be reviewing curriculum and working to improve the pipeline for students interested in entering these programs."

Sen. Larry Stutts (R-Tuscumbia) released a statement last week about his efforts to ensure the workforce programs at Bevill remained intact. Stutts said he worked with officials including Scott Hunt and Jeff Lynn to overcome financial issues related to the college.

"The future of our state is dependent on the educational opportunity and options of our citizens," Stutts said. "Bevill State Community College has served our area incredibly well by providing work force training programs to our citizenry. Those who participate in these programs have an opportunity to find a career, provide for their family and emerge from their college experience with less debt.

"As the school faces financial challenges, I am pleased that the leadership has been willing to work with me, delay shutting down pivotal programs and move forward in dialogue with the community regarding the best way to address the future."

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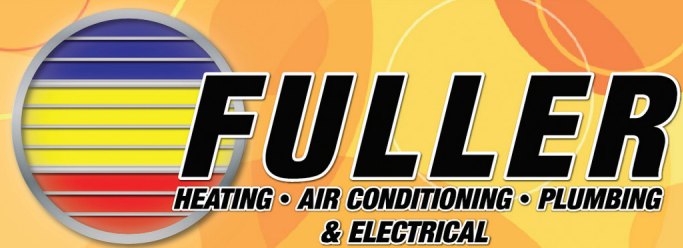
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Local eateries earn satisfactory health ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The 12 Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of May 14-May 18 each had scores that fall into the "satisfactory compliance" range.

Health ratings are required to be prominently posted in all food/lodging establishments. Scores are graded by the Alabama Department of Public Health inspectors on a 100-point scale.

Establishments with scores of 85 to 100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are routinely inspected. Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again in 60 days, and those scoring between 60 and 69 will have another follow-up within 48 hours. Any establishment scoring below 60 will be immediately closed.

Areas of inspection by ADPH include management and personnel; food storage, preparation and service; equipment; utensils; linen cleanliness; plumbing and waste; poisonous or toxic

material storage; and an inspection of the physical facility or property.

The 12 Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 90 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

The highest score was 99, received by Mama Cortez dba Rancho Viejo, 11797 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville.

The highest score was 99, by Mama Cortez dba Rancho Viejo, 11797 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville.

Inspections of Franklin County businesses, with critical item violations noted, resulted in the following scores:

- Los Tres dba Costa, 912 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 90.
- Tokyo Sushi and Steakhouse, 14001 Hwy. 43, Suite 17, Russellville, 91.
- Quinn's Grocery, 9980 Hwy. 48, Russellville, 92. (Lettuce, tomatoes out of temp).
- Red Bay Food Mart, 211 4th Ave. SW, Red Bay, 92.

• Big Star #345 Deli, 406 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 92. (Stacked items in warmer out of temp).

• Big Star of Russellville Deli, 314 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 95.

• Wayne's Catfish Haven, 18437 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 95.

• El Patron Tex-Mex, LLC, 13665 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.

• Wendy's of Russellville, 13679 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, 96.

• Taco Bell #029124, 15500 Hwy. 43 North, Russellville, 98.

• Northside Grocery, 1328 Waterloo Road, Russellville, 98.

Of the 31 inspections done in Colbert County from May 14, 2018 through May 18, 2018, no business scored below the satisfactory range.

The high score for the week in Colbert County was 100, received by Birthday Direct, 120 Commerce St., Muscle Shoals.

Updated health ratings are available at www.foodscores.state.al.us and may be viewed by city or county.

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COURTESY PHOTO/JASON COLLUM

Mary Jolley, a longtime aide to Congressman Carl Elliott Sr., speaks during a ceremony unveiling a historical marker in his honor in Vina on Sunday, April 22. Several local dignitaries, along with Elliott's family members and Sec. of State John Merrill, spoke at the ceremony.

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In Memoriam



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Members of the American Legion placed red, white and blue flowers at the Franklin County Courthouse memorial that honors Franklin County's fallen veterans.

'CRAMER', from page 3

"With 31 children in one month here in Franklin County, that tells us the need is there," Bevis said. "That projects to two to three hundred per year, so that's a lot of kids."

Bevis expressed her appreciation to the City of Russellville for its support of Andrea's Arbor, as well as the Russellville Book Lovers Club and the Cultura Garden Club.

To find out more information about Andrea's Arbor, or to ask about their services, call 256-398-7277.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Russellville Housing Authority
Section 8 (HCV Program) is
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Council seeks more funding for sidewalk project

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council authorized mayor David Grissom to sign a grant application for an additional \$70,000 on the city's sidewalk rehabilitation project near the intersection of Lawrence and Franklin Streets.

Once underway, managers of the project realized they would be approximately \$70,000 over budget. They contacted the Alabama Department of Transportation and asked for an additional \$70,000. Grissom said they recently received word the additional funding was approved. The city is responsible for 20 percent, or \$14,000, of the grant monies.

In other action, the council:

- Authorized submission of a 2018 grant application for FAA funding for the Russellville Airport. The funding will pay for a FAA-required Airport Layout Plan to be prepared by Garver at a cost of \$82,887. The city also approved an Agreement for Transfer of Entitlements for allocated monies not used by the local airport, with the goal the funds will be used by another airport in northwest Alabama.
- Approved the low bid of \$33,324.50 from Long Lewis Ford for a half-ton pickup truck for the Russellville Police Department. A \$15,000 grant from ADECA will offset some of the costs.
- Approved the state bid of \$26,749.50 from Long Lewis for a new Ford Explorer for the Russellville

Police Department.

- Accepted a letter of resignation from RPD officer Taylor Weclowski, who recently accepted employment with the Red Bay Police Department, and agreed to declare a vacancy for patrol officer and authorize advertisement to solicit job applications.
- Extended Operator III application deadline until June 30, 2018, for the open position with the Russellville Street Department.
- Extended the deadline for Parks and Recreation superintendent applications to June 30, 2018.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Russellville City Council will be held Monday, June 4, with work session at 6 p.m. and meeting to follow.

RCS Board honors students at final spring meeting

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education recognized several students for academic and athletic accomplishments at the board's final meeting of the 2018 spring semester.

Felix Garcia, Nevaeh Parks and Olivia Vincent were honored for their first place awards in the National Garden Clubs, Inc., Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. The contest was sponsored by the Cultura Garden Club.

Garcia won first place at the state level for first-graders. Parks won first place at state and first place in the Deep South Region for Grades 1-2. Vincent won first place at the state level and first place in the Deep South Region for Grades 3-5.

Kaitlyn Balding was honored for being named part of the Duke University

Talent Identification Program based on her outstanding ACT score.

Russellville High School student Rebecca Parrish was honored for her first place finish in the Business Calculations category at the Alabama FBLA Competition. And several students were honored for participating in the Leadership Academy.

The board also recognized the RHS varsity baseball team for its state runner-up finish in 5A.

In other action, the board:

- Approved trip requests for RHS varsity and JV cheerleaders from June 4-8 to attend cheer camp at Auburn University; RMS cheerleaders from June 12-15 to attend cheer camp at University of North Alabama; and RHS Marching Hundred from July 1-7 to participate in the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

- Approved facility use requests from RHS Marching Hundred on August 18 to host the Watermelon Run; RHS Band Parent Association on September 29 to host the Northwest Alabama Marching Classic; and the RHS basketball team on June 7 to host its annual basketball camp.

- Approved a private contract service agreement between UNA and Russellville Elementary School for facility usage for AMST-UNA 2018 Summer Institute Training to be held in June.

- Approved low bid from Hovater Metal Works in the amount of \$152,000 for renovations to RMS gymnasium.

- Approved personnel moves including: Leave of Absence for Kathryn Montgomery, RHS teacher, from May 17-25; Retirement in Position of Tracy Ward, WES teacher and Judy Miller, CNP at RHS; Resignation of Position of Wayne Wilkes, RHS teacher and Paula Young, RES assistant principal, and Mark Heaton, revising his previously approved resignation date from June 30 to May 31; Transfers of Patrice Smith from English/Drama teacher at RMS to English/Drama teacher at RHS and Gabe Willis, from science teacher to

See 'BOARD,' page 13

Rodeo coming to Russellville

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

It's rodeo time, as the annual Franklin County Sheriff's Rodeo is set for Friday and Saturday, June 8-9, in Russellville.

This year's rodeo will be held at the Cowboy Church Arena, 25100 Hwy. 24. Rodeo action begins each night at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Children five and under are admitted free. Proceeds benefit the Franklin County Sheriff's Reserve Program, a volunteer program that trains reserve deputies to assist the department.

This year's rodeo is sanctioned by the International Professional Rodeo Association, or IPRA, the second largest American rodeo organization.

Eight events will be featured, including bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, cowgirl barrel racing, cowgirl breakaway roping, tiedown calf roping and team roping. Children can participate in a kids' calf scramble event. Concessions will be sold by the Cowboy Church of Franklin County.

To register, log onto www.rodeosportsnetwork.com. Internet entries will be open Monday, June 4 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Books open with the IPRA Monday, June 4 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information, contact Scott Ashley at 256-324-0010.



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YARD SALES/ ESTATE SALES

Large Multi-Family Yard Sale this Friday, June 1 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at 5742 Highway 43, Spruce Pine. Top of Spruce Pine Mountain, turn at old Raceway, second house on left. Furniture, appliances, tools, toys, clothing for adults and children, and some new with tags.

Don't miss this one!!!!

Yard Sale this Friday and Saturday, June 1-2, from 8 am-until at 505 N. Washington Avenue. Vintage furniture, clothing, toys, glassware and more.

Yard Sale this Friday and Saturday, June 1-2 from 7 a.m.-until at 147 Russell Valley Road in Russellville. Flat screen TV, hospital bed, recliner, sewing machine, toys and household items.

Six Family Yard Sale this Saturday, June 2 from 7 a.m.-until at 565 Osborn Hill Road in Littleville. Turn right at Yogi's in Littleville. About 1/2 mile off Hwy. 43. We'll have a little bit of everything! Come see us!

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Apartments and houses for rent. Russellville location. 2 and 3 bedrooms available. Call 256-291-7572.

1 BR, 1 BA house for rent, located behind King Drive-In. In Tharptown school district. \$300/month. \$300 deposit. 256-412-7544. (2)

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Apartment for Rent. 600 Madison. 2 BR, 1 BA. \$325/mo., \$325/dep. Call 256-810-3998 or 256-460-5016. (2)

House for Rent. 110 Marlin. 2 BR, 1 BA. \$375/mo., \$375/dep. Call 256-810-3998 or 256-460-5016. (2)

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Pelican 1550 Hard Case for sale. Waterproof. Never used. Paid \$140. Will sell for \$70. Call 256-263-7636. (2)

1964 Chevrolet Truck Hood for sale. Good condition. \$75. Call 256-810-1808. (2)

Trimmer/mower w/big roll of trimmer, \$200. Garden tools, \$5 and \$10 each. Call 205-993-5961. (3)

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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

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Aderholt hoping for 'good news' on Russellville Hospital

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The recent sale of Northwest Medical Center in Winfield brought with it an announcement from Rep. Robert Aderholt that there could soon be news about the future of Russellville Hospital.

Northwest Medical Center was sold by Gallatin, TN-based Curae Health Care to the Winfield Healthcare Authority earlier this month.

"This is the perfect example of the federal government working with the local government and trying to make sure that rural hospitals stay open," Aderholt said.

Lakeland Hospital in Haleyville announced last year it would close its doors, but the hospital has transferred ownership and remains open.

While Aderholt blames the restructuring of reim-

'BOARD,' from page 12

engineering/science teacher at RHS; Employment in Position of Jill Bonds as English teacher at RHS, Derek Blagburn as special education teacher system-wide, Jeremie Kinney, RMS Counselor, Tony Bonds, RMS Assistant Principal/history teacher and Wes Pouncey, RHS Assistant Principal; Volunteers for 2018-19 including Jennifer Willis with RHS Marching Hundred Auxiliaries, Chase Gilmer and Bo Lloyd for RMS football.

•Elected board officers as follows: Judy Pounders as president and Greg Batchelor as president-elect.

The next regular meeting date will be Thursday, June 7 at 8 a.m. with work session Monday, June 4 at 3:30 p.m.

bursements paid to hospitals by the federal government as a result of the Affordable Care Act, others believe Gov. Robert Bentley and Kay Ivey's refusal to expand Medicaid is costing Alabama healthcare providers more than \$3.6 billion in funding, according to a 2015 White House study released in 2014.

Aderholt sent out a press release on May 16 announcing the sale of the Winfield facility which also referenced Russellville Hospital, which is owned by Curae Health.

"We are also working with the hospital in Russellville, and hopefully we'll have some good news on that in the coming weeks," Aderholt said.

The recent sale of Northwest Medical Center in Winfield brought with it an announcement from Rep. Robert Aderholt that there could soon be news about the future of Russellville Hospital.

"We are also working with the hospital in Russellville, and hopefully we'll have some good news on that in the coming weeks," Aderholt said.

The transfer of Northwest Medical Center to the Winfield Healthcare Authority took effect on May 11, 2018. The hospital also announced it will be associated with St. Vincent's Healthcare System in Birmingham.

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'ERGLE' from page 1

Red Bay School.

She attended UNA and received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and History in Secondary Education. Ergle went back to school and earned her Master's degree in Elementary Education. Through the years, she has taught all grades at PCES except kindergarten and first grade.

Ergle earned her Education Degree Specialist in Administration and was hired as PCES principal a short time later. That decision is one she credits her daughter Heather for helping her to make.

"Heather was participating in Miss Junior Miss in Montgomery, and she told me the girls were talking about things she had never heard of that they were learning in school," Ergle said. "I wanted to find out more about other schools' programs and help our students learn more, too."

Ergle was honored with the Roger Bedford, Jr. Unsung Hero Award in 2015, recognizing the investment she has made in Franklin County's children.

"As teachers, we are merchants of hope," Ergle said in a 2015 interview with the *Franklin Free Press*. "If we can ourselves in education connect with a child and reach that child, then we as teach-

ers can be that defining factor if the child is successful in his or her life for either the career, workforce or college route."

When the State of Alabama released school report cards earlier this year, Phil Campbell Elementary's grade was at the top of the list in Franklin County with a "B" grade.

PCES outpaced the state average in all three criteria for schools without a 12th grade. The school scored an impressive 92.78 on academic growth, well above the state average.

Franklin County superintendent Greg Hamilton said Ergle told him last week she had decided to retire. Hamilton said it was difficult to explain the impact Ergle has had in local education.

"Words can not express how much I appreciate the job that Mrs. Ergle has done for the Franklin County School System," Hamilton said. "Her passion for children's success is tremendous. Her love for the school and her employees is tremendous. She will definitely be missed, and I wish her all the best."

Ergle and her husband Randy have two daughters, Heather Hyche (married to Adam) and Candice Carnes (married to William), and two

granddaughters, Adalyse Hyche, 7, and Lidian Carnes, 18 months.

"I will never be ready to leave Phil Campbell Elementary," Ergle said, "but last week I was coming back from my granddaughter's program on Wednesday, and I just had to return quickly to school because I needed to be there."

As far as what her successor will inherit, Ergle said it's the ideal position for a new administrator to step into.

"They will be taking over the best staff you could ever have, the best students and best parents you could ever ask for," Ergle said. "The community support is the best you could walk into. We are truly blessed."

After 44 years in education, Ergle realizes the transition to retirement won't be easy.

"Education has been my life, so to speak," she said. "I'm excited about the decision though. This school has been like my family. It's very hard to leave and wasn't an easy choice. But I know what God has in place for me at this time in my life."

"It's the right time. Not many people can say they really love what they do, but I have. I could have gone on forever, I think, but it was time."

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'SUNSET' from page 1

Mobley was elected vice-chairman and Franklin County probate judge Barry Moore was elected secretary.

Morrow said a letter from John Treadwell, deputy director for the Legal Division of the Legislative Services Agency, raised three potential challenges to the election of officers that day, including: Manner of voting; notice of meeting; and notice of the purpose of the meeting.

Nine of the 14 BCDA directors attended that meeting, and Morrison was elected by a 5-4 margin after a voice vote.

According to Treadwell's letter, "the election was conducted in violation of BCDA bylaws. If challenged, a court may hold the vote to be invalid and order a new vote to be conducted."

Morrison forwarded Treadwell's letter to Bowling for review. Bowling said that an election held as a secret ballot, which the bylaws called for, would be violative of Alabama law.

In his letter to the Sunset Committee, Morrow says Morrison is "claiming legitimacy to the election and is declaring herself the chairperson of the Bear Creek Development Authority Board of Directors and is planning a board meeting. This legitimacy is not shared by many current board members; therefore, I foresee a major problem if the board meets and takes a vote on any issue."

Morrow also told Sanderford that Morrison was going to "push through a lease agreement that is favorable to the City of Bear Creek, where she currently serves as mayor." Bear Creek leases the Twin Forks Park and operates it pursuant to that lease agreement.

Although Morrow did not request specific action by the Sunset Committee, he states in the letter his "serious concerns about the future of this state agency."

"All I am doing is keeping Rep. Sanderford and the Sunset Committee aware of the BCDA board's activity," Morrow said. "I hear people every day complaining about services at the lakes and campgrounds, and as a legislator I'm simply forwarding these concerns on to the proper place," Morrow said. "All I want is for the people I represent, if they are using any BCDA facility, to have an experience that is pleasant and to have their needs met."

"I'm not accusing anyone of doing anything wrong, but I am accusing the BCDA board of being dysfunctional, and I don't think I have to try very hard to prove that case."

According to the Alabama Department of Public Examiners, the role of Alabama's Sunset Committee is outlined as follows:

The Sunset Committee is required to review each year the operations of state agencies scheduled for review in the sunset law or in the agency's enabling law. The Sunset Committee can review the operations of any additional state agency. The Sunset Committee can recommend one of three alternatives for each agency: Continue without modification; Continue with modification; Termination.

Termination is automatic for agencies named in the sunset law or in their enabling law as subject to the sunset process. A bill to continue them is necessary to prevent termination. Other agencies will not terminate unless a bill to terminate them becomes law. The Department of Examiners of Public Accounts assists the committee by obtaining, compiling and evaluating information and produces a report on each agency for use by the committee. The services of an attorney from the Legislative Reference Service are provided to the Sunset Committee.

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Friends and Neighbors,

Over the last few months, I've had the privilege to get to know Joe Mansell, Republican candidate for Franklin County Probate Judge.

There are several reasons my family and I are supporting Joe. As a husband, grandfather, parent and businessman, I believe Joe Mansell will move Franklin County forward in the next six years.

It's time for Franklin County to be the trendsetter and not a follower. Joe has dedicated his life to serving others as a first responder and he'll bring that same dedication and service to the 32,000 residents of Franklin County.

On June 5, 2018, please vote Joe Mansell for Probate Judge in the Republican Primary.

--Mike Madden
Spruce Pine

Joe Mansell
Franklin County
Probate Judge

Probate Judge

Barry Moore

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Grants Awarded to Franklin County:

- \$12 million – Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIP)
- \$1.2 million Mar Jac Industrial Access Grant
- \$823,808 CR 44/244 Industrial Access Grant Pilgrim's Pride/Southern Energy Homes
- \$292,919 Mike Green Industrial Access Grant re: Road Gear
- \$200,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grants
- \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Judge Moore's Volunteer Service Includes:

- Currently serving as a volunteer on the Board of Directors of Northwest Alabama Council of Local Government. Served as Chairman of the Board from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017.
- Currently serving as a volunteer on the Alabama County Commission Association Liability Insurance Board.
- Served as District 1 representative for the Alabama County Commission Association for the following counties: Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Marion, Winston, Lamar, Fayette and Walker.
- Member of Russellville Rotary Club

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Former Russellville stars still shining

RHS alums Cody Greenhill and Reed Smith earned All-Conference honors at the college level. See story Page 22.



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Hiser signs to play hoops at Blue Mountain

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

At the outset of his junior season at Belgreen, Eli Hiser found himself somewhere he was entirely unaccustomed to being.

The bench.

Hiser, a 6'1 shooting guard who transferred from Vina midway through his ninth-grade year, had been competing for a spot in first-year head coach Clint Isbell's starting lineup, but a pre-season weight-training injury to his lower back knocked him out of commission for a brief period. After missing the 2016-17 season opener against Covenant Christian, Hiser returned to find himself a part of the second unit—a valuable part, to be sure, but not a starter as he had envisioned.

"That team was really deep," Isbell said, "and Eli was basically our sixth man. He was pretty much the first guy off the bench. Coming over from Vina, I know he was one of their better players and probably never came off the floor. But he gave us a real spark off the bench, a lot of energy and enthusiasm.

"He gave us something coming off the bench that we probably couldn't have got from anybody else."

Looking back on it now, Hiser admits to being frustrated with what he perceived to be a reduced role.

"I had always been a starter, pretty much my whole life," Hiser said. "Being on the bench when the game started was tough. I wasn't used to that. I remember asking myself a lot, 'Why am I not starting? What am I not doing that's keeping me from being out there?'"

"Finally, my dad [Jason] told me to go to Coach Isbell's office, close the door and have a conversation with him about what I needed to do."

During the sit-down that ensued, Isbell clearly defined for Hiser his role going forward.

"My role for that team wasn't to be a starter," Hiser says now. "My role for that team was to come off the bench and be the best teammate I could be."

Hiser did that to the best of his ability, averaging 3.4 points per game for a Bulldog team that won 22 games, a county championship and an area championship on its way to earning a berth in the Northwest Regional. Athletic two-guard Adam Green signed with Coastal Alabama after the season [he's now playing at a four-year school in Arkansas], opening up the opportunity for Hiser to play an expanded role as a senior in 2017-18.

See 'HISER,' Page 21

Franklin Free Press 2018 All-County Baseball Team

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Filling out a lineup card—deciding who's going to start, what position they're going to play and where they're going to hit in the batting order—is one of the more important duties a baseball coach must carry out on a day-to-day basis.

It also seems like it would be really, *really* fun.

With that in mind, we're ready to unveil our 2018 All-County baseball selections, lineup-card style. Our team features 20 roster spots—a 10-man starting lineup (DH included) plus 10 reserves, some of whom hit, some of whom pitch and some of whom do both. [Versatility is vital in baseball.]

We'll start by recognizing our Player of the Year in Franklin County, **Phil Campbell senior Peyton Thomas**. The Class 2A Hitter of the Year in 2017 as a junior, Thomas capped off his Bobcat career with another monster season at the plate in 2018. Through April 9, the 6'1, 200-pound slugger was "only" hitting .385; he proceeded to collect 14 hits in his next 14 at bats, raising his average by nearly a hundred points.

Thomas finished the season batting .469, and exactly half of his 46 hits went for extra bases (10 home runs, a triple and 12 doubles). He drove in 30 runs, scored 32 and had 13 multi-hit games. An intimidating presence in the batter's box, Thomas drew 29 walks (against just 11 strikeouts) and posted a ridiculous on-base percentage of .612.

Thomas, a UNA signee, finished his four-year varsity career at Phil Campbell with 32 homers, 50 doubles, 135 RBIs, 152 runs scored and a walk/strikeout ratio of 112/38. He was just as dominant on the mound in 2018, allowing only seven earned runs all season in 10 starts. The hard-throwing righthander went 7-3 with a 0.86 ERA and 32 hits allowed in 57.1 innings. He struck out 93 batters and walked just 14, posting an elite strike rate of 66 percent.

We'll pencil in Thomas as our starting pitcher and slot him in the No. 3 spot in the order. Here's what the rest of our starting lineup looks like.

Leading off and filling the designated hitter role is **Russellville senior Noah Gist**. A prototypical leadoff man who works counts and commands the strike zone as well as anyone, Gist led the Golden Tigers with 36 walks and 41 runs scored while ranking third on the team with a .446 OBP and second with 11 stolen bases. Russellville averaged 8.6 runs in 12 playoff games, and Gist set the tone at the top of the order by going 13-for-35 with 16 walks and 18 runs scored. He'll DH for **centerfielder Mike Wrona**, a Phil Campbell senior who can go get 'em with the best of them.

Batting second for our All-County squad and playing left field is **Russellville senior Rudy**

See 'BASEBALL,' Page 18



FILE PHOTOS

DOUBLE TROUBLE - Thomas, who batted .469 with 10 home runs while posting a 0.86 ERA and 93 strikeouts in 57.1 innings on the mound, is our Player of the Year for 2018.





PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW

FOLLOW THE LEADER - Fernandez (above) collected a pair of hits in the state finals, giving him a team-high 52 on the season. He also led the Golden Tigers with a .344 batting average and ranked among team leaders with six home runs, nine doubles, 35 RBIs and 37 runs scored. Bragwell (below) hit .544 for Red Bay, leading the Tigers with 16 multi-hit games, six home runs and a .637 on-base percentage.



'BASEBALL' from page 17

Fernandez. Primarily a shortstop/pitcher, Fernandez played the outfield only sparingly for the Golden Tigers but has the athleticism and instincts to excel just about anywhere on the field. Oh, and he can flat-out rake. Fernandez led Russellville this season with a .344 average and 52 hits, including six home runs and nine doubles. He drove in 35 runs, scored 37 and drew 25 walks, reaching base at a .441 clip. He also finished his Golden Tiger career 15-3 with a 2.88 ERA and 110 strikeouts in 107.1 innings, so he'd be more than useful on the mound as well.

Thomas is our No. 3 hitter, and right behind him in the cleanup spot is another four-year stud, **Russellville senior first baseman Landon Ezzell.** Following an inconsistent regular season, Ezzell exploded in the playoffs and drove in 24 runs in 12 games while going 15-for-41 with four homers—including two grand slams in one game against Springville in the state quarterfinals. Ezzell hit .284 for the year and led the Golden Tigers in home runs (nine), doubles (14), RBIs (44) and multi-hit games (15) while drawing 24 walks and reaching base at a .413 clip. He finished his varsity career at RHS with a .305 average, 148 hits, 16 home runs, 47 doubles, 125 RBIs, 114 runs scored and three state championship rings. Ezzell also excelled on the mound as a senior, going 6-4 with two saves, a 2.02 ERA and 53 strikeouts in 59.1 innings.

Batting fifth and playing shortstop for our All-County team is **Kolby Bragwell, a Red Bay junior** who enjoyed a career year at the plate this season. Bragwell pounded out 49 hits in 90 at bats, including six home runs, two triples and six doubles. The 6'2, 205-pound slugger hit .544 and led the county with 16 multi-hit games. In 29 games for the Tigers, he drove in 31 runs, scored 36 and stole 17 bases in 18 tries. He also drew 21 walks, struck out just nine times and posted an out-of-this-world .637 OBP. Arm trouble limited Bragwell to just 20 innings on the mound, but he did throw a late-season no-hitter against Lamar County in an 11-0 win that helped punch the Tigers' playoff ticket.

Batting sixth and playing third base, we'll go with **Russellville senior Houston Kitterman.** Shaking off a 1-for-16 start at the plate, Kitterman raked the rest of the way and wound up second on the team with a .340 average and 49 hits, including three home runs. He drove in 22 runs, scored 34 and recorded 12 multi-hit games. Kitterman drew 23 walks and got hit by a pitch 10 times, fueling a team-best .459 on-base percentage. He went 14-for-39 in 12 games this postseason and finished his two-year varsity career as a .328 hitter. He's also a very good defender at the hot corner.

Batting seventh and catching for our All-County squad is **Phil Campbell freshman Austen Baker.** A first-year starter, Baker gave the Bobcats much-needed stability both behind the plate and in the leadoff spot, ranking second on the team in batting average (.344) and hits (43) while tying Thomas for the team lead in multi-hit games (13). He struck out just 12 times all season in 137 plate appearances, whacking six doubles, driving in 19 runs and reaching base at a .387 clip. Baker also handled a Phil Campbell pitching staff that posted a stellar 2.08 ERA on the season with 281 strikeouts in 229 innings.

Batting eighth and starting in right field, we'll go with talented **Russellville junior Devin Buckhalter,** who has the kind of speed that can change a game. In his first season as a starter, all Buckhalter did was bat .336 and tie for second on the team with 14 multi-hit games. He finished the year with 45 hits (including six doubles and a triple), 26 RBIs, 29 runs and a team-best 15 stolen bases in 17 tries. As he learns to control the strike zone and take his walks, Buckhalter should become an even more potent offensive weapon as a senior in 2019. His plus range and rocket right arm are already valuable assets in the outfield.

Batting ninth and playing second base is **Red Bay junior Alex Burroughs.** The speedy Burroughs provided a major spark for the Tigers in the leadoff spot, batting .393 (35-for-89) with a team-best 26 stolen bases in 28 tries. He also drew 19 walks, bumping his OBP all the way up to .496, and drove in 23 runs. Burroughs rose to the occasion come playoff time, going 6-for-9 with five stolen bases in a first-round series at Section. He had three hits in each game, giving him 11 multi-hit games on the year.

Burroughs narrowly edges out **Russellville senior Brock Malone** for a starting spot. The sure-handed Malone, as reliable as they come at second base, got better and better at the plate as the season progressed, ultimately batting .350 (14-for-40) in 12 playoff games with nine RBIs and eight runs scored. Malone, who hit .296 for the season with 42 hits, 29 RBIs and 28 runs scored, occupies one of the 10 reserve spots on our All-County roster.

As for the rest of our reserves, let's start by filling out the pitching staff behind our ace, Thomas. **Russellville righthander Caden Parker** put together a breakout junior season, leading the Golden Tigers in wins (eight) and innings pitched (66.2). Parker (8-3 with a 2.51 ERA) won three of his four playoff starts, striking out eight Lee-Huntsville batters in a Game 3 rout in round two and then recording a career-high nine K's in six innings of two-hit ball against Mortimer Jordan in the state semifinals. Parker threw a pair of

'BASEBALL,' from page 18

complete games this season, including a seven-inning shutout of Arab on March 31 in which he needed only 57 pitches. As a bonus, Parker hit .321 with 12 doubles and a .458 OBP while providing plus defense at short and first.

Red Bay senior Hayden Murray, another standout two-way contributor, is cut from the same cloth. In the absence of overwhelming stuff, Murray (7-3, 2.02 ERA) established himself as the Tigers' ace by changing speeds, filling up the zone [he posted a stellar strike rate of 68 percent] and competing his rear end off—particularly when the stakes were highest. He posted three consecutive complete game wins in an 11-day stretch in early April, willing Red Bay to a postseason berth. Murray finished the season with six complete games and two shutouts, recording a strikeout/walk ratio of 62/16 in 66 innings. Murray held down shortstop when he wasn't on the mound and hit .365 for the year with 19 RBIs, 14 stolen bases and a .500 OBP.

Sticking with the two-way theme, our next roster spot goes to **Phil Campbell freshman Ridge Raper**, who pitched beyond his years for the Bobcats this season. The young righthander was money on the mound in two playoff starts, holding Fyffe and Mars Hill to a total of four earned runs on 11 hits in 13 innings while striking out 15 batters and walking just one. Raper demonstrated remarkable command for a freshman, throwing 64 percent of his pitches for strikes. He finished the season 5-1 with a 2.06 ERA and a sparkling ratio of 61 strikeouts to just 13 walks in 51.1 innings. Raper was usually at second base when he wasn't pitching, but he can play virtually anywhere on the infield and had a fine year at the plate, batting .311 with eight doubles, 19 RBIs, 25 runs scored and a .423 OBP.

No pitching staff is complete without a lefthander, so our next spot goes to **Phil Campbell junior Nate Owens**. Owens opened his breakout season by not allowing an earned run in his first 15 innings, and he finished it 7-3 with five complete games—including a one-hit shutout of Sheffield on March 3—and two saves. He posted an ERA of 2.00, striking out 57 batters and walking 26 in 56 innings. A righthanded hitter, Owens led the Bobcats with 32 RBIs on the season, batting .261 with two home runs and 10 doubles.

Every staff needs a relief ace, too, which is where **Russellville senior sidearmer Jaret Ward** comes in. Ward's only start of the season came

See 'BASEBALL,' page 20



PHOTO/KYLE GLASGOW
Buckhalter broke out as a first-year starter in 2018, batting .336 with 45 hits and a team-leading 15 stolen bases.

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'BASEBALL', from page 19



against Hartselle on March 24, when he held the Tigers without a hit for six innings in a 3-1 win. His other 18 appearances all came in relief, and he finished the season 5-2 with two saves and a 2.70 ERA. Ward was tough to barrel up all year, allowing just 31 hits in 43.2 innings and getting groundball outs by the bushel with his sinking, running fastball and sweeping breaking ball.

If one shutdown reliever is good, two is better. **Phil Campbell senior righthander Joe Hardy** was dominant at times this season, allowing only three earned runs and 15 hits in 27.1 innings. Hardy (4-1 with two saves and a 0.78 ERA across 12 appearances, 10 of which came in relief) struck out 37 batters on the year, good for a rate of 9.6 K's per seven innings. Hardy made the transition from behind the plate to the middle infield and enjoyed a productive season as a hitter, batting .272 with three home runs, 20 RBIs, 31 runs scored, 21 walks and a .407 OBP.

This year's Russellville team hit a few more rough patches along the way, but Heaps ultimately squeezed 30 wins and a fourth straight trip to Montgomery out of a group that, while certainly talented and hard-working, lacked the kind of Division I/SEC-caliber players the program produced from 2015-17.

The nature of catching requires more than one man to handle the job, which means there has to be a spot on our All-County roster for **Russellville junior Hunter Briles**. Golden Tiger coaches and pitchers alike rave about Briles' ability to steal strikes with his pitch-framing skills, and by season's end he had become an impact player offensively as well. Briles caught fire in the playoffs, hitting .378 (14-for-37) in 12 games. He finished the season batting an even .300 (21-for-70) with a solid .365 OBP.

The final two spots on our All-County roster belong to **Belgreen seniors Mason Donahoe and Jake Taylor**, who anchored a productive lineup that led the Bulldogs to their first playoff appearance in 20 years. Donahoe played first base and hit third in the order, batting better than .300 and ranking among team leaders in RBIs. Taylor, a third baseman, held down the cleanup spot and also hit better than .300 for the season.

Who better to run the show for our All-County baseball team than **Russellville head coach Chris Heaps**, our choice for 2018 Coach of the Year. Simply put, Heaps is the best in the business. He and his staff (led by top assistants Jay Stanley and Eli Fuller) have guided the Golden Tigers through a remarkable four-year run that has included a 151-40 record, four area championships, 38 playoff wins and three Class 5A state titles.

This year's Russellville team hit a few more rough patches along the way, but Heaps ultimately squeezed 30 wins and a fourth straight trip to Montgomery out of a group that, while certainly talented and hard-working, lacked the kind of Division I/SEC-caliber players the program produced from 2015-17.

The Alabama Sports Writers have somehow managed not to name Heaps Class 5A Coach of the Year during Russellville's current run, which is easily the best in school history and one of the most fruitful in AHSAA history. Already closing in on his 200th win with the Golden Tigers [he's 192-80 in six seasons, a winning percentage of .706], Heaps is a shoe-in for the award this season. [I think. Surely.] He has already been selected to coach the North squad at All-Star Week in Montgomery later this summer.

PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW

Parker (below, left) and Raper (below, right) both rose to the occasion for their respective teams in the playoffs, while Heaps (left) guided the Golden Tigers to 30 wins and a fourth straight berth in Montgomery.



'HISER', from page 17

It was the chance he'd been waiting for, but it took a little longer than expected for him to recalibrate his mental approach following a season spent as a sub.

"Early in the year, it was like he was still deferring to other guys," Isbell said. "He had gotten used to that coming off the bench, but we needed him to be more aggressive and do some scoring for us. We needed him to realize that he was just as good as those other guys on the floor."

After totaling just 11 points in Belgreen's first five games (all wins) this past season, Hiser's breakout performance came on December 11 at home against Carbon Hill when he scored 16 of his career-high 20 points in the fourth quarter to spark a 64-63 victory.

"I think that was the kind of high-scoring game Eli needed to get him going," Isbell said.

Hiser went on to score in double-figures 11 more times before the year was done, including a 17-point, eight-rebound effort in a double-overtime win over Red Bay on January 22 in the county finals. That performance triggered a five-game stretch during which he averaged 14.2 points and knocked down a total of 11 threes.

Hiser finished the season averaging 7.7 points per game and was one of the Bulldogs' most efficient players, shooting 74 percent from the foul line, a team-best 35 percent from beyond the arc and 49 percent from the floor overall. He also averaged 3.4 rebounds per game and ranked among team leaders with 57 assists and 51 steals, earning Most Improved Player honors from the *Free Press* and helping Belgreen go 25-6 and make it to Hanceville for a second straight year.

By season's end, Hiser had decided that he wasn't ready for his basketball playing days to be done.

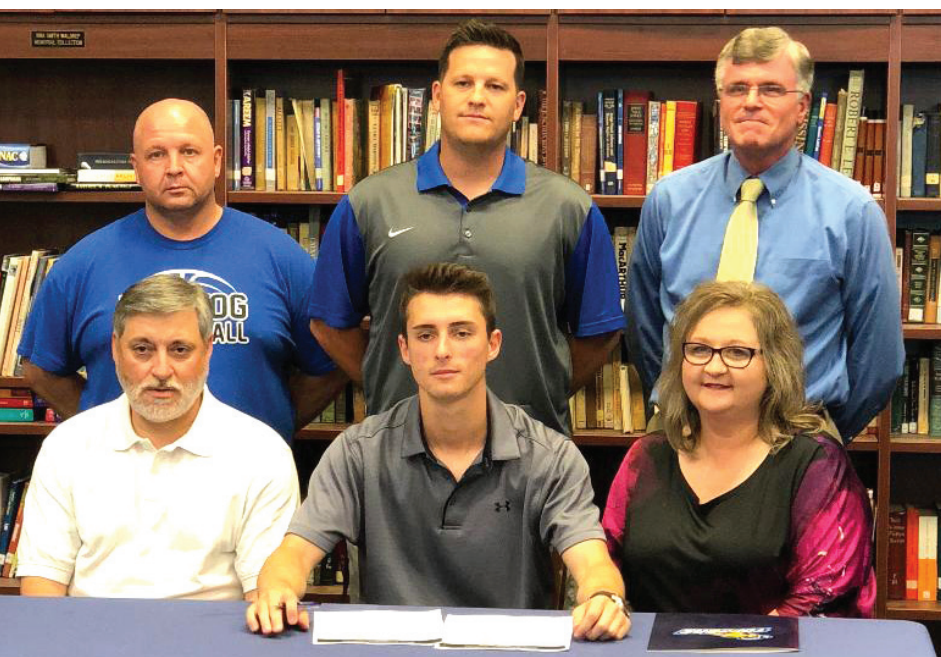
"I told Coach Isbell that I was willing to do whatever it took to play at the next level," Hiser said. "I really felt like that's where God was leading me. I told Coach that if he would set up some try-outs for me, I'd put together a highlight video and do whatever else I had to do to give myself a shot."

Hiser and fellow senior Jacob Mayberry both traveled to Montgomery to work out for Huntingdon, and both ultimately received an offer to play for the Hawks. Hiser, though, was drawn more to Blue Mountain College, a Baptist-affiliated NAIA school roughly 90 minutes from Belgreen across the Mississippi line.

"Blue Mountain just felt like home," Hiser said. "It's only an hour-and-a-half away from my house, and it's really got a great Christian atmosphere. I felt like that was an influence I needed in my life right now."

At a try-out this spring with close to 40 other aspiring players, Hiser managed to catch the attention of Blue Mountain jayvee coach Jack Moser, who also serves as the school's dean of students. Ironically, Hiser made an impression on Moser by *not* trying to make an impression.

"When you've got that many guys taking part in a try-out, everybody is looking to do something impressive," Moser said. "There were players there who were more talented [than Hiser], but I liked the way he played within himself."



COURTESY PHOTO/TRESSA BRAGWELL

BLUE MOUNTAIN HIGH - Belgreen senior Eli Hiser (seated, middle) has signed an offer to play basketball at Blue Mountain College, an NAIA school in Mississippi. Seated next to Hiser are his parents, Jason and Lisa. Standing in back, from left, are Belgreen assistant coach Chuck Simmons, Belgreen head coach Clint Isbell and Blue Mountain jayvee coach Jack Moser.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Hiser (10) helped Belgreen win 25 games and reach Hanceville for a second straight year. He scored 7.7 points per game, ranking third on the team with 57 assists and first in three-point shooting at 35 percent.

What really stood out to me was when he dove on the floor for a loose ball. That definitely caught my eye.

"From what I've seen of him, he just seems like the kind of player who will accept whatever role you give him and do what's best for the team."

On a follow-up trip to Blue Mountain, Hiser and his older sister Maggie were treated to a tour of the campus and lunch by one of the school's recruiters. It was a conversation with that recruiter that sealed the deal for Moser.

"After Eli and his sister left that day," Moser said, "[the recruiter] told me, 'It just seems like a really good fit.' There was definitely some prayer involved on both sides, and I think we all came to the same conclusion."

"When you and somebody else are on the same page, it makes the decision that much easier."

Moser made Hiser an offer, and Hiser accepted. He signed with Blue Mountain last Thursday at a ceremony in the Belgreen library, with Jason, Maggie, mom Lisa, Isbell, assistant coach Chuck Simmons, Belgreen administrators, classmates, teammates and Moser all in attendance.

"This has been a dream of mine for a long time," Hiser said. "I'm excited. Everybody thinks you have to be 6'7, 6'8 and a five-star athlete to play college basketball, but that's not true."

So what was it, in Hiser's estimation, that made him stand out to Moser at the Blue Mountain try-out?

"There are 6'1 guys with good grades who can shoot all over the state, all over the country," he said. "I think it was the way I talked and communicated on defense, the way Coach Isbell has taught us to talk and communicate on defense. And the fact that I hustled, too."

"That's what a lot of these schools are looking for—players who are disciplined and who are willing to do whatever they can to help the team."

Like, for instance, coming off the bench after a lifetime spent in the starting five. Hiser humbled himself and accepted that role as a Bulldog junior, and nearly two years later he's reaping the rewards of a valuable lesson learned. Isbell believes his former player is positioned well to make an immediate impact for the Blue Mountain jayvee.

"Eli is aggressive, he'll get up and guard you, he pushes the floor well and he can shoot," Isbell said. "When he came to me and said he wanted to play at the next level, I knew he was capable of doing that. It was just a matter of finding the right fit."

Former Golden Tigers earn All-Conference honors

Staff reports

Former Russellville High School baseball standouts Cody Greenhill and Reed Smith received All-Conference honors for their performances this season at Auburn University and Dyersburg State Community College, respectively.

Greenhill, a 2017 graduate of RHS now in his first year on The Plains, was named to the Freshman All-SEC Team. A 6'4 righthander with a fastball that reaches the mid-90s, Greenhill has put together a fabulous debut season for the Tigers. Through last Wednesday, he had made 17 appearances (all in relief), posting a 4-2 record with five saves and a 1.49 ERA. He had allowed 40 hits in 48.1 innings while striking out 47 batters, walking 16 and hitting three.

Opponents were batting just .225 off Greenhill, who picked up the win last Tuesday at the SEC Tournament in Hoover with three scoreless innings of relief in Auburn's 4-3 victory over Kentucky. The Tigers (39-19) beat Ole Miss 9-3 the following day and were set to face Texas A&M in a winner's bracket game last Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

Greenhill was one of four Tigers named freshman All-SEC, joining outfielder Steven Williams, DH Edouard Julien and starting pitcher Tanner Burns, a Decatur High School alum.

Greenhill, the Class 5A Player of the Year as a Golden Tiger senior in 2017, finished his four-year varsity career at Russellville with a 39-9 record and a 1.33 ERA. He ranks among the state's all-



time leaders in wins and strikeouts (375 in 305.1 innings). In 15 career playoff starts, he went 13-1 with a 1.48 ERA, nine complete games and 99 strikeouts in 84.2 innings, helping Russellville win three consecutive state championships from 2015-17.

In his only year at Dyersburg State, Smith, a 2016 RHS grad, earned first-team All-Conference honors as an outfielder from the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association. Smith closed out the season with a strong showing at the conference tournament, going 9-for-19 with a home run, a triple, a double, four RBIs and seven runs scored in six games as the Eagles (37-15) bounced back from a first-round loss to finish as runners-up.

For the season, Smith batted .376 (65-for-173) with eight homers, two triples and nine doubles. He hit safely in 39 of the 49 games he played in, collecting multiple hits in 19 of them. Smith drove in 45 runs, scored 55 and stole 14 bases.

He also drew 15 walks and got hit by a pitch 21 times, boosting his on-base percentage all the way up to .472.

Smith parlayed his huge season at Dyersburg into a scholarship offer from Troy University, where he plans to continue his baseball career.

At Russellville, Smith was a two-time first-team All-State selection as a shortstop, leading the Golden Tigers to Class 5A state titles in 2015 and 2016. He was MVP of the 2015 state finals series against Helena and finished his varsity career at RHS with 179 hits, 68 extra-base hits (including nine home runs) and 172 runs scored.

Elsewhere in the college ranks, 2016 Russellville grads Austin Bohannon and Austin Kitterman both enjoyed productive sophomore seasons at Shelton State. Bohannon, a 6'4 lefthander, tied for the team lead with 13 starts and finished second with 66.2 innings pitched. He went 5-3 with a 4.05 ERA, allowing 66 hits and only one home run. He struck out 50 batters and walked 23.

Kitterman, a 6'0 righthander, made a team-high 22 appearances, all in relief. He was 4-1 with two saves and a 4.81 ERA, striking out 53 batters and walking 20 in 48.2 innings pitched.



Reed Smith

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Haleyville Area Chamber of Commerce and 9-1-1 Festival

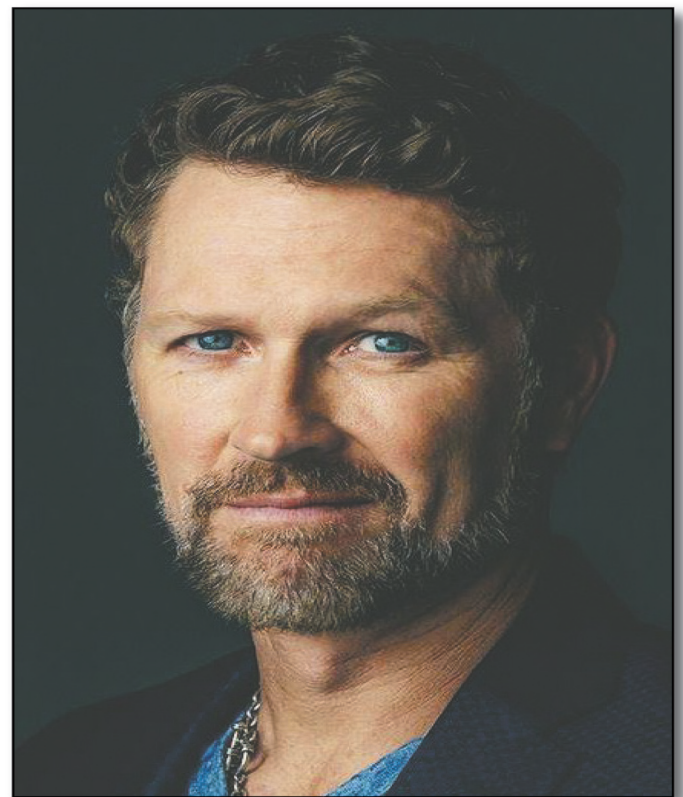
presents...

CRAIG MORGAN

FRIDAY, JUNE 1ST • 9:30 P.M.

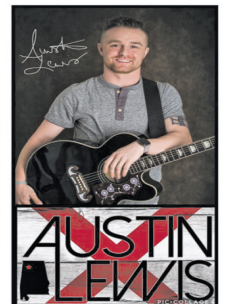
9-1-1 Festival Events

Friday, June 1st & Saturday, June 2nd, 2018



Friday Events

- 1:00 p.m. Arts/Crafts/Food Vendors Set-up on Main Street & blocked to thru traffic
- 3:00 p.m. NASCAR #88 Show Car & Race Simulator compliments of Haleyville Insurance Center and Nationwide Insurance
- 5:00 p.m. Kids' Zone Opens...Moon Jump, Slide, Obstacle Course and More!
- 5:15 p.m. Music Stage...Parking lot behind Dixie Theatre and Library Austin Lewis...Kicks it Off!
- 6:00 p.m. Tremayne
- 7:00 p.m. Handshake Promise
- 8:15 p.m. Red Marlow
- 9:30 p.m. CRAIG MORGAN
- 11:30 p.m. Reid Haughton & Band - Main Street Music Stage



Saturday Events

- 6:00 a.m. Encore Rehab/SportsFit 5k Color Fun Run - Registration at Downtown Park
- 7:00 a.m. Encore Rehab/SportsFit 5k Color Fun Run
- 8:00 a.m. Classic Car Show - Haleyville Center of Technology, Automotive Department
Registration Haleyville City Hall Safe Center Lot
Antique Tractor Show - Cox Farm Supply on behalf of FFA
Registration on Quinton Street near Maxx Cleaners
Cornhole Tournament Registration Haleyville City Hall - Front Lot
- 8:45 a.m. Main Street Music Stage - See Schedule to the right
- 9:00 a.m. Cornhole Tournament Haleyville City Hall Front Parking Lot
Arts/Crafts/Food Vendors on Main Street and Kids' Zone Opens
- 10:00 a.m. Parade...Haleyville Alumni & 9-1-1 Festival Units
- 11:30 a.m. Haleyville Alumni Luncheon at School
- Noon Fireman's Challenge - Parking Lot behind Dixie Theatre & Library
- 1:00 p.m. Classic Car Show Awards
Antique Tractor Show Awards
NASCAR #88 Show Car Departs

Main Street Music Stage

Saturday Morning

- 8:45 a.m. Mike Jones
- 9:20 a.m. Honky Tonk Dream
- 9:55 a.m. Jesse Fuson
- 10:30 a.m. Jacob McCarley
- 11:05 a.m. Spike Cleghorn

Saturday Afternoon

- Noon Bridging the Gap
- 1:30 p.m. Georgia Thunderbolts
- 3:00 p.m. Bishop Gunn

~ DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS ~

Stroll Thru Main Street, Visit The Vendors, Kids Zone Fun & Enjoy The Festival