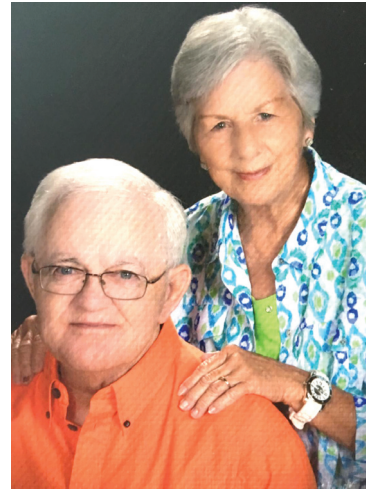


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Moss remembered for touching lives of many

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Conley Bush recalled a promise his college basketball coach made to his parents the day he was preparing to sign his scholarship. Bush would go on to play basketball for Northwest Junior College under the leadership of coach Bill Moss. Moss died August 22. He was 76. "The day I was getting ready to sign my scholarship, I overheard Coach Moss promising and telling my parents that he will make sure I get my degree," Bush said. "Every day for two years, coach stayed on me to study. He made sure I stayed out of trouble. He made sure I went to study hall. If my grades got a little low, he would call me in his office and have me explain why my grades were dropping. He would get on me and then say 'Conley, I want you to be successful in life. I'm not going to let you slip through the cracks. You will graduate.'" Bush did graduate, receiving his A.A. Degree from Northwest, then his BSW in Social Work from the University of North Alabama in 1992. To this day, Bush still



See 'MOSS,' Page 11 Bill and Nelda Moss

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Sheriff's Department intros new app

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A new phone application will allow Franklin County residents to stay informed with the latest news and information from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. 'Franklin CSO' debuted Monday and is available for free download through the App Store on iPhones and Android Market for Android phones. Franklin County sheriff Shannon Oliver announced the new app last week. Oliver contracted with a company called the Sheriff's App, and for a fee of \$3,995 the app was set up for the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. "We are paying for it through the drug seizure fund," Oliver said. "I feel like it's a worthwhile investment because of the public information aspect of the app. Everyone using the app helps us. Fighting crime is a team effort, and it takes us all working together."

the department, along with updated inmate rosters, Franklin County's most wanted and other information.

The app allows users to access all contact numbers for the department, along with updated inmate rosters, Franklin County's most wanted and other information.

"Everyone has a smart phone these days, and they're so accessible," Oliver said. "I decided this would have a lot of benefits for the people of Franklin County."

Oliver said users can receive push notifications that will offer up-to-the-minute information on road closings, missing persons, fugitive searches, investigation alerts and more.

"Everyone has a smart phone these days, and they're so accessible. I decided this would have a lot of benefits for the people of Franklin County," Oliver said. "If something is going on, they get a push notification and an alert

See 'APP,' Page 9

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Jane Elizabeth Fleming, Russellville, age 72
Died Thursday, August 23, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Old Town Creek Cemetery.

Marshel Veto Garrison, Russellville, age 88
Died Thursday, August 23, 2018. Funeral service held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in East Franklin Cemetery in Phil Campbell.

Helen C. Grissom, Russellville, age 65
Died Thursday, August 23, 2018. Graveside service held at Knights of Pythias Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Edward Oneal Harrison, Red Bay, age 75
Died Friday, August 17, 2018. Funeral held at Ten Acre Field Church of God in Red Bay. Interment in Berry Cemetery in Vina. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.

Billy Gene Moss, Phil Campbell, age 76
Died Wednesday, August 22, 2018. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville.

Rammie Thorne Oden, Tuscumbia, age 95
Died Monday, August 27, 2018. Funeral arrangements had not been announced at press time. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville was directing.

Maxwell Paul Snider, Russellville, age 79
Died Thursday, August 23, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

Julia Hutcheson Vinson, Phil Campbell
Died Monday, August 20, 2018. Funeral held at Mt. View Baptist Church in Phil Campbell. Interment in the adjoining church cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

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City council approves liquor license for new downtown restaurant

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

In spite of opposition from the pastor and several members of My Father's House Church, the Russellville City Council unanimously approved the restaurant retail liquor license application for a new downtown restaurant at the council's August 20 meeting.

The application from Finney Branch Properties, LLC d/b/a Doe's Eat Place, is for the location of the new restaurant, owned by MS Industries II, LLC owner Steve Smith. The restaurant will open in the former location of the Bricks at 114 North Jackson Avenue in downtown Russellville.

Moments after receiving a resolution from mayor David Grissom and the city council for his company's investment in Russellville of more than \$100 million, Smith spoke at the public hearing on the liquor license application.

"Every town in America is trying to resurrect its downtown, and you can't do it without an A-1 anchor restaurant," Smith said. "This will be the fourteenth Doe's Eat Place in the United States. I chose to spend my money in this economy. This is an A-plus restaurant in a location to where it otherwise would not be because of the great efforts of your mayor and council."

"Any restaurant in America has a ten-percent chance to be successful and a ninety-percent chance to fail. We need this in order to be successful," Smith said. "Every town in America is trying to resurrect its downtown, and you can't do it without an A-1 anchor restaurant."

"This will be the fourteenth Doe's Eat Place in the United States. I chose to spend my money in this economy. This is an A-plus restaurant in a location to where it otherwise would not be because of the great efforts of your mayor and council."

Doe's is a chain of restaurants established in 1941 in Greenville, Mississippi, by Dominick "Big Doe" Signa and his wife Mamie. The menu features the chain's staple hot tamales as well as top cut steaks cooked on an open broiler, and fried and broiled shrimp.

The public hearing on the retail liquor license for Doe's began with Russellville fire chief Joe Mansell, a member of the city's Alcohol Review Committee, telling the council the application was in compliance with the city's alcohol ordinance and that his committee recommended approval of the application.

My Father's House pastor Pearl Shelton told the council she opposed the application because of the destructive effects of alcohol.

"Alcohol destroys young people's lives. I'm here representing Christ Jesus tonight and the laws He stood for, and He says we are not to have strong

See 'COUNCIL,' Page 9



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Mayor David Grissom and the Russellville City Council presented Steven Smith and MS Industries II, LLC, with a resolution of appreciation for their investment in the city of Russellville at an August 20 meeting.

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Honey Do: Wall prep

A couple of weeks ago in this space, we discussed how a new paint job can really liven up a room and change the atmosphere inside your home. This week, how about preparation?

If you want a new, inspiring, mood-setting, fresh look to your home, a fresh coat of paint is a great place to start, and the work begins with surface preparation.

Dents and dings on the walls seem to “magically” appear over time. Here are a few tips for “touching up” a wall.

With any paint job, you should start with a clean, smooth surface for the best adhesion of the paint to the wall. Using a sponge, mild detergent (TSP is a great product) and water, wipe down the wall and dry it with a towel.

Now is the time to repair any

Before applying spackling, you should smooth out any rough spots or edges with a fine sandpaper. Wipe away dust and debris, and apply the spackling with a flexible putty knife. “Feather” the spackling smoothly out onto the wall. You can use a damp cloth to lightly smooth out the spackling before it hardens.

holes, gouges or scratches. For this job, spackling compound is your new best friend. This product has greatly changed in the last few years.

In the past, this was a two- or three-application process, because the spackling would shrink and crack as it dried. New “lightweight” spackling has much less water content, dries faster, shrinks less and sands better than the old stuff. You can even get spackling that goes on pink and changes to white as it dries.

Before applying spackling, you should smooth out any rough spots or edges with a fine sandpaper. Wipe away dust and debris, and apply the spackling with a flexible putty knife.

“Feather” the spackling smoothly out onto the wall. You can use a damp cloth to lightly smooth out the spackling before it hardens.

If you have larger holes, you may need to use a backer board or a “wall patch.” We’ll talk about that next week.

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



Doug Green



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Learning financial lessons from the fall of MoviePass

By Parker Snider
Alabama Policy Institute

One year ago, a relatively unknown company announced that, for a monthly fee of \$9.95, subscribers could see one movie a day without paying anything at the box office. That's right—even though the average movie ticket in the U.S. is \$9, a \$9.95 monthly subscription could get you into 31 movies.

Since last August, three million film-goers have subscribed to MoviePass, the company offering this seemingly too-good-to-be-true service.

Profitability aside, the service worked. Many subscribers did, in fact, see movies day after day. Blockbusters like the eighth *Star Wars* film were viewed repeatedly by fans, and, as loyal subscribers became the company's most potent salesmen, MoviePass' subscription rate skyrocketed.

Things didn't stay rosy forever, though.

The weekend before eventual \$2 billion-earner *Avengers: Infinity War* hit theatres in late April, MoviePass conveniently announced that they would no longer allow repeat viewings of one movie.

This was the beginning of the end.

In the weeks following, MoviePass declared a slew of changes to their service, including black-outs of popular movies and surcharges to other films that, at times, were more expensive than buying a ticket without MoviePass (i.e. an \$8 sur-

charge for a \$5 movie).

In late July, MoviePass subscribers found the system unavailable and customer service unresponsive. The company, as expected, finally ran out of cash.

Although MoviePass was able to secure another loan to stay above water, the company's future is in serious doubt. As of publication, the stock of MoviePass parent company Helios & Matheson Analytics is trading at a lowly \$0.05.

The best way to learn, some say, is from failure. Alabama residents and lawmakers alike should learn from the demise of MoviePass. The lesson? The importance of fiscal responsibility.

The best way to learn, some say, is from failure. Alabama residents and lawmakers alike, therefore, should learn from the demise of MoviePass. The lesson? The importance of fiscal responsibility.

Fiscal responsibility first demands a healthy sense of realism. MoviePass lacked realistic expectations and now needs another “another \$1.2 billion,” according to CNN.

The truth is that our public policy discussions are full of MoviePass-like hopes: Ideas that are well intentioned but simply lack realistic expectations. A system of government-sponsored “basic income,” in which residents receive generous sums of money for living expenses, is one recent example of this type of idea.



unemployment scenario or other emergency.

Dave

Secured vs. unsecured debt?

Dear Dave,
What exactly is unsecured debt, and how is it different from secured debt?

Rich

Dear Rich,
"Unsecured" debt generally means someone loaned you money, but they don't have a lien on anything. Credit cards and student loans are examples of unsecured debt, because there's nothing they can directly repossess if the borrower doesn't pay. However, they can sue you if you don't pay and get a lien against something *after* they sue you. In some cases, this is done against your income by garnishing your wages.

Some examples of "secured" debt would be things like a home mortgage or car loan. A home mortgage loan is secured by the home. If you don't pay, they can foreclose and take the house. The same is true with a car loan. If you don't make the payments, they can take the car.

Typically, unsecured debts will be the last debts you pay if you're in financial trouble. You'd make the car payment before paying on your student loan, and you'd make your house payment before paying on a credit card.

Hope this helps, Rich!

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 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

'LESSONS,' from page 4

Fiscal responsibility also requires honesty. Unlike MoviePass's perhaps knowingly deceptive relationship with its customers, policy-makers with accurate understandings of finance and economics must be honest—off and on the campaign trail—about the financial viability of certain public policies. Lofty campaign promises made in full view of a different post-election reality do nothing but increase expectations and, when these expectations aren't met, decrease trust in government.

The problem is that, like MoviePass, giveaway ideas like these become popular fast, and often for good reason. These proposals are hopeful, compassionate and promoted by people who genuinely believe they will work. Often, however, the "how" gets ignored, those who understand the likelihood of failure stand silent, and the project collapses.

Instead of giving credence to unrealistic and unlikely proposals, Alabama residents and lawmakers should realistically and honestly engage public policy ideas that have the potential to succeed, not just for an official's time in office, but in the long run. These ideas may not be as dramatic or fashionable as MoviePass, but they just might work.

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

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


 The Russellville High School Tiger Moms are holding a Gift Basket Raffle as a fundraiser. Drawing will take place at the Homecoming Game on October 12. Two baskets will be given away. Buy one ticket for \$5 or five tickets for \$20. Baskets include a variety of gift cards and items from local stores. Contact Melissa Andres at 256-460-5016 or any Tiger Mom for tickets.


 The Russellville High School Touchdown Club will begin meeting this Friday, August 31 at noon on the top floor of the RHS field house. The yearly fee to be a Touchdown Club member is \$175. Lunch is served. Each Friday, Golden Tiger football coach John Ritter will review the previous week's game and also look ahead at that night's opponent. For more information or to join, call Joey Rushing at 256-710-4713.


 The Cowboy Church of Franklin County (25100 Hwy. 24, Russellville) will hold a Youth Rally for students age 12 to 18 this Saturday, September 1 at 6 p.m. Chuck Wagon will serve the meal. There will be contests, door prizes and music, plus line dancing and arena games. Dress for weather. Arena events will take place rain or shine. Speaker will be Brian Welch. Best church sign wins a prize!


 For anyone with the courage to be honest about life's hurts, habits and hang-ups, First United Methodist Church of Russellville will host *Celebrate Recovery!* on Tuesday nights with supper at 6 p.m., large group at 6:30 and small groups at 7:30. Free childcare provided. Church is located at 311 North Jackson Avenue. Come and join us!


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


 At First Fridays in downtown Florence on September 7, there will be a Johnnie Taylor Tribute featuring T.J. Hooker Taylor (son of the legendary Johnnie Taylor) and entertainment from Kozmic Mama, Rue Davis and Judy Toney. Doors open at 7 p.m. Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased at Nu Way Records, Singing River, Ingas Lashes, Counts Brothers and Coldwater Books.


 Starting on September 9, Russellville FUMC will host a men's and a women's Step Study on Sundays from 3-5 pm. A step study guides you through a process of discovery and recovery over your hurts, hang-ups and habits. Everyone is welcome to attend.


 The next meeting for American Legion Post 64 will be Thursday, September 13 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

 The American Cancer Society Relay for Life of the Shoals invites you to their 2019 Kick-Off, as they Turn the Page on Cancer! The event will be Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Listerhill Credit Union Auditorium (4790 East Second Street, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661). A light meal will be provided. There will be special guest speakers, an awards presentation for outstanding volunteers and door prizes for attendees. Please RSVP to melmax34@yahoo.com. Funds raised help the American Cancer Society attack cancer in dozens of ways, each of them critical to achieving a world without cancer—from developing breakthrough therapies to building supportive communities, to providing empowering resources to deploying activists to raise awareness.

 Attention Hunters & Outdoorsmen! Make plans to attend H.U.N.T. A Outdoors Ministry's "Beast Feast," set for Saturday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m. at Mountain View Baptist Church, 2110 Hwy. 81 in Phil Campbell. Doors open at 5 p.m. Tickets are FREE and can be picked up at Mountain View Baptist Church. Enjoy food, fun, fellowship and prizes. The event will feature T.W. Norman, lead pastor at Little Chapel Church in Harrisburg, Illinois. He is an expert on growing and chasing mature whitetails. His heart's desire is to see people's lives changed and eternities altered by the saving power of Jesus Christ. The event will feature door prizes. Must be present to win. For more information, contact Jason Hester at 256-366-9126 or Benton Nix at 256-810-7747.

 The American Cancer Society Relay for Life will hold a support group meeting for survivors and caregivers on Sunday, September 16 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at ECM East (2111 Cloyd Blvd., Florence, AL 35630). Everyone is invited to come and share their journey. Light refreshments will be served.

 East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department will be serving William Earl Bishop's smoked chicken and pulled BBQ pork plates from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, September 21. Proceeds will be used to purchase residential 911 address signs. The fire department is located at 10443 Hwy. 81, Phil Campbell, AL 35581. Plates cost \$10 each. Thank you for your support!

 The fifth annual "Run for Their Lives" 5K/1 Mile Run/Walk is set for Saturday, September 22 at McFarland Park, Shelter #1 in Florence. 5K starts at 9 a.m. One Mile start is 9:15 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. is the start time for the Pet Costume Contest. Well-behaved pets who are up-to-date on shots are encouraged to participate. Register online at runfortheirlives.itsyourrace.com. For more information, call 256-810-1965. The event benefits H.A.S.R.A., the Heart of Alabama Save Rescue Adopt.

Singing River Dentistry welcomes new doctors

Submitted to the FFP

The American Dental Association reports that 48.5 percent of dental school graduates in 2018 were women, compared to 36.4 percent in 1996 and 4.6 percent in 1976. Currently, 60 percent of all practicing dentists under the age of 44 are women.

Singing River Dentistry is proud to be a part of this trend by welcoming Drs. Victoria McClanahan, Whitney Flippo and Cybil Geiss to our 12-doctor dental practice in the Shoals. Drs. McClanahan and Flippo are graduates of the University of Alabama School of Dentistry, while Dr. Geiss graduated from the University of Louisville School of Dentistry. Each of these ladies is committed to the Singing River Dentistry core value of putting the patient first.

"I am encouraged by the amount of recent dental school graduates who are female," said Dr. Flippo, a Florence native. "My choice to practice dentistry was driven by a desire to serve my community and make a difference in the lives of others on a more personal and meaningful level. Singing River Dentistry was a natural fit for me, because I am able to provide quality care with a team that feels like family."

"I am encouraged by the amount of recent dental school graduates who are female," said Dr. Flippo, a Florence native. "My choice to practice dentistry was driven by a desire to serve my community and make a difference in the lives of others on a more personal and meaningful level."

Dr. McClanahan, of Birmingham, was eager to join Singing River Dentistry as well.

"The innovative technology available at Singing River Dentistry rivaled that of other dental practices," Dr. McClanahan said, "and the ability to provide my patients with state-of-the-art procedures, coupled with compassionate care, made the Shoals and Singing River Dentistry an obvious first choice."

Dr. Geiss, a Shoals area native, stated she has always been interested in the medical field, especially since her mom, Dr. Teresa Lango, is a prominent cardiologist. While in college, Dr. Geiss shadowed Dr. Jimmy Gardiner of Singing River Dentistry and decided then that the dental field and Singing River Dentistry were a great fit for her since she enjoys the idea of practicing in a team environment.

"I look forward to the opportunity to share ideas with a team of doctors who ensure each patient gets the very best care," says Dr. Geiss.

With dentistry estimated to become a female-dominated profession by 2020, Drs. McClanahan, Flippo and Geiss are proud to be part of this historic time in dental history.

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Britton running for State House in District 18

Submitted to the FFP

I am Eddie Britton, and I am running for the Alabama House - District 18. I am proud to have called Belgreen my home for my entire life. My wife Kathy and I own several small businesses in the area and raise cattle. We have been married for 41 years and are parents to Alison and David. We are blessed to be grandparents to four beautiful children.

Our district's children have been the center of my life. After receiving my Bachelor's degree in math and science at the University of North Alabama, I spent my entire career in education. I taught math and science at Red Bay and Phil Campbell High Schools before returning to Belgreen as assistant principal and then principal of Belgreen High School. I also taught night school for 11 years at Northwest-Shoals Community College, a particularly satisfying experience because I had attended NW-SCC as a student prior to transferring to UNA. While working as an educator, I obtained both a Master's degree from UNA and a Doctorate from Samford University.

I was chosen to serve as president of the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals and also served as chair of the Southern Region of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. I am proud to have been selected as Principal of the Year in Alabama.

I am a member of the Franklin County Cattlemen's Association, the Gideons and Rotary International. For many years, I was a volunteer with the Belgreen Fire Department, and as a young man I was active in Boy Scouts. Kathy and I attend Belgreen United Methodist Church. When I have the time, I enjoy hunting, fishing and golfing. On Saturdays in the fall, I can be found at Bryant-Denny Stadium cheering the Crimson Tide on to victory.



Eddie Britton

Why I Am Running

I was born and raised here and oversaw the education of two generations of our young people. I care deeply about the future of our district. After putting all of my efforts into educating our children, it is important to me that we promise our young people that they can stay and thrive here.

In order for us to deliver on that promise we need to:

- Make sure our schools are excellent and safe for their children.
- Ensure they have quality health care available when a crisis strikes with a strong system of rural

hospitals and affordable health insurance.

- Create good jobs locally to allow them to stay here and raise their families.
- Improve our Infrastructure by restoring our deteriorating roads and bridges.
- Work with all sides to get things done.
- Generate opportunities in our tech schools for young people to earn an apprenticeship before graduating from high school in trades such as machinists, welders, electricians, plumbers, computer operators, pipe-fitters, etc.
- Provide the know-how and support to allow the next generation of farmers to succeed.

What does Eddie Britton stand for?

- I am pro-life.
- I support the second amendment.
- I support Term Limits for all state-level positions.
- I will support a new law where the names of all local candidates, including judges, will appear on both primary ballots, which will allow every voter to vote for the candidate of their choice, regardless of party affiliation.

I have spent my whole career setting and meeting high expectations. Only our best is good enough for those for which we are responsible. It is time to expect Montgomery to deliver on the promises we make to the next generation—the promises of a better Alabama.

Please vote for Eddie Britton on November 6, 2018.

MSU students come to aid of local cattle farmer

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A Spruce Pine cattle farmer received a house call at his farm Monday morning, as local veterinarian Dr. Emily Beason and a crew of students from the Mississippi State School of Veterinary Medicine came to research what caused the death of four Brangus cows.

Mike Madden, owner of Madden Brangus Farms, saw six cows become gravely ill with no apparent cause. When four of them died, Madden contacted Dr. Beason, who sent one of the animals to Starkville, MS for further research.

The third-year veterinary students are all in a required class on population medicine, and they accompanied Dr. D.R. Smith on the trip to Spruce Pine to do further research on what was causing the deaths.

After a morning in Madden's pasture, the cause was pinpointed to be perilla mint, a herbaceous annual native to East Asia that can grow to heights of two feet. Perilla mint is a common cause of cattle deaths in the United States.

According to officials with the University of Tennessee, perilla mint causes more cattle deaths in Tennessee than any other toxic plant.

Perilla mint contains ketones that cause acute respiratory distress syndrome in cattle, also called panting disease. Cattle, according to UT Extension officials, do not normally feed on perilla mint unless it is flowering and other forages are in short supply.

Perilla mint is a common cause of cattle deaths in the United States.

"They came here and quickly determined that was the toxin," Madden said. "I really appreciated them coming all this way to help us out. I never expected anything like this. This is a free service from Mississippi State that farmers need to know about."

Madden said the cows died within a few hours of when he noticed they had become ill.

"They came here and quickly determined that was the toxin," Madden said. "I really appreciated them coming all this way to help us out. I never expected anything like this. This is a free service from Mississippi State that farmers need to know about."

Dr. Smith said it requires a referral from a veterinarian in order for the Mississippi State facility to make a field visit to a farm.

"It's a two-way street. We try to help solve the farmer's problem, and our students get the opportunity to be exposed to these types of problems," Smith said. "It's a benefit to us and our students as well."

Madden had heard previously about a goat farm being destroyed by perilla mint, but he was unaware it was a problem on his farm until Monday.

"With something this serious, people need to know about it," Madden said. "Perilla mint can kill a herd quickly if not treated and killed. The important thing is to maintain the pasture. It's one of the most toxic poisonous plants cattle can come across."

Beason said Mississippi State is an important ally in issues like Madden's where the apparent cause of death of an animal isn't readily apparent.

"This is a class every veterinary students takes, and they look at both small and large animals," Beason said. "That way, they can be beneficial wherever they go to start their practice."

Beason is one of three veterinarians at the Russellville Animal Clinic, located at 15392 Highway 43.

Although perilla mint is toxic to livestock, its seed is used for cooking oil and fuel in Asia. The plant gives off a distinctive minty odor when the leaves and stems are crushed.



COURTESY PHOTO

Spruce Pine cattle farmer Mike Madden received a house call at his farm Monday, as local veterinarian Dr. Emily Beason and a crew of students from the Mississippi State School of Veterinary Medicine came to research what caused the death of four Brangus cows.

Board okays health services contracts

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education approved a series of contracts for behavioral health services at its August 23 meeting.

The annual contracts provide for behavioral and mental health services for Russellville City Schools students. Six contracts were approved:

- Bridges Behavior Therapy & Consulting for behavioral analytic services from August 1, 2018 through August 1, 2019, at a rate of \$125/hour, \$75/hour and \$40/hour, depending on the level of qualification of the practitioner.

- Bragwell Services, LLC, for mental health professional services for the 2018-19 school year at a rate of \$60/hour.

- Counseling, Evaluation and Consultation Services for psychometric services from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019, at a rate of \$125 per test and a fee schedule for evaluations.

- Leslie Murphy for therapy services for the 2018-19 school year, at a rate of \$50 per 40-minute session and \$80/evaluation.

- Stepping Stone Pediatric Therapy for occupational therapy services from August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019, at a rate of \$100/evaluation and \$60/hour for therapy.

- Jessica Darracot for language mentor services for the 2018-19 school year at a rate of \$60 per two-hour session and \$15/hour thereafter.

RCS superintendent of education Heath Grimes gave the board an update on the new school year and said it was going smoothly with no issues.

"We've had a great start to the school year, and a lot of that credit goes to the principals for that start," Grimes said. "I've been in classrooms at Russellville Middle School and Russellville High School the last week. We have amazing instructors with lots of love for their students, and they are making sure students are engaging. All that is

happening as it should be."

In other action, the board:

- Approved updates to its handbook to include policy and procedural changes as required for the new school year.

- Approved facility use requests for the West Elementary School gym on September 11-13 for the RHS cheerleaders mini cheer clinic fundraiser; RCS board room on September 27 for a training session conducted by the Alabama Rural Water Association; RHS track on October 13 for a 5K run sponsored by the RCS Education Foundation; RHS fine arts building on November 17 for RHS Color Guard's "Mistletoe Market" fundraiser; RHS Stadium on August 23, September 8 and October 12 and 20 for the Russellville Youth Football Organization to host games.

- Approved updates to the At-Risk, Capital and Professional Development Plans as required by federal, state and local law.

- Approved personnel moves including: Retirement in position of Paige Hargett, attendance aide at RHS, effective November 1, 2018 and Christie Bostick, RES teacher, effective October 1, 2018; Leave of absence for Lauren Hellums, RES teacher, from November 15-December 19, Stacy Rackley, RMS teacher from August 9-November 9 and Patricia Bragwell, bus driver, from August 17-September 14; Temporary employment of Heather Godwin, 21 CCLC teacher and Emily Vess, temporary employment to fill Lauren Hellums' leave; Employment in position of Carrie Mosteller, RES special education teacher (pending Alabama certification) effective September 24; Athletic consultant Colby Moon to be a pro consult for the RHS football team with maximum payment not to exceed \$960 and to be paid by the Football Booster Club; Resignation in position of Bridgette Smith, ISS aide and volleyball coach at RMS, effective August 24.

'COUNCIL,' from page 1

drink," Shelton said. "I'm here to stand up for the Lord and oppose the license due to the standard of holiness."

Several members of Shelton's church also spoke against the application, including Mike Inman, who also based his opposition on grounds of faith.

"We have laws in America, but you also have God's laws," Inman said. "If you go to church and say you're a Christian and then vote for this, you stand accountable to God for every person who buys something and hurts someone else or destroys someone's family."

Russellville resident Dick Tutich spoke in favor of the application and pointed out that the Bricks also served alcohol.

"I see no reason not to issue the license," Tutich said. "We already had a restaurant there who had a liquor license, and there were no problems."

Smith also addressed the council and referred to the issuance of the previous liquor license.

"Life is about choices. I'm a Christian, too," Smith said. "Where were these folks when the other permit was issued? I'm not an infallible human being, but I'm honest and I do the best I can. I thank the mayor and council for your consideration."

Shelton told Smith her opposition wasn't personal. Rather, it was based on faith and the word.

"I'm not standing against you," Shelton said. "I'm standing against alcohol. If we stand for the Lord, He'll bless our city and bless us with good businesses that are strong."

Councilman William Nale made the motion to

approve the application for Doe's Eat Place. Jamie Harris seconded it, and the motion carried 5-0, including the mayor's vote. Councilman David Palmer was absent from Monday's meeting.

In other action, the council:

- Approved the annexation of 107 Skyline Drive, owned by Caley and Mandy Farris, into the city limits.

- Approved the purchase of a Walker 48" deck mower from Kiel Equipment for the Russellville Park and Recreation Department in the amount of \$13,987.

- Approved the purchase of a CA2572 aerator for the Russellville Park and Recreation Department in the amount of \$3,112.

- Approved the lowest responsible bid of \$5,650 from Eagle Fence Company for fence repairs at the John Blackwell Sports Complex and the old junior high football field.

- Approved the hiring of Corey Bray as equipment operator II in the Russellville Street Department.

- Agreed to waive the fee for the A. W. Todd Center for the Russellville Civitan Club to use the facility on September 18.

- Approved a \$15,000 expenditure for new Christmas decorations for the city. The decorations will be selected and displayed with the help of the Cultura Garden Club. Harris voted against the motion to allocate the \$15,000.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council will be September 4, 2018, with work session at 6 p.m. and meeting to follow.

'APP,' from page 1

on their phone."

Oliver said the app can also update users on weather alerts as well as other information that can help law enforcement.

"If we have a vehicle description, for example, and people see the vehicle, they can call us," Oliver said. "Many of our crimes, like burglaries, are solved by tips we get from the public."

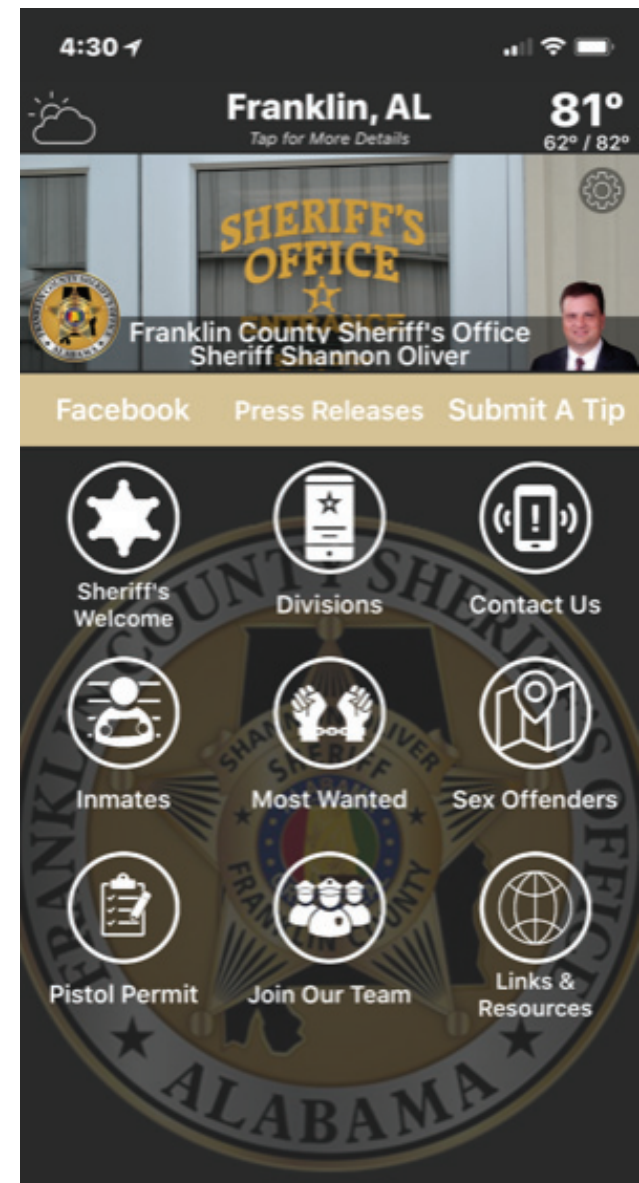
"If we have a vehicle description, for example, and people see the vehicle, they can call us," Oliver said. "Many of our crimes, like burglaries, are solved by tips we get from the public."

The app also allows users to submit tips through a tip hotline where the tipster can identify himself or remain anonymous.

There is extensive information on the app about pistol permits and the Alabama laws that govern the issuance of those, as well as information on employment with the sheriff's department, a list of area sex offenders and access to press releases from the department.

"The inmate roster is a very popular feature for the public," Oliver said. "The app is connected to our system, and updated information will be there within five minutes of when the information is submitted at our jail."

The app also has a link to the sheriff's department Facebook page.





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BUSINESS ADS

YARD SALES/ ESTATE SALES

GARAGE SALE. 2019 Liberty Ave. NW in Russellville. Thursday/Friday, Aug. 30/31. 7 a.m.-until. Watch for signs. Housewares, Antiques, Collectibles, Men's Women's clothing, much more!

Yard Sale. Thurs./Fri. August 30/31. 8 a.m.-until. 2560 Hwy. 75, Phil Campbell. Lots of household décor, clothing, shoes and more!

Yard Sale this Thursday/Friday, August 30/31 from 6 am-5 pm at 6780 Hwy. 22, Spruce Pine. Watch for signs. Household items, men's and women's clothing, Alabama football items and much more!

Community Yard Sale. Southwood Gardens Apartments. 503 Cross St., Russellville. Saturday, Sept. 1. Little bit of everything. Too much to mention!

MOVING SALE. Saturday, Sept. 1, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. 409 Green

Ave. NW, Russellville. (Two blocks from Franklin County Courthouse). Men's, women's and baby clothing and shoes, household items, kitchen items, small appliances, lots of décor, small furniture pieces and plenty more! Everything must go!!

HOUSES/ APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR SALE

House for Rent. 2 BR/1 BA. Clean home. Good neighborhood. \$450/mo. plus deposit. Call 256-627-3746 after 5 p.m.

Houses and apartments for rent. Call 256-291-7572. (1)

House for rent. 3 BR, 3 BA. Central heat/air. Deposit required. Call 256-436-4622. (2)

2 BR house, 2 BA. 1 BR duplex with large yard, patio. 1 BR duplex, furnished with patio and private entrance. Call 256-627-1916 or 256-332-5081. (5)

GIVEAWAYS

Free Siamese Kitten. Found her and needs a good home. Great disposition. Friendly with dogs. Approximately 10 weeks old. Call 256-668-6200. (1)

FREE to good home.

Long haired Siamese Adult Female Cat and four mixed kittens. Call Pamela Reynolds at 256-460-9434. (4)

FURNITURE

Sofa and Loveseat for sale. \$300. Khaki green in color. Good condition. 326 Ash Ave., across from RV Rec Center. Call 256-436-1699. (1)

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I will clean houses/ office buildings for \$10 an hour. Call 256-324-4021. If no answer, leave a message. (1)

MISC. FOR SALE

Playstation 3 for sale. \$100. Also have First Act Beginner's Guitar. \$50. Call 256-668-5250.

Record Collection for sale. 150 albums, all still in covers. Will take \$3/apiece for them. Also have more than 100 45 rpm records. Will take 50 cents apiece for them. Call 256-398-8158. (2)

Camper for sale. 2006 KZ Jazz. 26 feet, Sleek 6. Needs some TLC. \$5,000 OBO. Call 256-291-7151. (2)

Okra for sale. \$18 a bushel. \$10 a half-bushel. \$0.90 a pound. 256-446-8232. (3)

1985 Honda Spree Scooter, only 876 original hours. Good tires, seat not torn, all lights & gauges work, new battery, new oil & air filter, clean carburetor, new plug, runs good, new

electric choke, good paint. Almost perfect! 180-lb. maximum weight limit. Great for teenager or a good collector's item. \$675. Call 256-436-1186. If no answer, please leave a message. (4)

Cuisinart Prep 11 Plus. Cup with two bowls. 3/4 hp motor. 3 sets of blades w/2 blade holders. Used less than five times. \$175. Call 256-332-3677. If no answer, leave a message. (4)

For sale: Two burial plots at Franklin Memory Gardens. Located in the Devotion Section, which is the oldest section of the cemetery, located in the center circle in the back. Plots are Section 40C, 3 & 4. Asking \$2,200 for both. Please call 256-483-5049. Serious inquiries only. (4)

Local honey for sale. \$15/quart. Call 256-332-1369. (5)

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Yard Sale 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

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Morrow: State should challenge FCC coverage maps

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Football season is here, and Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D-Red Bay) says the State of Alabama has fumbled the snap when it comes to challenging the Federal Communications Commission's mobile network coverage maps.

The deadline for rural wireless operators and governmental entities to challenge the maps has been extended to November 26, 2018, but according to Morrow Alabama has "dropped the ball" and has taken no action to prepare to file a challenge.

At issue is more than \$4.5 billion in funds available through the Mobility Fund II that will be distributed over the next ten years to subsidize the costs of network deployment in unserved or underserved areas without LTE coverage.

Morrow said the FCC's map of network coverage showed at least 4G coverage "in every area of Alabama except for a few places."

As Morrow travels across northwest Alabama and the entire state, he deals with dropped calls

throughout the state, and he takes issue with the FCC coverage map.

When each phone subscriber pays his or her monthly bill, a \$1.50 fee is added that is paid into the Mobility Fund and is set aside for providers to build in unserved areas.

Morrow has organized a community meeting set for Wednesday, September 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the Tuscumbia Roundhouse to discuss what he hopes will be a rapid response from the state.

"In Alabama, we stand to lose \$100 million that could be used to build cell phone towers if we can prove the maps wrong," Morrow said.

Morrow met with Mississippi Public Service Commission president Brandon Presley Monday morning and was surprised to hear of the pending deadline. Presley and his commission are preparing challenge maps to fight for Mississippi's fair share of fund monies.

"They have a full staff working around the clock

to try and disprove the maps," Morrow said. "It amazed me how we in Alabama let this go by and did not even prepare a challenge."

Morrow has organized a community meeting set for Wednesday, September 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the Tuscumbia Roundhouse to discuss what he hopes will be a rapid response from the state. Presley plans to attend next week's meeting.

"In Alabama, we stand to lose \$100 million that could be used to build cell phone towers if we can prove the maps wrong," Morrow said. "Nobody in Alabama is taking any action. The next step is to educate the public about this important issue."

Morrow said the public can download a special app on cell phones that records when calls are dropped and sends that information to the FCC.

Morrow said he is working with the Alabama Farmers Federation to try and get that organization involved in the project.

"It's just too important to let this deadline go by," Morrow said.

For more information on the FCC and its network coverage maps, log onto www.fcc.gov.

'MOSS', from page 1

credits Moss for all he did to positively impact his life. Bush, along with Sammy Taylor, officiated Moss's funeral service.

Moss graduated from Deshler High School in 1960. He began coaching at Section High School, followed by Phil Campbell High School from 1967-74, where he met his wife Nelda Wynn Moss. Moss went on to coach at Belgreen for three years. He returned to teaching and coaching at Northwest Junior College in 1983 until he retired after being elected to the Franklin County Commission (1996-2000) and as Franklin County superintendent of education (2000-2008).

"I worked for him when he was athletic director at Northwest, and he gave me my first shot at coaching by hiring me as baseball coach," Ward said. "I loved him like a father. Bill coached and taught just about everybody in north Alabama. He taught accounting and was a very smart man, and he touched the lives of a lot of people."

Not only did Moss leave a legacy with hundreds of former students and players, he left a legacy within his own family. He and Nelda have three children and six grandchildren.

Even after his passing, Moss continues to have an impact on education, as donations to the Franklin County Board of Education to be used for special education needs were requested in lieu of flowers.

Former Northwest and Russellville High School baseball coach David Ward always appreciated Moss for taking a chance on him.

"I worked for him when he was athletic director at Northwest, and he gave me my first shot at coaching by hiring me as baseball coach," Ward said. "I loved him like a father. Bill coached and taught just about everybody in north Alabama. He taught accounting and was a very smart man, and he touched the lives of a lot of people."

In addition to his passion for family, his students and players, Moss had a passion for politics and wasn't shy about sharing his opinion.

A frequent caller on Tommy "Hutty" Hutcheson's morning radio talk show, Moss often became impatient with Hutcheson as the two grappled about local and national news events.

"He called me last week," Hutcheson said. "He was getting on me about politics. He loved to argue. I told Moss I thought I only knew one thing, but after that call I now knew two things in the world. First, I knew he didn't know anything about

coaching. Second, I told him I knew he didn't know anything about politics either. He got mad and hung up.

"He enjoyed talking and getting me fired up, and I did too."

Hutcheson laughingly recalled telling Moss he was a lot like himself.

"I told him, like me, he'd gotten old and ornery," Hutcheson said. "I'll miss him. I thought the world of Moss."

Bart Moss, a teacher at Tharptown High School, said he couldn't count the number of times someone shared a story with him about how his father affected his or her life.

"He was a good-hearted and generous man," Bart Moss said. "When I go out to some public event, it never fails that someone asks about him or tells me some new story about something he did for them or what kind of impact he had on them. Those are the stories I will always cherish about my dad."

Franklin County engineer David Palmer recalled how Moss helped lead the county through an important transition when he was a county commissioner.

"Things were changing at the Highway Department from the old-school way of doing things when the county had more money and resources," Palmer said. "We needed good leadership at that time, and the commission had to make tough decisions on what to cut back. It was a tough time to be in office. But Bill was a forward thinker. He was able to envision the way things would be down the road and to make some decisions that sometimes weren't as popular at the time. I always had a lot of respect for him."

"Things were changing at the Highway Department from the old-school way of doing things when the county had more money and resources," Palmer said. "Bill came through at a time of tough transition and realism of how we couldn't do things like we did when the State of Alabama still had responsibility for roads in Franklin County.

"We needed good leadership at that time, and the commission had to make tough decisions on what to cut back. It was a tough time to be in office. But Bill was a forward thinker. He was able to envision the way things would be down the road and to make some decisions that sometimes

weren't as popular at the time. I always had a lot of respect for him due to his ability to make some of those decisions."

As Moss's health declined in recent years, he became less mobile and stayed at home more. One positive, though, was that Moss could watch every second of his beloved Atlanta Braves on television.

"This summer he had a hard time keeping his TV going or his remote control working," Bart recalled. "So when his TV goes out, everything has to come to a grinding halt. He would call me and say 'Where you at? I need you to come fix my TV.'

"He was a good-hearted and generous man," Bart Moss said. "When I go out to some public event, it never fails that someone asks about him or tells me some new story about something he did for them or what kind of impact he had on them. Those are the stories I will always cherish about my dad."

"And it would get frustrating at times to have to drive to Phil Campbell and fix a remote controller or television three or four times a week, but I would give anything if he would just call me one more time and ask me to come fix his TV so I can tell him I love him again.

"Always cherish those times you have with the people you love. Never be afraid to tell someone you really care about that you love them, because you never know if you'll get that chance again."

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Week 1 in the SEC



Mike Self
Sports Editor

Every week in this space, we'll break down the four most intriguing games on the SEC schedule and give you a pick on each of them. Let's do it.

Saturday, September 1
Ole Miss vs. Texas Tech

Tech is a slight favorite in Houston in what should be one of the highest-scoring games of the weekend. Ole Miss has led the SEC in passing offense for three straight years, and the Rebels are a good bet to make it four with Jordan Ta'amu (league-best 9.7 yards per attempt last season) slinging it all over the field to A.J. Brown (1,252 yards and 11 TD on 75 catches last year) and company.

Texas Tech returns its top nine tacklers on defense, but that defense surrendered a Big 12-worst 33 TD passes last season. Ole Miss, of course, has its own defensive issues.

The Pick: Ole Miss 38 Texas Tech 35
Auburn vs. Washington

The marquee matchup of Week 1 could have major playoff implications—particularly for Washington, which is more likely to run through the Pac-12 schedule with one or fewer losses than Auburn is to do the same in the much more rugged SEC.

The Tigers had problems in pass protection last season (see Clemson, UCF), and a reshuffled O-line will get a major early test against a UW defense that brings back nine starters from the unit that registered 39 sacks a year ago while ranking eighth in the country in total yards allowed. Auburn's D should be just as good, meaning that both quarterbacks (pro prospects Jake Browning and Jarrett Stidham) have their work cut out for them.

The Pick: Auburn 23 Washington 20
Louisville vs. Alabama

All indications are that this could be Nick Saban's best offense—provided Tua Tagovailoa claims the quarterback job as anticipated. Damien Harris has a chance to become the school's all-time leading rusher—and he might not even be the best back on the team. The offensive line is stellar, and a young group of receivers is ready to explode.

Alabama has won 11 straight openers under Saban, all by double-digits. Make it 12.

The Pick: Alabama 45 Louisville 17
Sunday, September 2
Miami vs. LSU

Two terrific defenses plus two offenses with lots of questions to answer equals one low-scoring game. A win in Arlington would be huge for LSU, given the dire predictions of what awaits the Tigers once SEC play begins.

Miami, meanwhile, is looking to wash away the sour taste of losing its final three games last season. The 'Canes ranked in the top five nationally a year ago in sacks and tackles for loss; with no experienced runner to lean on, the Tiger offense could be in trouble.

The Pick: Miami 20 LSU 14

Rivalry renewed

Deshler is loaded with veteran talent, but Russellville is ready to get things rolling under new coach John Ritter

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

New Russellville football coach John Ritter has a lot in common with his Deshler counterpart, Bo Culver.

Neither is old enough to run for president yet, which is another way of saying that both are still young men—especially for high school head coaches, and most especially for high school head coaches who have already enjoyed as much success as they have.

Culver fought an uphill battle at Phil Campbell from 2009-11 before becoming the offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach

See 'RIVALRY,' Page 18



FILE PHOTO

Russellville's Wylie Boyd (16) makes a tackle against Deshler last season as Brooks Scott (36) looks on. The Tigers won 35-3, earning just their third win over RHS in the last 13 meetings. Deshler hasn't won at Golden Tiger Stadium since 2004.

Red Bay running game rolls



Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Red Bay's running game was rolling all night in last Friday's season opener—even when things didn't go exactly as planned.

With their early 16-0 lead all but gone following an 80-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Colbert Heights senior Braden McCaig to open the second half, the Tigers took possession in dire need of a momentum changer. Senior quarterback Kolby Bragwell handed off to junior tailback Colbie King, who picked up a few yards before the Wildcats started to bring him down.

That's when things took an interesting turn.

"Cam [McKinney] was blocking on the play," head coach

PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW
Bragwell (4) rushed for 85 yards and scored two touchdowns, one of which came on a 68-yard punt return.

See 'ROLLS,' Page 14



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'ROLLS' from page 13

Michael Jackson said. "Colbie King was carrying the ball, and when he started falling, Cam was trying to catch him and pull him forward. The ball came loose and came right to him, and he went the rest of the way. Nobody stopped him."

McKinney, a 6'1, 241-pound sophomore H-back, finished what King started, rumbling all the way to the end zone for a 58-yard touchdown to push Red Bay's lead back into double-figures at 22-12 with 11:33 left in the third quarter.

"I can't believe he didn't cramp up after that," a smiling Jackson said of McKinney, who also starts at inside linebacker and finished Friday's game with three tackles. "He didn't come off the field the whole night."

The Tigers got a touchdown run from Colyn Humphres later in the third quarter and then another from Bragwell midway through the fourth, piling up 323 rushing yards on the night and pulling away for a 34-18 win over the resilient Wildcats.

"I'm proud of the way we just kind of did what we had to do in a game like that," Jackson said. "The elements were bad, as far as the humidity and guys playing on both sides of the ball. I think both teams struggled with that. We were able in the second half to get in our bone [short-yardage] formation and take control of the game and run the clock at the same time."

"We did a good job of scoring on every possession we had in bone in the second half while also running the clock out. We were able to take care of our skill guys who were also playing on defense. I'm proud of the way we finished the game."

Red Bay (1-0) started the game in strong fashion as well, getting a one-

yard touchdown run from King with 3:54 left in the first quarter and a 68-yard punt return for a score from Bragwell barely a minute later. Bragwell ran in both two-point conversions, and the Tigers led 16-0 at the end of one.

"We got off to a good start, but I think we relaxed a little bit when we were up 16-0," Jackson said. "We gave them a big play or two, and they got right back in the game."

"I'm proud of the way we just kind of did what we had to do in a game like that," Jackson said. "The elements were bad, as far as the humidity and guys playing on both sides of the ball. I think both teams struggled with that. We were able in the second half to get in our bone [short-yardage] formation and take control of the game and run the clock at the same time."

Colbert Heights (0-1) got on the board on the first play of the second quarter when sophomore quarterback Carson Shaw threw the first of his two touchdown passes to senior tight end Evan Norton, an 11-yarder to cut the lead to 16-6. The score remained the same until the opening kickoff of the second half, when the speedy McCaig took a handoff on a reverse and raced 80 yards to the end zone to make it 16-12.

Just 16 seconds of game time later, McKinney's long touchdown run reignited the home crowd at Fred Bostick Memorial Stadium and put the Tigers back in control.

"They hit us on the reverse play on the kickoff, but I'm proud of the way our guys responded," said Jackson, who is now 4-1 against the Wildcats and 34-11 overall at Red Bay. "We didn't let the game get too close. We stayed up by two [scores] after they cut it to 16-12. We didn't put them away, but when the game got close there at the start of the third quarter we had an answer."

Humphres, a junior tailback, scored on a five-yard run with 3:13 left in the third, pushing the lead to 28-12. Shaw opened the fourth quarter with another touchdown toss to Norton, a six-yarder that made it 28-18, but Red Bay responded with a two-yard run from Bragwell at the 6:53 mark that stretched the lead to 34-18 and essentially sealed the deal.

King finished the night with 113 yards and a touchdown on 18 carries. Bragwell added 85 rushing yards and a score on 18 attempts and also had the punt return touchdown. Humphres ran 10 times for 59 yards and a touchdown. All told, the Tigers totaled 323 yards on 52 carries, an average of 6.2 yards per attempt.

"I thought our offensive line played well," Jackson said of his group up front, which includes seniors Elijah Ingle and Noah Haines, juniors Dylan Hester, Levi Raper and Caleb Seeley, and sophomore Connor Sides. "They're getting better and better, and those guys did a good job with that. The way they were blocking, I wish we could have kept on doing the same stuff in the second half. But we had to get in our bone set, because that's what the game called for. But our O-line played great."

Bragwell added 50 yards through the air on 4-for-7 passing, with one interception. Sophomore Jalen Vinson caught two passes for 24 yards, and Alex Kennedy (14 yards) and McKinney (12 yards) each had one reception. Red Bay finished with twice as many first downs (18) as Colbert Heights (nine).

Kennedy and fellow sophomore defensive end Logan Scott led the Tiger defense with five tackles apiece. Vinson and Hunter Burks each made four stops, and McKinney and linebacker Tanner Nichols each had three tackles. Bragwell and Chase Allen made two tackles apiece.

Colbert Heights finished with 226 total yards, 180 of which came on the ground. Shaw threw for 46 yards and two touchdowns on 8-for-14 passing.

Both teams will be on the road in non-region play this week, with the Wildcats visiting Wilson [see page opposite] and Red Bay heading to Phil Campell [see Page 16].



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

KING OF THE HILL - Junior tailback Colbie King (11) accounted for 113 of Red Bay's 323 rushing yards in a 34-18 win over Colbert Heights. He went over the top from a yard out to give the Tigers an early 6-0 lead.

Gaining experience crucial for Colbert Heights

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

In the visitor's locker room at Fred Bostick Memorial Stadium last Friday night, just moments after his team's comeback attempt had fallen short in a season-opening 34-18 loss to Red Bay, Colbert Heights coach Taylor Leathers addressed his players.

Leathers wanted to make sure he got his point across, and he felt the best way to do so was with a simple question.

"I pointed at one of our starting offensive linemen, a guy who had just gone knee to knee and toe to toe with a Red Bay player who I know has played in this game for the last three years, a really experienced defensive lineman," Leathers said. "I looked at him and said, 'Tell me what you were doing in this game last year.' He said, 'Coach, I was running balls on and off the field.'

"Last year at this time he was running balls and towels on and off the field and playing in our junior high program, and now he's a starting offensive lineman. And he actually held his own and played a really good game. He executed blocks and did some things well."

Leathers' point was well made. With 18 seniors gone from last year's 11-win state quarterfinal team, Friday's game was very much a discovery process for the Wildcats. And, by the end of the night, Leathers was pretty pleased with what he found.

"We've got 48 minutes of valuable experience now," he said on Sunday evening. "We've got great film to go back and look at. Leading into the game, I knew this would be a good measuring stick for us, to show us where we are as a team. It lived up to exactly what I thought it would do."

"Obviously, we wanted to win the game, and we fell short, but I feel like the takeaway was very positive."

The Wildcats (0-1) played two freshmen on offense and three on defense against Red Bay, and no fewer than seven players on offense and eight on defense got their first real taste of Friday-night action. Despite that inexperience, Colbert Heights climbed out of an early 16-0 hole to cut the lead to 16-12 early in the third quarter and had a chance to get back within one score midway through the fourth before turning the ball over on downs deep in Tiger territory.

"I'm very proud that we continued to fight throughout the entire game," Leathers said. "Coach [Michael] Jackson got in his Power-I set late in the game and really just started to break us down—three yards here, three yards there. We really wore out in the end. But I felt like it was a competitive game the whole way. It was never out of reach."

"I was excited to see how our guys responded. They obviously wanted to win the game, and we didn't do that. We want to win every game we play. But to see the competitive spirit and to see the guys not lay their heads down and give up but continue fighting, that was very positive."

Making his first varsity start at quarterback, sophomore Carson Shaw threw for 63 yards and two touchdowns (both to senior tight end Evan Norton) on 7-for-14 passing while also rushing 14 times for 78 yards. Senior fullback Riley Fuller ran for 52 yards on five attempts, and senior slot back Cayne Balta carried seven times for 34 yards. As a team, the Wildcats rushed for 170 yards on 30 attempts.

Leathers said a couple of miscues on special

teams put his team in an early hole.

"I knew leading into the game that special teams was gonna be crucial," he said. "Someone was gonna make special teams mistakes, and unfortunately it was us. We botched a punt snap fairly close to the end zone. The snap was short, and we mishandled the hop. They tackled him there, and it set them up for an easy touchdown. On the next possession, we stalled and had to punt again, and they ran it back [for a touchdown]."

"Those sixteen points were critical, and they occurred on special teams. You see that early in the year. It's something we're gonna go back to the drawing board this week and address. You can't have those breakdowns on special teams. But the good news is those things are coachable. Those are definitely fixable mistakes."

After holding a lengthy film session with their players on Sunday afternoon, Leathers and his staff came away feeling optimistic.

"I really feel like Red Bay's got a good football team," he said Sunday night. "They're very physical, very experienced, and they do what they do well. They're strong. It was a great matchup for us, to be able to go against that level of competition right out of the gate. We spent two hours this afternoon with our players in between church, going over film. It was eye-opening to see how well we played at times, especially with the level of inexperience we have."

"We learned a lot about our team. There are definitely some things I need to do a better job on. Our practice tempo has gotta improve, our sense of urgency has gotta improve, our conditioning has gotta improve—that's on me. We've gotta get in better condition to play the kind of iron man football we're having to play."

"Coaches always say—and I believe it—that you can really make great strides between Week 1 and Week 2. We definitely want to put that to the test this week at practice."

The Wildcats will be on the road again this Friday when they travel to take on Class 4A Wilson in another non-region game. The two teams haven't met since 1995, and this will mark the first time the 'Cats have played any opponent from a higher classification since 2013, when they were in Class 2A and faced Colbert County and Central in non-region play.

"We've got 48 minutes of valuable experience now," Leathers said. "We've got great film to go back and look at. Leading into the game, I knew this would be a good measuring stick for us, to show us where we are as a team. It lived up to exactly what I thought it would do. Obviously, we wanted to win the game, and we fell short, but I feel like the takeaway was very positive."

"To be a competitive 3A team, to be a postseason team, you've gotta play up in classification," Leathers said. "You've gotta play teams that give you quality non-region competition, and Wilson certainly does that. They're very physical. Wilson is known for the physical brand of football they play. They're big hitters."

"They've got some new faces on the field from last year, but Wilson is an extremely competitive program."

The Warriors, who went 10-2 last season, dropped their opener against Sheffield 22-6 last Thursday night.

"They run a Wing-T style offense from the gun," Leathers said. "It's very important this week that we be disciplined on the defensive side. We've gotta make sure we're where we're supposed to

be. One thing I feel like our guys do really well under Coach [Lonnie] Robinson is play sound, disciplined defense. I feel like they're gonna do exactly what we coach them to do, and that's a good spot to be in with your players. They're gonna give us everything they've got and be where we tell them to be on defense."



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Making his first varsity start at quarterback, sophomore Carson Shaw threw a pair of touchdown passes to senior tight end Evan Norton and also rushed 14 times for 78 yards.

"Coach Robinson, they believe in him. They believe in this defense we play, and that's half the battle—especially against the Wing-T."

In contrast to his own team's straightforward, no-frills approach on defense, Leathers expects to see an aggressive, blitz-heavy scheme from the Warriors on Friday night.

"Defensively, they bring a lot of people from a lot of places," he said. "They're a heavy blitzing team, so our offensive line has to take care of the pressure throughout the game and also be ready to take what the defense gives us and try and expose some of those areas where we can gain an advantage."

"I think it'll be a very competitive game for us, playing up in class against a 4A school that's used to winning. Their confidence is high. We've gotta go in there to their place and be able to make it competitive."

At the very least, by late Friday night the Wildcats will have another 48 minutes of valuable experience under their belts as they prepare for the region opener at Westminster Christian.

"I think this team has potential," Leathers said. "Our goal is to be a playoff team, to be competitive in every game we play and to get in the postseason. That's something we want to do year in and year out. With this team, I think we're gonna continue to get better each week. The level of competition changes week in and week out depending on

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Tigers seek 13th straight win over Bobcats

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Michael Jackson remembers a time when the spread offense wasn't quite so, well, *widespread* in high school football.

Jackson was on staff at Russellville in 1998 when Perry Swindall arrived as head coach and installed the offensive system that would propel the Golden Tigers to 99 wins and three Super Six appearances over the next nine seasons.

"You have to have a certain type of players to run that," said Jackson, now in his fifth season as head coach at Red Bay. "I think the biggest factor back then was, the spread had not become real popular yet. Not many people were doing it, so for years nobody ever caught up to it. I remember back in the mid-1990s going to Kentucky with Hal Mumme when Swindall first came to Russellville and doing those camps with them up there with the spread offense. Nobody in north Alabama was doing it, so nobody knew how to defend it.

"With the way everything is now, a lot of people are using the spread. You're gonna see spread a few times a year. I think it's similar, but it's changed some throughout the years."

Jackson still implements certain aspects of the old Russellville offense into his passing-game concepts at Red Bay, but this Friday his Tiger defense will get a look at the Swindall spread (or the Hal Mumme spread, or the Tony Franklin spread, or the Texas Tech spread; it has almost as many names as it does variations) in its full form.

Red Bay (1-0) will head to Parrish Field to take on county rival Phil Campbell, where first-year head coach Kevin Barnwell—another former Golden Tiger assistant—is installing the spread, with sophomore quarterback Luke Barnwell (Kevin's son) distributing the ball to a young and promising group of receivers.

Jackson said the key for his and coordinator Jamie Purser's defense on Friday will be containing Barnwell, who threw for 1,314 yards and 10 touchdowns as a Russellville freshman last year but will be making his first regular-season start for the Bobcats.

"The key for [stopping] them is you've gotta contain the quarterback," said Jackson, whose team opened its regular season last week with a 34-18 win over Colbert Heights. "He's elusive, and if he gets out of the pocket he can cause you some major issues. So you've gotta be able to contain the quarterback and stay in your zones—or if you're in man coverage, you've gotta stay with



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Jalen Vinson (10) had two catches for Red Bay in last week's win over Colbert Heights. The Tigers will travel to Phil Campbell on Friday night in search of their 13th consecutive win over the rival Bobcats.

your man. "[The spread] is predicated on the quick passing game, so you're not necessarily gonna be able to sack him, because he's gonna get rid of it before then. He's gonna be reading somebody, so everybody on defense has to be where they're supposed to be. If they're not, somebody is gonna be open."

Jackson said he's been impressed with what he's seen from Barnwell, who took his lumps at times last year as a ninth-grader starting at the 5A level but still managed to complete 60 percent of his attempts.

"He's very intelligent with the decisions he makes," Jackson said of Luke Barnwell. "You expect that, because he's got some experience playing varsity football. He makes really good decisions, and he's got a good understanding of the offense. It's similar to what he's done before, and his dad is the head coach. So you'd expect him to have a good understanding of the offense and what they're trying to get done."

"He's very intelligent with the decisions he makes," Jackson said. "You expect that, because he's got some experience playing varsity football. He makes really good decisions, and he's got a really good understanding of the offense. It's similar to what he's done before, and his dad is the head coach. So you'd expect him to have a good

understanding of the offense and what they're trying to get done.

"He'll bring that level of experience with him—knowing what to do with the ball and how to get the ball out in general."

Friday will be Kevin Barnwell's official Phil Campbell debut and the regular-season opener for the Bobcats, who hosted Hubbertville last week in a preseason game. Jackson talked Sunday night about what he had seen from Phil Campbell on film.

"I think it's kind of what I expected from them—they throw the ball really well, and they play extremely hard," he said. "That's gonna be the key Friday night, us coming out and doing what we need to do. Their guys are gonna be very excited to play the game. It's their first real home game. Last week was just a jamboree-type game. They didn't even play a whole game."

"They dressed quite a few kids as far as numbers go. It seems like numbers across north Alabama are a little down right now, but they dress about the same amount as we do. It's pretty similar. I think they've got a few older guys who came out, a few seniors on the roster along with those younger guys. It's a pretty good mix, and they're working hard. That's the main thing."

Red Bay rushed for 323 yards last week and finished with twice as many first downs (18) as Colbert Height (nine), but Jackson said his team has a long list of things to work on going forward.

"We've got a lot of improvements to make, especially in carrying out our assignments," he said. "That's to be expected. We've still got some young guys playing. I was proud of the fact that a lot of our guys who are young, they didn't *play* young. They played older, because a lot of them had to play as freshmen and sophomores last year."

"I'm excited about our front, our offensive line. I think if they can continue to improve, we're gonna be able to do some good things."

The Tigers have done virtually nothing but good things against Phil Campbell recently, winning 12 straight meetings since a 21-20 loss at Parrish Field in 2005. Red Bay kicked a late field goal last season to beat the Bobcats 22-20 and keep the streak alive.

With Phil Campbell now in Class 3A, this will be the first time the two county rivals have met in a non-region game since 2003.

"I like playing it early in the year," Jackson said. "It's a good rivalry game. Both Phil Campbell and Red Bay really like this game, so I'm expecting a huge crowd at Phil Campbell Friday night."

'GAINING,' from page 15

you play, but we have to keep getting better. "Continuing to build depth is important for this group. If you can add a player or two each week as you go, that can give you that valuable depth."

Leathers pointed to freshman defensive lineman Cory Martinez, who played a ton of snaps last week against Red Bay in his varsity debut, as an

example of how depth can improve even during the course of a game.

"We knew we would have to play some freshmen in the game, but I didn't think Cory would end up playing as much as he did," Leathers said. "He played some early on the defensive line, and he played so well that we kept him out there. He

wound up playing the entire second half, and he did a good job for us. Being a freshman, I thought he would get a few snaps and add some depth for us, but he did so well that we kept him in there.

"The more players we have emerge, the more opportunity we'll have to give guys rest where we can."

Offense shines as Wildcats get first season-opening win since 2013

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

THARPTOWN - Coming into this season, it was no secret that Tharptown's football program was going to undergo a massive test due to the strength of their schedule.

Those outside of the program, who had expected this season to be a potentially rough one for the Wildcats, did not expect the season to start off with a very impressive win against a former region opponent. However, Tharptown head coach Kevin Lacey and his staff and players knew they were up to the challenge and looked to make a statement by winning their home opener.

Mission accomplished.

The Wildcats rolled over the Shoals Christian Flame last Friday night with a high-powered offensive attack by a final score of 41-30, starting a season 1-0 for the first time since 2013.

As practice began once school started a few weeks ago, it was a general consensus that the Wildcats would rely heavily on a veteran-led offensive line to lead the charge in the run game as their primary offensive scheme. Once the game was underway on Friday night, Lacey and his staff flipped the script.

Senior Carson Petree fueled the offense for the Wildcats as he would rush for 145 yards on just 10 carries with two touchdowns. In addition to his stellar performance on the ground, Petree also caught a pass for a touchdown and threw one as well, bringing his total for the night to four touchdowns.

Eighth-grade quarterback Briley Kirby split time with Petree under center after showing promise at that position last week during practice, and Lacey intended to use both players to maximize their full potential.

"This last week in practice, our quarterbacks absolutely lit it up," Lacey said. "We saw that as a potential to be one of our strengths this week, and going forward, so we took it and ran with it."

While the offense was certainly a high point for the Wildcats, as they showed the ability to play the passing game as well as the run game, it is the defensive side of the ball that has shown the most improvement.

Eighth-grade quarterback Briley Kirby split time with Petree under center after showing promise at that position last week during practice, and Lacey intended to use both players to maximize their full potential.

"This last week in practice, our quarterbacks absolutely lit it up," Lacey said. "We saw that as a potential to be one of our strengths this week, and going forward, so we took it and ran with it."

Coming off a season last year in which the Wildcats allowed an average of 44.4 points per game, the fact that they began the season allowing only 30 points to an above-average Shoals Christian offense is very encouraging.

"We have a great group of older guys that know what we do and how we do it on the defensive side of the ball," Lacey said. "Our young guys, primarily in the linebacker corps, did a great job, and that was absolutely huge for us."

Senior running back Luis Macias also contributed to the offensive game by adding 78 yards rushing, capped off by a 43-yard touchdown run. Macias also had a 58-yard touchdown reception from Kirby, giving him a total of 72 receiving yards to go along with his rushing totals.

As the Wildcats look ahead to an early bye this week, Lacey feels as though this win has the potential to set a great tone for his program for the rest of the season.

"This year we have had some of the best practices I have seen since I have been here, and you could feel the energy these guys had leading up to this week," Lacey said after Friday's win. "Our guys did a great job bringing that energy this week, and hopefully we can fix a few of the mental mistakes we had tonight and we can go out and bring home that win in two weeks."

Tharptown will open up region play by traveling to Sheffield following the upcoming bye week.



Carson Petree

Senior QB/RB/WR, Tharptown

Petree's all-around exploits against Shoals Christian last Friday helped the Wildcats post their highest point total in nearly five years. The versatile senior saw snaps at quarterback, running back and receiver in the 41-30 win, rushing for 145 yards and two touchdowns on 10 carries. He also threw a scoring pass and caught another, making him responsible for four total touchdowns on the night.

Tharptown had not topped the 40-point mark in a game since beating Alabama School for the Deaf 64-34 in November of 2013.



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Michigan at Notre Dame	Michigan	_____
Louisville vs. Alabama	Alabama	_____
Miami (FLA) vs. LSU	Miami (FLA)	_____
Tiebreaker Score:	Auburn _____	Washington _____
Your Name:	_____	
Phone number:	_____	



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Ritter (above) was an assistant coach for the Deshler team that lost 36-12 at Russellville in 2014 before going on to reach the Class 4A state finals. He'll make his debut as the Golden Tigers' new head coach on Friday.

'RIVALRY,' from page 13

at Florence, where he helped the Falcons reach the quarterfinals of the Class 6A playoffs in 2013. He returned to the head coaching ranks at Haleyville, leading the Lions to a record of 25-10 and an average of 34.2 points per game in three seasons. He then took over the Deshler program in 2017, guiding a Tiger team coming off a two-win season to a 7-4 record and a playoff berth.

Ritter, likewise, has been a winner at multiple schools. In his very first season as a head coach, at Red Bay in 2012, he led the Tigers to an 8-4 record and was named Class 2A Coach of the Year by the ASWA. He received the same honor in Class 3A in 2016 at West Morgan, where he took the Rebels from 0-10 the year before to 7-4. After winning 10 games and a region title in Trinity last season, Ritter accepted an offer this past spring to take over the program at Russellville.

After winning just nine games in three years at Phil Campbell, Culver has since gone 32-15 as a head coach with four playoff appearances in four tries. Ritter is 33-23 overall in his five years as a head coach, with four of those seasons netting at least seven wins and a playoff appearance.

The results are similar, but the offensive approaches are most definitely different. Culver rose through the ranks on the strength of a spread offense that more often than not produced prolific passing numbers; Ritter, a former triple-option quarterback in his playing days at Lauderdale County, is a staunch believer in the power of a potent ground game.

Those two distinct styles will be on display Friday night at Golden Tiger Stadium, where Russellville will open the regular season with a game against Deshler for the 27th consecutive year.

"First of all, Coach Culver is a great coach," said

Ritter, who—like his counterpart—serves as his team's offensive coordinator and chief play-caller. "He's done a phenomenal job everywhere he's been, and he'll have those guys ready to play. He's just a good coach. Offensively, he likes to throw it around and spread you out more than my philosophy.

"I'm a run-first, pass-second kind of guy, and he may be the opposite of that."

Different though they may be, both offenses struggled in Week Zero. Deshler (0-1) managed just 129 total yards and got shut out for the third time in seven games dating back to last season, losing 31-0 to Class 6A contender Muscle Shoals in last Thursday's regular season opener. The Golden Tigers, meanwhile, got two good drives—but no points—from their first-team offense in limited action against East Limestone in Friday's pre-season contest. [The Indians won 31-7.]

Ritter, for one, isn't putting too much stock in either performance.

"They're *really* good," he said of Deshler on Sunday afternoon. "People look at a score against Muscle Shoals and think they may be down, but I think they're really, really good. Offensively, the [Channing] Marmann kid is a great quarterback. He's a threat to throw and a threat to run. Any time you face a quarterback who can run, not only do you have to cover the whole field but it also effects how much you blitz and where you blitz from. You have to make sure you play sound assignment football.

"Kam Pritchard is a really good running back for them, and Hayden Stutts is a big-time receiver. Offensively, they're huge up front. They will run the ball, no doubt. They'll be fairly balanced."

'RIVALRY' from page 18

Marmann, a 6'0, 182-pound senior who earned preseason All-Area honors from the *TimesDaily*, is the perfect triggerman for Culver's spread attack. He struggled against Muscle Shoals in the opener, throwing two interceptions and taking five sacks, but he was lethal last season in a 35-3 rout of Russellville, tossing a pair of touchdown passes to Stutts and rushing for 122 yards and two more scores on just eight attempts.

The 6'3, 184-pound Stutts and the 5'11, 192-pound Pritchard both joined Marmann on the *TimesDaily's* preseason All-Area offense. Defensively, Deshler is led by a trio of All-Area selections: Junior Grant Wisdom, a 6'0, 257-pound end/linebacker; and senior safeties Xavier Trotter (5'11, 195) and Greg Champion (6'1, 214), both of whom are big-time college prospects.

"Defensively, they're big and very, very athletic," Ritter said of the Tigers, who held opponents to just 14.2 points per game last year. "They're gonna present a challenge for us. We're gonna have to get on our blocks and sustain them to give our guys lanes to run and to give our quarterback time to throw.

"They've got two D-I safeties. The Trotter kid and Champion both have multiple D-I offers. Offensively, it's gonna be a challenge for us. We're gonna have to play extremely well to give ourselves a chance to be successful and win the game."

Against East Limestone last Friday, Russellville's first-team offense drove deep into Indian territory on each of its two possessions but came up empty on both, losing a fumble inside the 10-yard line and turning the ball over on downs at the 15. Still, Ritter saw plenty of positives—particularly from a potentially dynamic skill group led by the senior trio of quarterback Lucas McNutt, tailback Zaye Boyd and receiver Devin Buckhalter.

McNutt, who last played football as a freshman in 2015, showed his wheels on an 18-yard option keeper and also completed a pair of passes to sophomore receiver Cole Barnett that moved the chains on Russellville's second drive.

Buckhalter, who missed all of last season with a broken bone in his foot, looked electric Friday night with the ball in his hands, showing tremendous burst and quickness on a 34-yard catch and run on the Golden Tigers' opening drive. Boyd didn't break any big runs but demonstrated the same forward lean and tackle-breaking physicality that helped him rush for 1,401 yards as a Russellville sophomore in 2016.

"Lucas looked at times like he hadn't played in two years, but he also made some plays offensively," Ritter said. "I saw a lot of good things. Devin Buckhalter made a couple of big plays for us. He's a threat. The way our offense is set up, we can move him around and create mismatch problems. He caught a screen, he caught a pass, he ran the jet and he caught a pitch. That's four different ways we got him the ball the other night. He's an elusive guy, and he made some plays with his feet.

"It was very, very intense," Ritter said of his only taste thus far of the Deshler-Russellville rivalry. "Playing at Russellville, with the mystique of that stadium, was always very intimidating. It'll be nice to be on the home sideline. It's a very intense rivalry. Our kids are excited for it, the community is excited for it, and I'm looking forward to being a part of it on this side."

"Cole Barnett had a couple big catches for us, and I was very pleased with how we played up front on the offensive line."

Ritter believes the offense is only going to get better as the group gains experience and plays more snaps together as a unit.

"On the offensive side of the ball, we put seven guys on the field [Friday] who did not play one snap of football for Russellville last year," he said. "So there are going to be some growing pains, and it's gonna take time to build some consistency and chemistry amongst those guys. What I did see was very positive. We ran seventeen offensive plays [with the first-team offense], and I think we only had two negative plays. Everything else was positive.

"We've got a lot to look forward to on offense in the upcoming weeks. We've got a lot of guys who can make plays. Once we get clicking and shake some of the rust off, we'll have the opportunity—if everybody buys in—to be very explosive."

Hollimon, a junior, sustained a leg injury near the end of fall practice and is expected to be out until mid-season. In the meantime, fellow junior Jonathon Vargas has taken over at center, joining a group up front that also includes sophomore left tackle Edgar Amaya, senior left guard Will Rushing, senior right guard Herson Rodriguez and junior right tackle Noah Pounders, among others.

"No doubt," Ritter said with regard to the offensive line's importance moving forward. "Zaye had some good runs, Lucas had some good runs, Devin can make plays. Rowe Gallagher, Theron Pounders, Cole Barnett—we have the ability to make plays. The key for us is being consistent up front and making sure that we do what we're supposed to do all the time. It's all about timing and meshing together.

"The other night, it looked at times like we might have had one guy not exactly doing what we're supposed to be doing—and it was a different guy every time. The good part about that is, the more we practice together, the better we're gonna get. We've been running this offense for two months. The more we work, the better we're gonna be."

Last year's rout at Howard Chappell Stadium was only the third win by Deshler over Russellville in the last 13 meetings. Deshler hasn't won at Golden Tiger Stadium since a 23-13 victory in 2004; since then, the Golden Tigers have won six straight meetings on their home field by an average margin of 17 points.

One of those was a 36-12 win in 2014, back when Ritter was serving as an assistant coach on the Deshler staff. The Tigers bounced back and then some, winning their next 13 games before losing to Leeds in the Class 4A championship game at Jordan-Hare Stadium.

"It was very, very intense," Ritter said of his only taste to this point of the Deshler-Russellville rivalry. "Playing at Russellville, with the mystique of that stadium, was always very intimidating. It'll be nice to be on the home sideline. It's a very intense rivalry. Our kids are excited for it, the community is excited for it, and I'm looking forward to being a part of it on this side.

"It's a great way to jump off the 2018 season. At the same time, it's one game. The games that matter the most to us are those region games. We can beat Deshler and then if we don't win another game, we don't make the playoffs, which is what we're all about. It's a big game because it's the next game and because it's a big rivalry game, but it doesn't define what our season will be about. Our season will be defined by our goal of getting back in the playoffs."

Deshler (0-1) at Russellville (0-0)
7 p.m. Friday at Golden Tiger Stadium
HOW TO LISTEN:
Pre-game coverage on WGOL-AM 920 and 100.7 FM kicks off at 6:30, immediately following the Football Friday Tailgate Show. Can't get to your radio? Stream our audio broadcast online by going to www.wgol.com and clicking on the "Listen NOW!" button, or download the myTuner Radio App to your Smart phone and search WGOL.

The ceiling of the offense may ultimately be decided by how well the line performs, particularly in the absence of starting center Trenton Hollimon.

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