

Pd. Pol. Adv. By: Eddie Britton,
4771 Hwy 524, Russellville, AL 36663

FranklinFreePress.net

09.12.18

Postmaster reaches out to dog owners in wake of recent bites

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

It's a bitter rivalry. When it comes to dogs and mailmen, the animosity is on par with Auburn-Alabama, Ford-Chevy or Coke-Pepsi.

But local postal carriers, both in the city of Russellville and rural routes in Franklin County, have experienced several dog bites recently, and Russellville postmaster Timothy Eli is reaching out to residents for assistance.

"If a carrier delivers mail or packages to your front door, you should place your dog in a separate room and close that door before opening the front door," Eli said. "Some dogs burst through screen doors or plate-glass windows to attack visitors. Dog owners should keep the family pet secured."

Eli also recommends that parents remind their children and other family members not to take mail directly from carriers in the presence of the family pet, as the dog may



view the person handing mail to the family member as a threatening gesture.

"If there's a loose dog on your property, the carrier is not allowed to exit the vehicle to attempt delivery of any

See 'BITES,' Page 8

Morrow encourages citizens to download FCC Speed Test app

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

It's a rare occurrence when government has an opportunity to right a wrong.

And that's exactly what Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D-Red Bay) hopes to do when it comes to the Federal Communications Commission maps that show adequate cellular coverage across the vast majority of Alabama.

If those proposed maps aren't challenged, the State of Alabama stands to lose millions of dollars from the Universal Service Fund, which makes money available to providers to fund improvement in communications in unserved or underserved areas.

A public meeting held September 5 in Tuscumbia was designed to seek the public's assistance in challenging

the maps.

Morrow said he first learned of the FCC maps, and the deadline of November 26, 2018 to challenge them, when he visited Brandon Presley, chairman of the Mississippi Public Service Commission, at his office in Nettleton, MS.

Presley, who attended last week's meeting at Morrow's request, said using the app will help Morrow and Alabama government officials challenge the FCC's maps that show adequate cell service in most areas across northwest Alabama.

"His entire staff was busy working on a project that was designed to disprove the FCC maps for northern Mississippi," Morrow said.

See 'APP,' Page 8

Johnny Mack
MORROW
STATE SENATE



Pd. Pol. by Morrow for Senate, 1895 Hwy. 28, Red Bay, 35882

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Rosa Malinda Howard, Florence, age 49
Died Monday, September 3, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Jewell W. Nale, Russellville, age 91
Died Sunday, September 2, 2018. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.



We love to hear from you! Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoons, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

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Stutts helps secure \$250,000 grant for West Franklin Park

Submitted to the FFP

Tuscumbia - Working with Gov. Kay Ivey, and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) director Kenneth Boswell, Sen. Larry Stutts expedited a \$250,000 grant to improve the City of Red Bay's infrastructure at the West Franklin Industrial Park.

Red Bay officials applied for the grant "to provide much needed roadway access, a sanitary sewer connection and storm drainage infrastructure" for the industrial park. The improvement to the industrial park will begin within the next two months and create new job opportunities for area citizens.

"The park's location, just 18 miles from Interstate 22, makes it a target for continued growth, and I'm proud to help mayor Charlene Fancher and the City of Red Bay in this important undertaking," Stutts said. "I know this grant will be put to good use."

Stutts is currently serving in his first term representing Alabama's District 6, which includes parts of Franklin, Colbert, Lauderdale, Lawrence and Marion counties. Stutts is seeking re-election on November 6, 2018.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sen. Larry Stutts (far right) recently helped secure a \$250,000 ADECA grant for the City of Red Bay to improve its infrastructure at the West Franklin Industrial Park. Stutts is pictured above with ADECA director Kenneth Boswell and Red Bay mayor Charlene Fancher.

RFD to get new equipment through grant funding

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Fire Department will soon have new Airpaks for its firefighters thanks to a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Russellville City Council accepted the \$157,715 grant for the purchase of the new Airpaks and authorized payment of \$7,510 to JMCM Consulting for administrative services related to the grant.

The monies were part of a pool of funds available through FEMA's Assistance of Firefighters grant program.

The primary goal of the Assistance of Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services organizations and State Fire Training Academies. This funding is for

critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability and support community resilience.

In other action at its September 4 meeting, the council:

- Approved a resolution to declare a Caterpillar D4 dozer, a 1988 wrecker and a scraper pan as surplus property in the Russellville Police Department.

- Approved the hiring of Joseph Franks and Carlos Montez Lucas as police officers. Franks will begin at step two pay grade.

- Declared a vacancy for patrol officer with RPD and authorized advertisement to solicit job applications after the council accepted the resignation of school resource officer Macy Hughes.

- Accepted the resignation, effective September 7, 2018, of Sergeant Rhett Bradford from the Russellville Fire Department and declared a vacancy for sergeant in the department and authorized the promotion from within the classified

service.

- Approved the purchase of a 2019 International MV607 truck with Pac-Mac KBF20H-HJ loader (knuckle boom truck) from Ingram Equipment, Inc., in the amount of \$139,240.11 for the Russellville Street Department and authorized the mayor and city clerk to draw proceeds from the line of credit at CB&S Bank for the purchase amount.

- Approved the lowest competitive bid of \$14,260 from Garrison Concrete for concrete work at the Russellville Fire Department No. 2.

- Accepted a letter of resignation from Gena Habig from the Russellville Library Board and appointed Lela Ray to the position.

- Approved a request from Tammy West to waive the rental fee for the A.W. Todd Centre on Nov. 10, 2018, for the first annual community "Adult Prom."

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Russellville City Council will be Monday, September 17, with work session at 6 p.m. and meeting to follow.

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The Honey Do List: Fix the 'hole' thing

Holes in drywall....they happen. Doorknobs, chairs, indoor baseball games and many other things can happen that may leave you with a hole to patch. Here are a couple of methods to repair the "hole" thing.

First, you must provide a backer for the repair. The most current method would be an adhesive metal patch that simply sticks over the hole. These work well but are not as strong as the old way. For a patch that will be stronger than the old wall, follow these steps.

You will need a drywall saw (or a sharp utility knife), a board that is narrow enough to fit inside the hole but long enough to extend beyond the hole by about two inches on each side, a small piece of drywall that is the same thickness as the existing drywall and a little larger than the hole, drywall screws and spackling, or drywall compound (sheetrock mud, as we sometimes call it).

Step 1. Take the piece of drywall and cut out a square that is bigger than the hole. You can make the

patch as large as you want to. Place the square over the hole and trace around it with a pencil. Now cut out the hole in the wall to match the patch. You should now have a square patch and a square hole that the patch will neatly fit into.

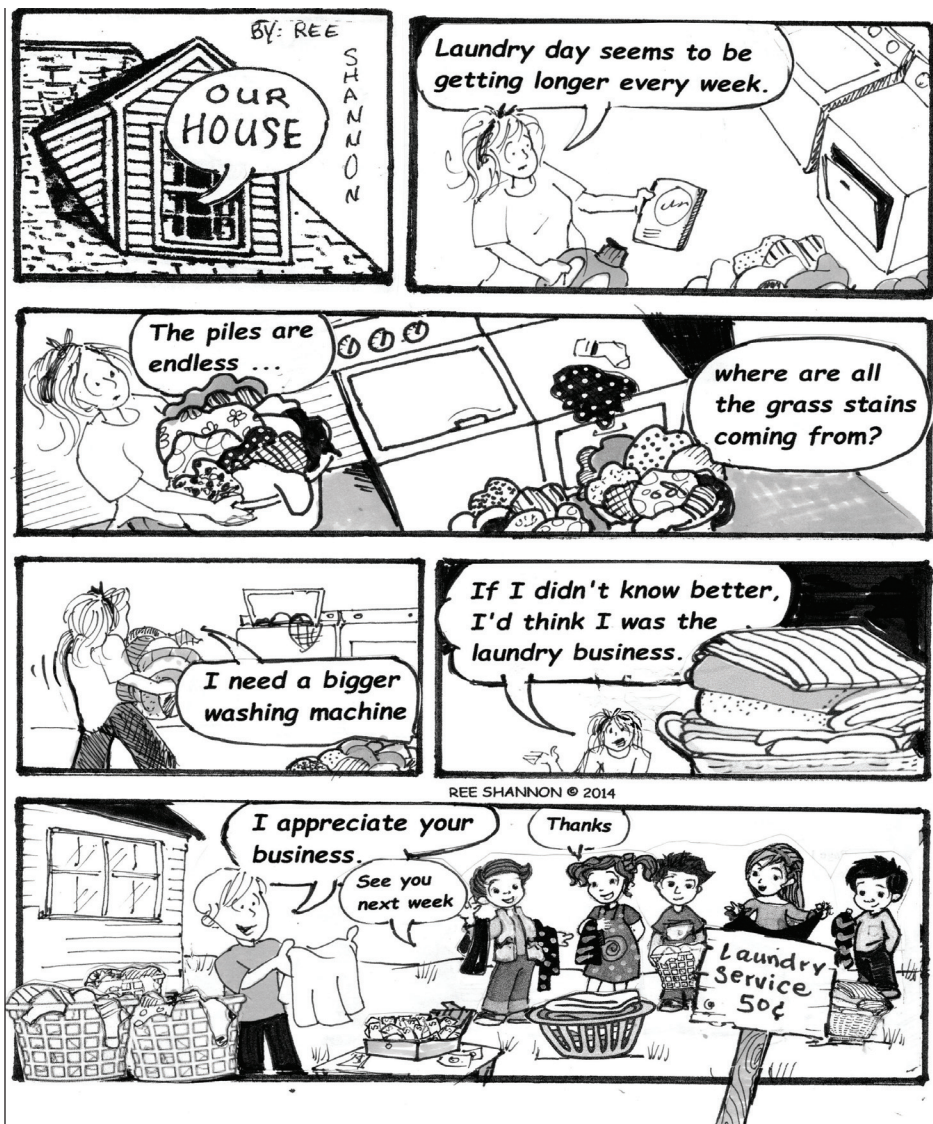
Step 2. Place the backer board inside the hole. There are two ways to hold it in place. One, you can apply construction adhesive or adhesive caulk to the board, insert the board into the hole and pull the board tightly against the back side of the drywall. You may even screw a short screw in the board to give you something to pull on, or you may have room for your fingers on the side of the board within the hole.

The second way is to wrap fishing line around the middle of the board and insert the board into the wall with the end of the fishing line hanging out. Wrap the end of the line



Doug Green

See 'HOLE,' Page 5



More constitutional amendments

Parker Snider
Alabama Policy Institute

The drought, as they say, is over. Football season is back in Alabama. To no one's surprise, the Alabama Crimson Tide was ranked No. 1 in both the AP and Coaches preseason polls.

Almost simultaneous with the return of college football, however, is the beginning of another all too familiar season for Alabamians.

That season, of course, is election season. In this season, as in the college football season, Alabama earns a No. 1 ranking. This ranking isn't for being the state with the most elections, however. No, this additional top ranking is for our massive state constitution, the longest constitution in America and, perhaps, the world.

Our constitution is well over 300,000 words—that's 40 times longer than the U.S. Constitution. The only governing document that rivals the size of Alabama's is that of India, although it is still less than half as lengthy.

Our constitution's depth, it seems, is due to the 928 amendments that have been added since the constitution's inception in 1901.

Although some amendments are substantive and generally applicable to the entire state, a large portion of the amendments only deal with a singular county. This is because the Constitutional Convention of 1901, in an effort to regain control of the state after Reconstruction, concentrated power so heavily in Montgomery that many local decisions were, and still are, not legally permitted without an explicit change in the constitution, e.g. a constitutional amendment.

This means that any time a county wants to, for example, levy a minor tax, institute local term lim-

its or create a toll road, a constitutional amendment is required.

In November, Alabamians will have the opportunity to make the state constitution even longer. This year, residents will vote on four statewide constitutional amendments, a relatively small number in light of the 14 voted on in 2016.

Included on the ballot will be constitutional amendments concerning the public display of the Ten Commandments, abortion, the University of Alabama's Board of Trustees, and special elections for legislative vacancies.

Our state constitution is well over 300,000 words—that's 40 times longer than the U.S. Constitution. The only governing document that rivals the size of Alabama's is that of India, although it is still less than half as lengthy.

Although it is easy to treat constitutional amendments as an afterthought (they are, in fact, at the end of the ballot), it is important to understand the potential impact of a change to the state's most significant document.

Unfortunately, the language describing constitutional amendments on the ballot is often difficult to understand. Additionally, there is no description of the effects of a proposed amendment. This can be disheartening to voters taking their voice in the electoral process seriously while at the same time encouraging split-second decisions and absent-minded bubbling. Neither of these cases are desirable.

That's why, in the upcoming weeks, the Alabama Policy Institute will release op-eds on the constitutional amendments in easy-to-understand language, including the possible effects (or

See 'AMENDMENTS,' Page 5

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EE bond dilemma

Dear Dave,
I have about \$36,000 in debt, not including my house. Of that amount, \$30,000 is a truck that's worth about what I owe on it, and the other \$6,000 is student loan debt. I make \$50,000 a year. I also have 24 EE bonds that were gifted to me that haven't fully matured. Right now, they're worth a combined \$12,500. Should I cash those in and use the money to pay off some of my debt, or let them fully mature before cashing them in? Also, are there any tax ramifications from cashing them in?

Patrick

Dear Patrick,
They *might* be taxed, but it won't be much to worry about. EE bonds make less than one percent, so you haven't really earned much. Never buy those things, man. They're a horrible investment, with an even worse rate of return. I'm glad you're working out a plan and moving toward getting out of debt. A \$30,000 truck doesn't work with a \$50,000 income. So, cash in the bonds immediately, sell the truck and use some of the money from the EE bonds to pay off the school loans. Then, find yourself a cheap, little truck that will get you around for a few years. You can do this, Patrick. I want you to have a nice truck one day, but I don't want that truck to be a

burden. This one's got you by the throat, and you're feeling it, aren't you?

Drive like no one else for a little while now, so that later you can *really* drive like no one else!

Dave

ID theft protection in the baby steps?

Dear Dave,
Where in the Baby Steps does identity theft protection fall? Should we cover the kids, too, or only the adults in our household?

Laura

Dear Laura,
Everyone needs identity theft protection. Unless you're one of these folks who have gone completely off the grid, someone out there probably has a few of your numbers. Between sloppiness on the part of consumers and the massive data breaches that have occurred in the last few years, almost everyone has experienced, or will experience, some sort of identity theft. Unfortunately, this is today's world. I don't really consider identity theft protection part of the Baby Steps. It's like life insurance or car insurance, in that it's something almost everyone needs. Things like that should just be part of your budget every month.

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.*

'AMENDMENTS,' from page 4

lack thereof) on the state. We will also be releasing a one-stop "Guide to the Issues" that will explain the amendments concisely and readably in a format that can be taken into the voting booth.

Stay tuned.

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.

'HOLE,' from page 4

around a pencil and rotate the pencil to tighten it against the outer surface of the wall, thereby tightening the board against the inside.

Now firmly hold the board in place by screwing a couple of drywall screws through the wall into the ends of the board on each side of the hole. The screws should be slightly indented, but try not to pierce the surface of the drywall with the head of the screw.

If you used the pencil and string method, you can clip the string close to the board and remove the pencil. Now you can place the patch in the hole and secure it to the backer board with a couple of drywall screws.

Next week, we'll talk about applying the mud. Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.

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


 Bank Independent will hold a job fair to fill several full-time and part-time positions in Lawrence and Morgan counties. Bank Independent's human resources team will be on hand at the Moulton Sales Office from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. this Thursday, September 13. Human resources representatives will conduct interviews and perform pre-employment assessments, and applicants will have the opportunity to interact with current BI employees. Complete job descriptions for open positions are available on Bank Independent's website, bibank.com. Applicants are encouraged to apply online prior to the event and bring a current resume.


 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 this Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 6 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.


 The annual Red Bay Founder's Fest is set for this Saturday, September 15, with contests, sidewalk sales and live music. The day-long event kicks off with the Queen's Train Ride at 8:30 a.m., featuring the winners from the beauty pageant that will be held on September 9 at Red Bay High School. Live music cranks up at 9 a.m. There will be a contest to see who has the best fried pie entries, with the best tasting, most unusual and best decorated taking home cash prizes. There are a variety of other contests for festival goers to participate in, including a buck dancing contest, quilt contest, coloring contest, photography contest, fiddling contest, corn hole tournament and a BBQ cook-off. Additional activities will include arts and crafts and an antique car-truck-motorcycle-tractor show. The Red Bay Museum will be open for tours, and many of the merchants will offer sidewalk sales, specials and door prizes throughout the day. A variety of delicious festival food will be available, and another crowd favorite are the giveaways. Prizes will be awarded to the largest family, longest distance traveled to the event, and youngest and oldest attendees. Bay Tree Park is located near 2nd Street in downtown Red Bay. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call Tracie Clark at 256-356-4473, ext. 3.

 Attention Hunters & Outdoorsmen! Make plans to attend H.U.N.T. Outdoors Ministry's "Beast Feast," set for this 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 this 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.

 A medical benefit for 19-year-old Seth McDonald is set for this Sunday, September 16 at Spring Park in Tuscumbia from 4:30-8:30 p.m. The benefit will include live entertainment from the Hallmark/Puckett Family from 7-8 p.m., as well as Tonya Aycock accompanied by Jeff Aycock. Food will be available for purchase, including hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda, candy and cotton candy. A bounce house for children will be set up with unlimited access for a \$5 donation. Those who attend the benefit are encouraged to bring their chairs and blankets. A silent auction will be held from 4:30-8 p.m., with winners announced at 8:15 p.m. Donations will be collected to help Seth. The funds for McDonald's treatment must be raised by October 4, 2018. For more information, call 256-324-7255.

 Russellville FUMC hosts a men's and a women's Step Study on Sundays from 3-5 p.m. A step study guides you through a process of discovery and recovery over your hurts, hang-ups and habits. Everyone is welcome.

 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!

What's Happening

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

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life will hold a Hand in Hand support group meeting (all cancers) on Thursday, September 20 at 6 p.m. at ECM East Community Room (2111 Cloyd Blvd., Florence, AL 35630). Guest speaker will be Khris Anderson, executive director of American Red Cross. Everyone is invited to come and share their journey. Light refreshments 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 runfortheirives.itsyourrace.com. For more information, call 256-810-1965. The event benefits H.A.S.R.A., the Heart of Alabama Save Rescue Adopt.

The City of Sheffield will celebrate northwest Alabama's contributions to World War I on Saturday, September 29 at The Village School (206 Chickamauga Street in Sheffield) beginning promptly at 10 a.m. Numerous historical presentations on the project's community impact, organizations and community's patriotic contributions to World War I will take place in the historic Village School Auditorium built by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps. Seating is first come, first served. Program sponsored by Sheffield Historical Commission. The program speaker lineup is as follows: 10-10:25 a.m. - Tom McKnight, (U.N.) "Military History Overview: A Veteran's Call for National Unity;" 10:25-10:55 a.m. - Arthur Graves, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret) "Local Veterans of World War I;" 11-11:30 a.m. - Scott Angle, PhD. "Nitrate History: Muscle Shoals has Fed the World;" 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. - Greg & Malinda Harrison, "A History of Village One;" 12:30-1 p.m. - Major General Buddy Moore, "Competence, Courage, and Bravery of North Alabamians during Time of War;" 1:15-1:45 p.m. - Laurence A. Lyons, PhD. "Wireless Technology and WWI;" 2-2:30 p.m. - Marty T. Olliff, PhD. Director of The Wiregrass Archives "The Montgomery Cooperative Canning Club: A Case Study in Civilian Mobilization;" 2:45-3:15 p.m. - Jim Brown, PhD. "German Nationalism - A Major Factor in WWI;" 3:30-4 p.m. - Bob England, NWSCC Emeritus "The Treaty of Versailles and Serbian Victory in the Great War." There will also be free Centennial birthday cake and free bottled water (while supplies last), live music and historical presentations, antique cars and food vendors, gifts and memorabilia, and home tours. For more information, call 256-383-0783.

Family and Friends Day at City Lake Park will be held Sunday, September 30. Hosted by My Father's House Church, 104 E. Lawrence Street, Russellville. Will meet at church for worship at 10:30 a.m. that morning. Will leave immediately after morning worship for City Lake Park. For more information, call 256-460-1376.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guest Jackson Nance at the Roxy Theatre in Russellville on Saturday, October 13 at 7 p.m. General admission seating. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. Call 256-335-4356. The KGB will be the featured act at a show sponsored by the Franklin County Arts Council at the Roxy on the second Saturday of each month.

The Tharptown Volunteer Fire Department will host a gospel concert with Jeff and Sheri Easter on Saturday, November 10 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville High School Auditorium. Jeff Sanford from Decatur will be the opening performer. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5-12 years old. Children under 5 will be admitted free. Please come out and join the Tharptown VFD for this special event.

The NACOLG SenioRx Medication Assistance Program supplies free and low-cost medications for anyone in Alabama with a disability or a chronic illness, regardless of age, that requires daily medication. Medicare recipients may also be eligible. For more information, contact NACOLG SenioRx today. There is no charge for this service. 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463). For more information, call 256-389-0530. This program is in partnership with the State of Alabama and Alabama Department of Senior Services.

The Russellville Farmers Market is now open! Weekly schedule from now through October is Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 6 a.m.-noon. Manager is Greg Stanford. Located behind the A.W. Todd Centre.

Mountain Valley Hee Haw features live music every Saturday night. Show time is 6 p.m. Free admission. No alcohol or drugs. From Russellville, take 243 to Hwy. 79, turn right, go 1/4 mile, third building on left. For more information, please call 256-332-5479 or 256-810-4840.

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

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'BITES' from page 1

packages," Eli said.

City carriers have reported seeing packs of dogs in Russellville recently. Russellville Police chief Chris Hargett said the city does not have a leash law, but there are two ordinances that address the issues of dangerous pets.

"We have a vicious dog ordinance. There's not a leash law, and that's been a source of controversy because lots of people want one," Hargett said. "If a dog is aggressive, lunges at you or actually bites someone, it can be deemed vicious. The owner still may have the opportunity to keep the dog. He can build a fence of certain dimensions and keep it locked."

Additionally, dogs can subject their owners to violations of the city's nuisance ordinance. Hargett said these cases most often deal with nuisance barking or dogs getting into garbage and making a mess.

"We get several calls each week about dogs, both for biting and being aggressive," Hargett said. "We get calls from people complaining about loose dogs in general, but there's nothing as far as any ordinance violation there."

Investigations involving dogs are referred to RPD's compliance officer, Brian Shackelford, who works together with the city's dog catcher. The two have picked up several dogs recently, Hargett said.

Should anyone be bitten or have an encounter with a vicious dog, Hargett encourages them to contact the RPD. Alabama law requires a quarantine period for any dog involved in a biting incident.

Eli said loose dogs can also cause mail not to be delivered to an address.

"We place the safety of our employees as a top priority," Eli said. "If a carrier feels threatened by a dog, or if a dog is loose and unleashed, the owner may be asked to pick up mail at the post office until the carrier is assured the pet has been restrained. If a dog is roaming the neighborhood, the pet owner's neighbors may also be asked to pick up their mail at the post office."

The United States Postal Service has safety measures in place to alert carriers of dogs on their delivery routes. The package pickup application on www.usps.com asks customers to indicate if there are dogs at their address when they schedule package pickups. The information is provided to carriers on their delivery scanners, which send alerts if an unleashed dog is reported in a delivery area.

"This information is particularly helpful for substitute carriers who fill in for regular carriers on their days off," Eli said.

'APP' from page 1

The September 5 meeting, attended by about 40 people, encouraged Alabama residents to download a free app, the FCC Speed Test app, on their cell phone. The app measures mobile broadband performance, including a measure of download and upload speeds, latency and packet loss.

Presley, who attended last week's meeting at Morrow's request, said using the app will help Morrow and Alabama government officials challenge the FCC's maps that show adequate cell service in most areas across northwest Alabama.

"Those maps are obviously not correct. I just came up Hwy. 247 this morning," Morrow said. "The FCC says we have cell service all the way. But there's a sixteen-mile stretch where I had nothing. The maps are wrong, and they stand to be accepted by the FCC because no one has disproved them."

While the Mississippi Public Service Commission is actively working to challenge the maps, a representative from the Alabama PSC said his agency had done nothing because the Alabama legislature took away the PSC's ability to regulate the cellular communication industry in 1990.

"There was a tax bill pending in the legislature regarding taxes on phone companies, and they amended it to say mobile providers are excluded and not subject to Title 37, which would give the Public Service Commission authority to regulate them," said Jeff Johnson with the Alabama PSC.

Cellphone subscribers pay \$1.50 on each bill into the Universal Service Fund, Morrow explained. Those funds are available to companies like Verizon and AT&T to fund infrastructure to improve cellular service in unserved and underserved areas.

Morrow said using the app involves three easy steps:

- Download the FCC Speed Test app to their Android or iPhone (although Presley noted some problems with iPhones using the app in areas of no coverage).

- Follow the instructions and use the app to conduct multiple tests in areas where cell service is lacking.

- Submit the results through the app via email to johnnymacktaskforce@gmail.com.

Presley and Morrow said it's important to conduct multiple tests in as many areas as possible.

"This is a very serious public safety issue," Morrow said. "People are going away from having land lines because they don't want to pay for two phone bills. If they are paying for cellular phone coverage, they should be able to rely on actually having coverage."

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Benefit to help raise funds for local man's medical treatment

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A special event this Sunday will help raise funds for medical treatment for a local man.

The medical benefit for 19-year-old Seth McDonald is set for Sunday, September 16 at Spring Park in Tusculumbia from 4:30-8:30 p.m. McDonald is the grandson of former Concord Baptist Church pastor Thomas Thornton.

Seth has endured 39 surgeries and multiple medical procedures in his lifetime. His diagnosis includes serious issues with acid reflux, and he is now hearing-impaired with a multitude of other issues.

Additionally, he deals with depression, anxiety and social anxiety. Seth's father died four years ago as a result of esophageal cancer due to reflux.

McDonald was recently accepted as a patient at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He was accepted into an intensive three-week program that includes occupational and physical therapy, biofeedback therapy, nutrition and psychological assistance.

His insurance refuses to pay anything for this much-needed treatment that costs \$44,000.

The Sunday benefit will include live entertainment from the Hallmark/Puckett Family from 7-8 p.m., as well as Tonya Aycock accompanied by Jeff Aycock. Food will be available for purchase, including hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda, candy and cotton candy. A bounce house for children will be set up with unlimited access for a \$5 donation.

Those who attend the benefit are encouraged to bring their chairs and blankets.

A silent auction will be held from 4:30-8 p.m., with winners announced at 8:15 p.m.

Donations will be collected to help Seth. The funds for McDonald's treatment must be raised by October 4, 2018. For more information, call 256-324-7255.

Hamilton: County school system will have its one-month fund on October 1

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When it comes to financial news, most public school superintendents don't get excited.

But Franklin County superintendent of education Greg Hamilton didn't hide his emotions when he told the Tharptown Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization that, for the first time in the system's history, Franklin County Schools will have a full one-month reserve fund of \$2.2 million.

Alabama law requires public school systems to maintain a reserve fund equal to one-month's operating expenses. In the event the system can't do so, it must submit to the state a plan as to how it will arrive at the required reserve fund amount.

Not only did Hamilton say that as of the start of the new fiscal year, October 1, 2018, Franklin County Schools will have its required one-month fund, he also told parents and teachers the system will have a \$4 million reserve when the current school year ends in May of 2019.

See 'SCHOOL,' page 10

Letters to the Editor

To the editor:

I am disappointed to find myself, once again, in a position to ask what purpose the Alabama Ethics Commission serves to the people of this state. To whom are the elected officials or those seeking public office to look to for ethical political leadership? The people of Alabama need an Ethics Commission that will enforce the laws and regulations it is charged with enforcing, with consistency.

When campaigns file their fundraising disclosures with the Secretary of State's office, they are required to file on a given date no later than 11:59 p.m. When candidates and political action committees (PACs) fail to file these reports in a timely manner, the law requires the Secretary of State's Office to issue a civil penalty based on the amount of contributions and expenditures from that reporting period. In the event that a candidate or PAC wishes to appeal the penalty, the Secretary of State's office is required to send those requests to the Alabama Ethics Commission, allowing members of the Commission to determine whether the penalty should be upheld or not.

At three previous Ethics Commission meetings in February, April and June of 2018, the commission waived fines on 12 appeals that were filed outside the 14-day window allowed by law.

However, during the commission's meeting on September 5, they declined to hear cases filed outside the 14-day window, saying they didn't have jurisdiction and declining to rule on whether that penalty would stand—despite having previously done so 12 times in 2018.

It is the position of the Secretary of State's Office that these specific matters were improperly set aside and should be reinstated by the commission. And, in spite of a request from counsel for the Ethics Commission, the Secretary of State's Office will continue to adhere to the requirements of state law, which clearly establishes the commission as the sole body with authority to overturn a penalty issued for a campaign or political action committee filing a financial disclosure form after the due date.

Previously, Ethics Commission executive director Tom Albritton stated, "The commissioners reviewed those files and discussed them in detail before our meeting. So they reviewed every one of them as they have for every meeting." If that is true, then why have they just now become aware of these appeal date issues? Each appeal delivered to the Alabama Ethics Commission is delivered as a file which includes each file that was not filed in a timely manner and a copy of the date the appeal was filed.

The Code of Alabama directs the Secretary of State's Office to work in conjunction with the Alabama Ethics Commission to administer the Fair Campaign Practices Act. Therefore, without communication and cooperation between our agencies, as well as the commission's consistent application of the laws and rules established by the legislature, the FCPA does not work.

Sincerely,
John Merrill
Secretary of State

To the editor,

On November 6, 2018, voters in Alabama Senate District 6 will elect either Larry Stutts (Republican) or Johnny Mack Morrow (Democrat). I am writing to respond to events that happened at the Colbert County High School vs. Cherokee High School football game on Friday night, August 31, 2018, and two Facebook posts by Larry Stutts and Johnny Mack Morrow.

Johnny Mack Morrow initiated a resolution that was passed in the Alabama House of Representatives to honor The Kelley Group located in Tusculumbia, Alabama. The Kelley Group donated their engineering services free of charge, which made it possible to take corrective action to [fix] a drainage problem at Cherokee High School's football field. The resolution presentation was arranged by Johnny Mack Morrow with administrators prior to the football game to honor the Kelley Group. The purpose of this event was not to recognize a state representative or a state senator, even though both provided money to help fund the project.

I don't blame either candidate from wanting to get publicity for their political campaign, but if one candidate or the other misrepresents some of the facts, it could be interpreted as unethical behavior; your readers can decide that themselves.

Johnny Mack Morrow attended planning meetings prior to the flood prevention project being completed. After I spoke with others involved in these planning meetings, it's my understanding that Mr. Stutts was absent from those meetings. Mr. Morrow pushed a resolution through the Alabama House of Representatives to honor the Kelley Group. Mr. Stutts did not initiate any such resolution in the Senate.

If you read Mr. Morrow's Facebook post, you will see his intention was to honor the Kelley Group. If you read Mr. Stutts Facebook post, he seemed to have a different version of what the evening was about when he stated, "It was an honor to be recognized by my high school during last night's game for the completion of correcting the football field's drainage problem."

Mr. Stutts never mentioned the resolution to honor the Kelley Group and never said "thank you" to Bart and Kelley Taft of the Kelley Group.

Sincerely,
Junior Vinson



Classifieds

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YARD SALES/ ESTATE SALES

Yard Sale this Friday & Saturday, September 14-15, from 8 am-until on Hwy. 243 just past the airport on Airport Road. Look for signs. Men's, women's and

baby clothes, all kinds of what-nots, furniture, lots of misc. Priced cheap!

Three-family Garage Sale, rain or shine, this Friday & Saturday, September 14-15 at 3890 Waterloo Road. 2 1/2 miles past the high

school. Great selection of stuff for all ages! Good glassware, pottery, dishes, jewelry, electronics, games, furniture, mountain bike, toys, clothes (adult and children's, all sizes).

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'SCHOOL,' from page 9

The Franklin County Board of Education was expected to approve its budget for FY 2018-19 at its September 11 meeting. Hamilton said there would be additional details as to how the one-month fund threshold was reached at that meeting.

Hamilton attributed the system's financial turnaround to three primary factors. First, he said the ability of Franklin County Schools employees to do 'more with less' was one reason. Second, Hamilton credited the voters of Franklin County for continuing to support the one-cent sales tax that benefits public education. Voters again overwhelmingly approved the measure for another two years in June. The tax will appear again on November 6 ballots with a proposed extension for 30 years, which school officials say will allow

them to proceed with much-needed capital fund projects.

Finally, Hamilton said the system finally enjoyed some old fashioned 'good luck.'

He declined to offer specific details but said the system would soon receive a major financial shot-in-the-arm. More information was expected to be revealed at Tuesday's meeting.

"Having a one-month fund is huge for our system. It's beyond words I can explain," Hamilton said. "It's a tribute to you employees doing more with less. I appreciate the one-cent sales tax. It's been instrumental in keeping Franklin County Schools alive and flowing."

"And we've finally had some good luck."

Seven local eateries receive satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Seven of the nine Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of August 27-31 had scores that fall into the "satisfactory compliance" range.

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

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

Areas of inspection by ADPH include management and personnel; food storage, preparation and service; equipment; utensils; linen cleanli-

ness; plumbing and waste; poisonous or toxic material storage; and an inspection of the physical facility or property.

Seven of the nine Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

Tharptown High School Cafeteria, 145 Cty. Road 80, Russellville (Various toxic items stored over single service, hose attached at mop sink without backflow prevention and milkbox holding at 54 degrees), and Wicked Marinara, 502 4th Ave. SW, Red Bay (Chemicals stored above food, spray bottles not labeled, sprayer falls below flood rim of sink), both scored an 83.

The highest score was 98, received by Mason Jar on Main, 102 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay.

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

•Rhoda P's Catering Services, 2080 College Road, Phil Campbell, 91. (No date on green

beans).

•C.J.'s Grocery, 14545 Hwy. 187, Russellville, 91. (No drying device at handsink).

•Phil Campbell High School Cafeteria, 55 School Ave., 94. (Milkbox holding milk at 48 degrees, cut tomatoes and lettuce held at 48-52 degrees).

•24 Crossroads @ Red Bay, 107 4th St. SE, Red Bay, 94.

•Belgreen High School, 14220 Hwy. 187, Russellville, 95. (Milkbox holding milk at 47-51 degrees).

Of the 19 inspections done in Colbert County from August 27-31, no restaurant scored below the satisfactory range.

The high score for the week in Colbert County was 99, scored by several locations including Subway of Cherokee, 8470 Hwy. 72, Cherokee, and Avalon Express, 1207 East Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals.

Updated ratings are available at www.food-scores.state.al.us and may be viewed by city or county.

Spruce Pine Day is coming!

Are you ready for Spruce Pine Day? If you aren't, then now is a good time to start preparing.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 20. Bring your own chairs or quilts or blankets to sit and rest awhile. We will have our hay bales again to sit on. We are going to have such a variety of fun that you might not even sit down (except to eat, of course).

There will be the usual inflatable slide and bouncy house that the children love, with an additional game or two for extra fun. Oh, and the food! The biggest variety ever! Of course, there will be the most talked about bean dinner that the Spruce Pine Historical Society members cook. You'll have your choice of white beans, pinto or mixed beans, plus slaw, cornbread and onion. You also get your choice of dessert and a glass of tea. That, my friends, is a home-cooked meal for the low price of \$5.00. Carry-outs are available.

Of course, you wouldn't be eating in style unless you were wearing a Spruce Pine Day shirt. As you know, most festival shirts in our area sell for \$15 or higher. You can buy one of our shirts and a meal for \$15, because we sell ours at the reasonable price of \$10. It's a win-win situation.

Please take the time to read the ads on the back of the shirts. These sponsors are the ones who help finance our big day. They support us, and it's of the utmost importance for us to support them. Thanks again for all the help. We really appreciate it.

The majority of you who were disappointed in having one band last year will be excited to know we are bringing back different bands this year, including gospel, country, bluegrass and that good 'ol rock-and-roll.

For those of you who lay on the ground kicking and screaming and crying uncontrollably because our music was moved to the back, you can now come in peace. Spruce Pine has spoken. I expect to see the smiles and laughter again, because the stage will be returned to its original place. We are again up front and center!

Once again, I am honored to return as your emcee. I might not could win a county election if I ran, but I want to thank all of you in Spruce Pine for making me feel like I could. The support of this small town touches me deeply. The fact that my talent for talking is finally accepted is indeed an honor.

Come visit us this year for Spruce Pine Day! You will feel the love we have for each other, and you will know that Spruce Pine is the place that appreciates you!

I couldn't end this article without the mention of Mildred Herring's cakewalk. She has been in charge of this event since day one. She will say she can't physically kick, but that "mental kick" is as strong as ever. She calls and says to you, "I need you to bake a cake for the cakewalk." Yes ma'am.

It's no beating around the bush with Mildred Herring. She takes this responsibility seriously. The end results are worth her phone calls. She gets as many cakes as possible so you will have a chance (at the cost of \$1.00) to share your winning cake with me! [Needless to say, that last part isn't a rule of Mildred's cakewalk, but I think it should be.]

Take the time right now to mark your calendar for Spruce Pine Day on the third Saturday of October, October 20. We begin at 9 a.m. and call it a day after the last band plays around 5 p.m. It looks like we could end with the Hallmark Band, but the time slots are still in the process of being assigned for now.

Come on out and enjoy yourselves! See you there!



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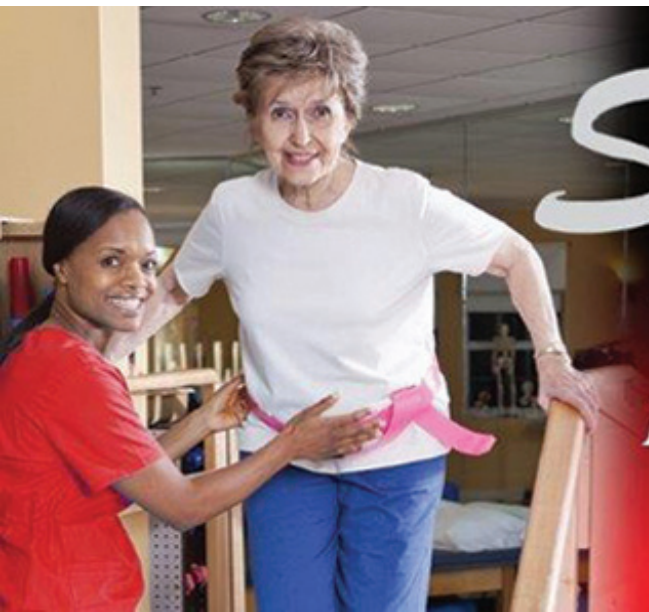
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Week 3 in the SEC

Last week's record: 2-2

Year to date: 5-3

Saturday, September 15
Vanderbilt at Notre Dame

Don't look now, but Vandy has come out of the gate fast on the heels of a disastrous 2017.

Granted, MTSU and Nevada aren't exactly world-beaters, but Vandy was favored by a total of just 12 points in those two games and won them by a combined margin of 76-17.

That's the good news. Now for the bad news: The Commodores have to go on the road to play a good Notre Dame team that should be angry and focused after slogging around last week in an uninspiring 24-16 win over Ball State. Unlike last year, Vandy won't be running the table in non-conference play this season.

The Pick: Notre Dame 31 Vanderbilt 14
LSU at Auburn

Color me skeptical on LSU. The Tigers got a ton of help from Miami in their Week 1 rout. It remains to be seen if LSU can be functional enough on offense to hang with the big boys in the SEC West. I have my doubts. Auburn's defense has what it takes to make things very difficult for Joe Burrow and company on Saturday afternoon.

The LSU defense is really good, too, so don't expect a rout. Auburn appeared to be getting healthier last week against Alabama A&M, and the Tigers have now won 13 straight home games overall—not to mention seven of their last nine at Jordan-Hare against LSU. Auburn raced out to a huge lead in Baton Rouge last year, only to take its foot off the gas and watch the whole thing fall apart in a 27-23 loss. This time, Jarrett Stidham and company will close the deal.

The Pick: Auburn 27 LSU 14
Alabama at Ole Miss

It seems like a lock that Alabama will top the 50-point mark for a third straight week. After all, if Southern Illinois can hang 41 in Oxford, the sky should be the limit for the most dynamic offense Nick Saban has had in Tuscaloosa. Alabama put up 66 points on Ole Miss last season, and that was before Tua took the reins in T-Town. Watch out.

It will be interesting to see how Alabama's secondary handles A.J. Brown and all those Ole Miss receivers, but there's no way the Rebels make enough plays—or get enough stops—to keep this interesting for four quarters.

The Pick: Alabama 52 Ole Miss 20
Missouri at Purdue

Somehow, Purdue held Missouri to a single, solitary field goal last year in a 35-3 win in Columbia. Missouri's offense is a machine now, and Drew Lock's Heisman campaign is in full swing. Plus, Purdue lost at home last week to Eastern Michigan. Yikes.

The Pick: Missouri 45 Purdue 27



Mike Self
Sports Editor

Here we go again



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW
SAFETY SQUEEZE - Levi Blanton (52) had six tackles (including this sack in the end zone) for a Red Bay defense that held Hatton to eight yards rushing.

Red Bay roughed up Hatton with a physically dominant performance reminiscent of the 2015 Tigers. Can this team reach the same heights?

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

According to Red Bay head coach Michael Jackson, the seeds of his team's 3-0 start in 2018 were planted late in 2017, when the Tigers closed out an otherwise disappointing season with back-to-back wins over Phil Campbell and Cherokee to finish 5-5.

The strong finish came too late to rescue a streak of consecutive playoff appearances that ended at 18 in a row, but it did serve to lay the foundation for an immediate turnaround.

"I think experience is a big factor," Jackson said on Sunday, two days after his team remained unbeaten with a dominant 32-6 rout of region rival Hatton. "We've won the last five games in a row going back to last year. When we started that [streak] five games ago, we were starting nine underclassmen on both sides of the ball. We're basically playing the same people we ended last November with, and every one of those people are

stronger and faster than they were. So the main thing is experience.

"And the exciting thing is, we've still got room to grow."

"I will say this—this team has a lot of character," said Jackson, now in his fifth season at Red Bay and his 17th overall as a high school head coach.

"They're very physical, too, one of the most physical teams I've had at any level. They enjoy that aspect of the game and what goes with it. They're one of the stronger teams I've had."

These Tigers (3-0, 1-0 in Class 2A, Region 7) have already grown a lot since last year, both physically and figuratively. Red Bay roughed up a big, strong Hatton team last Friday, manhandling the Hornets in the trenches and out-rushing them 273 yards to eight—a whipping that called to mind Jackson's best Tiger team to date, the 2015 squad that finished 11-1 and out-scored its opponents by an average margin of 41-6.

Region win has Russellville off to 2-0 start

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

First-year Russellville coach John Ritter hopes his players learned a lesson last Friday night.

He's also extremely grateful that learning that lesson didn't cost his team a game.

One week after knocking off rival Deshler 40-34 in a double-overtime thriller, the Golden Tigers survived a lackluster start to rally for a 24-13 win at Corner in the Class 5A, Region 7 opener for both teams.

"For most of the first half, on both sides of the ball, we played with no emotion," said Ritter, whose team trailed by two touchdowns early in the second quarter. "We were kind of just sleepwalking through the game, for whatever reason. That was one of our worries coming into the game, with such a young team—how would we respond to a big, emotional victory the week before? Lucky for us, we made a couple of big plays to go up 14-13, and we started doing what we're supposed to do and playing a lot harder. We came back out in the second half and played a much more physical style of football. We played with emotion, and when we do that we have more success."

"I hope we learned a lesson on Friday night. There's a certain standard and a certain way you have to play to be successful. We're not good enough to just to through the motions. We can't take anybody for granted. There's a certain style and a certain type of football we have to play every snap. Last week we only played two quarters that way, and we were fortunate to get the win."

"It was a great lesson to learn, and it's better to learn with a victory as opposed to learning a lesson the hard way and losing a game you shouldn't lose."

To say that Russellville (2-0, 1-0 in region play) came out flat against Corner (1-2, 0-1) would be an understatement. After each team had possessed the football twice, the Golden Tigers had gained two yards of offense and zero first downs, compared to 121 total yards and nine first downs for the Yellow Jackets. Corner opened with a 14-play, 84-yard march and then took advantage of a

short field on its second possession, capping off both drives with touchdowns on fourth-down plays to grab an early 13-0 lead.

"We were in position those first two drives to get them off the field a few times, but we missed some tackles," Ritter said. "They had a great game plan. They did some things we hadn't seen, and it took us a minute to get adjusted to what they were doing. They were kind of nickel and diming us to death. When we get to fourth down, we have to be able to get off the field and not give up a touchdown. That's four or five touchdowns in two games that we've given up on fourth down, and that can't happen."

"I hope we learned a lesson on Friday night," Ritter said. "There's a certain standard and a certain way you have to play to be successful. We're not good enough to just to through the motions. We can't take anybody for granted. There's a certain style and a certain type of football we have to play every snap. Last week we only played two quarters that way, and we were fortunate to get the win. It was a great lesson to learn, and it's better to learn with a victory as opposed to learning a lesson the hard way and losing a game you shouldn't lose."

Corner, coming off a 56-point explosion the week before in a rout of Oak Grove, appeared to be on its way to another big night, but coordinator Chris Balentine's Russellville defense turned the tide in dramatic fashion. Over their final seven possessions, the Yellow Jackets gained just 128 yards on 38 snaps (3.4 yards per play) and picked up only eight more first downs. The Golden Tiger D got increasingly aggressive as the game wore on, finishing the night with eight tackles for loss (including three sacks) and two interceptions (both by sophomore corner Ashaad Williams).

"Corner did a good job of scheming us up early in the game and adding a few wrinkles to attack what we do," Ritter said. "Coach Balentine and those guys made some adjustments, and our kids started making plays. We changed the way we were slanting to counteract what they were doing. Our plan was to get them in some definite passing situations and then pin our ears back and come

get 'em. We had some favorable matchups we felt like we could take advantage of with our speed at outside linebacker."

"Our defense played outstanding in the second half."

Both of Russellville's starting outside 'backers got well acquainted with Corner quarterback Andrew Baker on Friday night. Senior Nate Green had a sack, a tackle for loss and a quarterback pressure, and junior Jamal Hubbard also sacked Baker once and broke up a pass at the line of scrimmage. The Golden Tigers also got tackles for loss from senior safety Donald Ramson, sophomore inside linebacker Brooks Scott and senior linemen Will Rushing and Gage Cook.

"It was basically just a zone blitz, where we bring five or six guys and play zone behind it," Ritter said. "Every once in a while we'd go man, but up front it was pretty much a go-get-the-quarterback and get-after-it type of deal. We wanted to get them in second and long or third and long and then go get him."

As the defense started to stifle the Yellow Jackets midway through the second quarter, the Russellville offense began to find a rhythm as well. The Golden Tigers crossed midfield for the first time all night on their third possession when senior quarterback Lucas McNutt fired a slant route to Devin Buckhalter for a 12-yard gain to the Corner 42. Senior tailback Zaye Boyd—who would finish with 125 yards on 23 carries—broke off a nine-yard run, and a couple of plays later McNutt picked up four yards to convert a third-and-two.

McNutt and Buckhalter hooked up again on another slant route for nine yards down to the Corner 21. On the next play, with the Yellow Jackets' single-high safety cheating toward Buckhalter's side of the formation, McNutt zipped a slant in the opposite direction to sophomore receiver Rowe Gallagher, who got inside his defender and then out-raced him to the end zone for a 21-yard touchdown to cap off a seven-play, 60-yard drive and get Russellville on the board.

A big hit by junior linebacker Jaxon Hallmark on third-and-six forced Corner to punt on its next drive, and the Golden Tiger offense went right back to work. Buckhalter took an option pitch from McNutt and picked up 16 yards, and Boyd busted loose for gains of 10 and 30 yards (his longest run of the night). The drive stalled a bit, and a penalty left Russellville facing a third-and-13 from the Corner 23. That's when Ritter reached into his bag of tricks to help the Golden Tigers take their first lead of the night.

McNutt took the shotgun snap and started moving to his left before handing the ball to Buckhalter on a reverse. The senior receiver—who possesses the strongest throwing arm on the team—evaded a couple of Corner defenders, giving ground all the way back near the 40-yard line as he rolled to his right. Still feeling the heat, Buckhalter leaped backward to give himself enough space to unleash a one-footed throw that left him flat on his back. The pass was right on the money, however, and sophomore receiver Cole Barnett—all by his lonesome in the end zone—juggled the ball briefly before squeezing it for a 23-yard touchdown.

"We were in a position where we needed to make a play," Ritter said, "and sometimes the unexpected is good in a moment like that. Any time we ran away from our single receiver, the corner was bailing out of there. He wasn't even looking at the receiver. Devin made a phenomenal



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

(From left) Lucas McNutt, Nate Green, Herson Rodriguez and Gage Cook will try and help the Golden Tigers remain unbeaten on Friday night against Hayden.

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'REGION,' from page 14

play. He was able to make a guy miss and throw it off his back foot forty yards. That's not exactly how we draw it up, but Devin made a phenomenal play just to get the pass off, and Cole made a big catch on the other end.

"It was a big-time play when we needed something good to happen."

Kenner Perez tacked on the extra point, and then Williams came up with the first of his two interceptions to send Russellville into the locker room with a 14-13 lead. Corner picked up a pair of first downs to open second half, but Scott leveled tailback Nick Brashear for a loss of three to short-circuit the drive.

The Yellow Jackets punted the ball down to the one-yard line, but Russellville responded with an epic 99-yard drive, a 14-play march that featured a critical pass interference flag against Corner on third-and-eight from the three; 12 rushing attempts, including nine by Boyd for 45 yards; a nine-yard scamper by Buckhalter; and a 31-yard scramble by McNutt on third-and-12 from the Corner 35. Boyd scored from four yards out on the next play, capping the drive and extending Russellville's lead to 21-13.

"Without a doubt, that was a huge pivotal drive in the game," Ritter said. "Devin and Lucas made some big plays, and Zaye ripped off a couple of nice runs. To go 99 yards and score kind of broke their back, and then we were able to make a couple of plays to stretch out the lead a little bit."

A big hit by sophomore corner Caden Watts and a tackle behind the line by Cook ended Corner's ensuing drive, and the Yellow Jackets elected to punt from midfield. On Corner's next possession, Williams picked off Baker for the second time on the night and returned it 52 yards down the right sideline to set up a 31-yard field goal by Perez that pushed the lead to 24-13 midway through the fourth quarter.

Russellville's defense kept bringing the heat, sealing the deal with sacks by Cook and Green on back-to-back plays to snuff out Corner's next drive. A holding penalty negated what would have been a 24-yard touchdown run by McNutt late in the game, but the Golden Tigers nonetheless headed home with a satisfying 24-13 win and an early leg up in what should be an extremely competitive Region 7 race.

"We're all kind of the same," Ritter said. "I don't think there's one team that's head and shoulders above the rest of us. We're all very similar in our styles and our approaches. We're gonna have to bring it every week. There are no cupcakes on our schedule where we can just show up and win just because

we're breathing.

"We'll have to bring our A-game every week and make sure we're prepared to play at a high level. Because the minute you don't, you're gonna get beat."

Russellville will look to improve to 2-0 in region play on Friday night when Hayden visits Golden Tiger Stadium for the first-ever meeting between the two teams. The Wildcats (1-2, 0-1) couldn't hold a big early lead against Lawrence County last week and lost their region opener 25-22.

"Offensively, they run the Wing-T, so we're gonna have to do a great job of playing assignment football," Ritter said. "If we don't do our job on defense, they're gonna be very successful, because their backs are athletic and their linemen do a good job. The thing about the Wing-T is you have to be disciplined, because if you start looking in the backfield and looking for the football, they'll bust the trap or bust the belly or bust the buck. You can't get caught up in trying to find the football. If you do, it's gonna be a long night."

Offensively, the Golden Tigers will no doubt continue to lean on the senior trio of McNutt (167 yards and two touchdowns passing in two games, plus 57 yards rushing), Boyd (310 yards and six touchdowns on 46 carries thus far) and Buckhalter (nine catches in two games for 94 yards and a score).

"Hayden plays a 4-2-5 [scheme], and they put a lot of pressure on you as an offense," Ritter said. "They blitz quite often, and they like to get their inside linebackers up in the A-gap and the B-gap. We'll have to take advantage of what they give us. We'll put in a wrinkle or two just like we always do, whether that's a play or a formation or what have you. We'll have to play sound assignment football and play with a lot of heart and a lot of passion."

Ritter is pleased to see his team sitting at 2-0, especially considering that the Golden Tigers trailed Deshler by a touchdown on three separate occasions before winning in OT and then had to fight back from the early two-score deficit against Corner.

"We're in a very good position out of the gate," he said. "It's huge for us to be 2-0. Hopefully the kids have got confidence in what we're doing and confidence in themselves. The things we want to accomplish are right there in front of us. Starting 1-0 in the region is huge. We're in a position to control our own destiny and handle our own business, and the goal is to do that again this week in another big region game."

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'AGAIN,' from page 13

Jackson is reluctant to make any comparisons at this point [the Tigers' toughest games lie ahead of them, not behind them], but he certainly likes what he's seeing in the early going.

"I will say this—this team has a lot of character," said Jackson, now in his fifth season at Red Bay and his 17th overall as a high school head coach. "They're very physical, too, one of the most physical teams I've had at any level. They enjoy that aspect of the game and what goes with it. They're one of the stronger teams I've had. These guys, the kids we have playing now, are all very strong kids."

That strength and physicality is plain to see on film—particularly when it comes to a veteran offensive line featuring center Dylan Hester (a 5'11, 240-pound junior), guards Elijah Ingle (a 5'11, 250-pound senior) and Levi Raper (a 6'0, 180-pound junior), and tackles Noah Haines (a 6'3, 240-pound senior) and Caleb Seeley (a 5'10, 240-pound junior). Factor in sophomore H-backs Cam McKinney (6'1, 241) and Logan Scott (6'1, 225), and Red Bay is fully equipped to mash opposing defenses with the run game.

"Our offensive line was really good the other night," said Jackson, whose team has already rushed for 816 yards on 143 carries this season in just three games. "They were a step above where I thought they were. Those guys have really helped our run game this year. They are really honed in on playing assignment-based football right now."

"There were nine running plays I counted [in the Hatton game] where every person within ten yards of the ball was blocked. That tells me our guys are doing a really good job with their assignments, getting on people at the point of attack."

The Tigers dominated Hatton (1-1, 0-1) from the outset last week, rushing for 200-plus yards in the first half alone and getting touchdown runs of four yards from senior quarterback Kolby Bragwell, 28 yards from sophomore receiver Jalen Vinson and 10 yards from junior tailback Colbie King on their way to opening up a 26-0 lead early in the second quarter.

"We did play extremely well in the first half," Jackson said. "We were able to run the ball and force some turnovers. The defense made some big plays. We played really well early, and I was pleased with that."

Bragwell set the tone on offense, rushing for a season-high 115 yards on 14 carries. The 6'1, 215-pound senior—who also starts at safety—excelled on defense as well, tying McKinney for the team lead with 10 tackles and returning a Hatton fumble 59 yards for a fourth-quarter touchdown.

"He was awesome the other night," Jackson said of Bragwell, who has now scored touchdowns this season on offense, defense and special teams [he took a punt to the house in the season opener against Colbert Heights]. "That's the best I've ever seen him play. He rushed for 115 yards. He controlled the game on both sides. He had a couple of pass break-ups. He had some amazing runs in the first half where he just gashed them."

Jackson said the bulk of Bragwell's big gains on the ground came on simple quarterback counters and quarterback powers.

"Hatton is a very physical football team. They're huge up front," Jackson said. "It was good night for us to run some of our power game and try to control the clock. Kolby carried it fourteen times, I think. Against Colbert Heights he carried it eighteen times. Against Phil Campbell [in a 36-8 rout two weeks ago] he only carried it four times. It just depends on what we're doing that particular night."

"We wanted to throw the ball more in the second half [against Hatton], but it was really humid and we were having a hard time taking care of the ball."

See 'AGAIN,' page 17

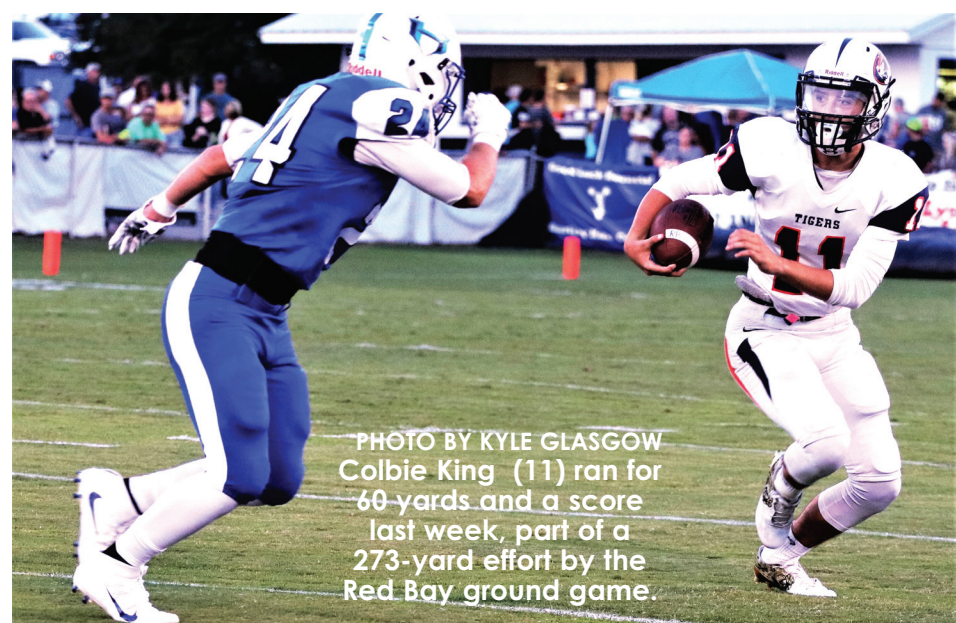


PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW
Colbie King (11) ran for 60 yards and a score last week, part of a 273-yard effort by the Red Bay ground game.

'AGAIN', from page 16

when we put it in the air. So we just kept running it."

King finished with 60 yards on 19 carries last week, and the speedy Vinson rushed for 65 yards on just four attempts. Even more impressive than their own ground game, however, was the way the Tigers completely shut down a Hatton rushing attack that had produced more than 300 yards the previous week in a 36-14 win over West Morgan.

The Hornets—who finished with eight yards rushing on 24 carries, a 0.3-yard average—struggled so much to run the football that they eventually abandoned the Wing-T offense they implemented this offseason and went back to a spread passing attack.

"Defensively, Coach [Jamie] Purser and Coach [Richard] Maggerise and those guys did a great job," said Jackson, whose team lost its shutout bid midway through the fourth quarter. "We pretty much stoned them on defense. We did a phenomenal job against the Wing-T. They changed their offense and went to throwing the ball around, but we were able to keep everything in front of us and hold them out of the end zone until really late in the game."

"We played very stout up front. Coach Purser put together a good game plan, and then our guys just got after it. The thing about it is, if you can't run the ball on us, then we're in really good shape, because we can control the game and control the clock."

Senior linebacker Tanner Nichols had seven tackles for Red Bay, and he and Colyn Humphres combined to force the fumble that Bragwell recovered and ran back for a touchdown to make it 32-0 with 8:45 remaining in the game. Vinson had two tackles and an interception, and freshman defensive tackle Levi Blanton also had a big night defensively, recording six tackles and sacking Hatton's quarterback in the end zone for a safety to get the scoring started midway through the first quarter.

"Levi Blanton started his first game at tackle and had a phenomenal game for a freshman," Jackson said. "He's the one who had that safety right off the bat, and we were off and running from there. He's got a chance to be a very special player. He's 6'3, 220 as a freshman, and he's got a chance to be really good. He had a big game for us up front."

Jackson was pleased with how Red Bay rose to the occasion against a solid Hatton team hungry for its first win over the Tigers since 1987.

"I don't know if it was a statement game," he said, "but it was a game we really put a lot into. Our coaching staff put a lot into it. We put a lot of pressure on our kids to prepare for that game, just because of the magnitude of the game and knowing how [Hatton] had talked this game up for a long time. They had banners up in the school about the last time they won [against Red Bay]. They circled this game."

"Knowing they were off to such a great start and were running the football really well and had a lot of momentum, it was a game we really focused on. Throw in the fact that we do not always play well over there and the fact that they play really well at home, we were really pleased with how things went."

The Tigers will face another tough road test this week when they travel to take on Addison Friday night. The Bulldogs (2-1, 0-0) beat Class 5A Curry 20-12 in their season opener before falling 32-20 to Class 3A powerhouse Piedmont the following week. They bounced back with a 51-18 rout of Winston County last Friday night.

The loss to Piedmont was Addison's first home defeat since 2015, snapping a streak of 16 consecutive wins at A.G. Hicks Stadium.

"This will be a big challenge for us," Jackson said. "We're playing against a team with a lot of confidence. In three years, they've lost one home game. They are a football town. They love their football. They always have. It'll be tough going into that atmosphere, and they've got a really good football team this year. I've seen them play everybody. They beat a 5A school to start the year, and they played Piedmont extremely well."

"Playing a team with a lot of confidence in a tough environment is gonna be a very big challenge, and hopefully our kids understand that. I think it helped us playing in that environment last week [at Hatton]."

Addison went 10-3 last year and made it to the Class 1A quarterfinals before moving up to Class 2A this season and joining Region 7. The Bulldogs are 53-20 overall and 30-8 in region play under head coach David Smothers, now in his seventh season at the helm. They have established a football powerhouse built largely on running the football and being the most physical team on the field—principles Jackson can certainly appreciate.

"That's who they are," he said. "Their best weapon, by far, is their quarterback. He's a big-time runner. He can run it just as well as he can throw it. He does everything for them on offense. The key for us is to control the quarterback."

With a win Friday, Red Bay would be 4-0 overall and 2-0 in Region 7 heading into next week's non-region game at Belmont, with an off week to follow.

"It's a good opportunity for us in a big region game," said Jackson, whose team is in the midst of a four-game road stretch. "We're playing all these road games in a row, and if we can come out and be successful on Friday night, we'll be putting ourselves in a really good situation for later on."



Kolby Bragwell

Senior QB/DB, Red Bay

Bragwell made his presence known on both sides of the ball last Friday, leading the Tigers to an impressive 32-6 road rout of region rival Hatton. The 6'2, 215-pound senior carried the load on offense, rushing for a team-leading 115 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries. He also had a big night defensively, returning a Hatton fumble 59 yards for a score and tying for the team lead with 10 tackles.

Three games into the season, Bragwell has already scored touchdowns on offense, defense and special teams, helping Red Bay start 3-0.




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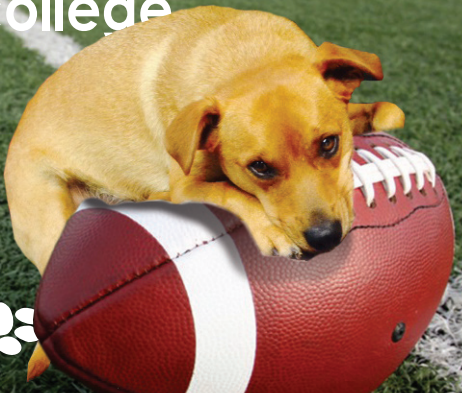
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Lady 'Dogs sweep Covenant Christian in first area match

Submitted to the FFP

Belgreen's varsity volleyball team won its first area match of the season last Thursday, sweeping three straight games from Covenant Christian. Sophomore hitter Emma Dempsey, who was selected as North Alabama Player of the Week the previous week, delivered another strong performance against Covenant. She finished the match with 15 kills, two digs, three aces and 10 service points.

Belgreen's three losses this season have come to Class 6A Athens, Class 5A Brewer and Class 3A Colbert Heights. The Lady Bulldogs have beaten Class 4A Elkmont, Class 2A Colbert County, Belmont (MS) and Covenant, sweeping all four matches. Belgreen will host its second annual invitational tournament this Saturday, September 15. Eight teams will be competing.

Junior setter Autumn Bragwell also had a big day for the Lady Bulldogs (4-3 overall, 1-0 in area play), recording 26 assists, one block, two kills, five digs, one ace and 10 service points. Junior hitter Ansley Tate added nine kills, one assist, two digs, four aces and seven service points.

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