

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

RPD steps up efforts to enforce traffic laws

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

If you've become relaxed with traffic laws, the Russellville Police Department will soon provide you a wake-up call in the form of a ticket.

RPD chief Chris Hargett said his department will soon have an officer solely dedicated to traffic safety on duty, and he's instructing other officers to step up enforcement of common violations.

"We want to be positive with this, because most people get upset when you start talking about traffic tickets, as they affect them financially and personally," Hargett said. "But they don't realize the effect of of when we work traffic enforcement versus not working it, and how that coincides with reduction of traffic accidents."

Hargett said he and his officers are seeing an increas-

ing number of motorists getting lax when it comes to rolling through stop signs, not using turn signals and other minor traffic violations.

"We want to be positive with this, because most people get upset when you start talking about traffic tickets, as they affect them financially and personally," Hargett said. "But they don't realize the effect of of when we work traffic enforcement versus not working it, and how that coincides with reduction of traffic accidents."

"Part of that is our fault. We've been down in manpower, so there aren't as many of us out," Hargett said. "The presence of police on the four-lane makes people do the right thing most of the time."

"There are little violations people don't realize like driving in the left lane on the highway. The left lane isn't a

See 'TRAFFIC,' Page 8

School board approves budget

County system meets reserve requirement for first time

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Board of Education approved a \$37.5 million budget that includes, for the first time, a one-month reserve fund of \$2.2 million as required by Alabama law.

The board approved the budget at its September 11 meeting. Due in large part to receipt of a \$5.5 million settlement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for more than 20 disaster-related losses from the April 27, 2011 tornadoes, the board was able to include the reserve fund in full for the first time. Alabama law requires a system to maintain a one-month reserve fund and, in cases where the system falls below that amount, to submit to the state a plan as to how it will arrive at the required fund amount.

Franklin County superintendent of education Greg Hamilton and chief financial officer Carla Knight announced receipt of the \$5.5 million at the board's budget work session last week.

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"Having a one-month fund is huge for our system," Hamilton said. "It's beyond words I can explain."

Hamilton and Knight described a long and tedious process to obtain the funds over the last seven-and-a-half years.

"We've been fighting more than seven-and-a-half years

See 'BUDGET,' Page 8

Johnny Mack MORROW

STATE SENATE



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

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Sandra "Sandy" Gay Clark, Russellville, age 66
Died Saturday, September 15, 2018. Visitation held at Spry Memorial Chapel. The family was planning to hold a private graveside service.

Tula Carolyn Ergle, Phil Campbell, age 85
Died Sunday, September 16, 2018. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Blue Springs Cemetery in Phil Campbell.

Robert Ray Franks, Russellville, age 83
Died Saturday, September 15, 2018. Graveside service will be held Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 11 a.m. at Franklin Memory Gardens with Pinkard Funeral Home directing.

Daniel Norris Sparks, Russellville, age 86
Died Saturday, September 15, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Belgreen Cemetery.

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Delays result in refund on cafeteria project

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As he addressed the Tharptown Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization last week, the frustration in Greg Hamilton's voice was evident.

Hamilton, the superintendent of education for Franklin County Schools, hoped the new cafeteria at Tharptown would be completed by the start of the 2018 school year.

In fact, the contract with First Team Construction, Inc. of Auburn, called for it. That date came and went with the project well behind schedule.

But Hamilton told the PTO the project was now two-thirds complete, and he expects the school system to receive a six-percent refund on the \$2.5 million project because it wasn't finished in time.

The cafeteria project is the first phase of several physical improvements on Tharptown's campus after the school has seen meteoric growth the past three years. More than 830 students are enrolled at Tharptown School, including 550 in the elementary school. Franklin County Schools have added

more than 500 students since 2014.

"The contract called for them to finish August 3. We have filed for six percent back of the \$2.5 million. They will have to pay that back to the Franklin County School System," Hamilton said. "At least we'll get some money back."

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Once the new cafeteria is complete, the existing cafeteria will be converted into four classrooms. Another building with six classrooms and a safe room large enough for the entire school will be constructed as the final phase.

"The new cafeteria will be two times the size of this one," Hamilton said. "We're working to get you

a state-of-the-art school with all the amenities you deserve."

Parents asked Hamilton a series of questions about their school, including concerns about a lack of playground equipment. The equipment was removed earlier this year as part of the cafeteria project.

Hamilton announced the purchase of almost \$44,000 of new equipment, which will be handicapped-accessible, including new swings, a tornado climber, Camp Walden activity panels, a triple toss ball goal and fitness equipment purchased through a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Hamilton said the playground will be adjacent to the existing K-2 playground and will be fenced in with a pavilion and a walking track around it.

"Part of it will be installed tomorrow [September 11]. And by this fall, all the playground equipment will be in place," Hamilton said.

Other issues raised by parents included the possibility of air conditioning in the elementary gym, progress of the roadway that will connect with Hwy. 48, and whether gates can be installed to keep traffic away from the playground area.

Second lawsuit filed against ACCS chancellor

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A second lawsuit has been filed against the chancellor of the Alabama Community College Systems alleging that several tenured employees of Shelton State Community College had their salaries wrongly reduced.

The civil action was filed in Tuscaloosa County Circuit Court against Chancellor Jimmy Baker, the Alabama Community College Board of Trustees, Cleveland Community College in North Carolina president Jason Hurst and previous Shelton State interim president Dr. Cynthia Anthony.

The complaint alleges Anthony made the decision to reduce the salaries of a number of employees including Scheree Datcher, Division Chair, Office Administration at Shelton, Khristy Large and

Robert Pressley, also in Office Administration, based not on board policy but on a document from 1999. The plaintiffs allege the salary reduction and the document relied on by Anthony violate board policies.

Last month, Baker and Dr. Kim Ennis, Beville State president, were sued by the newly formed Legislative Advisory Task Force for Education, in Marion County Circuit Court. That lawsuit alleges that Ennis refuses to honor a request pursuant to the Alabama Open Records Act seeking a report Ennis said she relied on when she unilaterally decided to eliminate four work force development programs at Beville State's Hamilton campus.

After public outrage and opposition from Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D-Red Bay), Ennis announced she had changed her mind about eliminating the programs.

Morrow previously requested a copy of Ennis's study, and his investigation revealed that no school board officials or industrial leaders in the area were contacted as part of the study.

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

Ennis, while alleging the programs were outdated and no longer economically viable, planned to continue offering the same programs at Beville State's Sumiton campus.

Hamilton attorney Tony Glenn filed the lawsuit on behalf of the task force.

No response or answer has been filed yet by the defendants in the Tuscaloosa case as of the publication date of this article.

Secretary of State encouraging 'voter refresh' effort

Submitted to the FFP

MONTGOMERY – On Tuesday, September 25, 2018, Alabama secretary of state John Merrill will join hundreds of different partners around the nation to observe National Voter Registration Day, a special event set to emphasize voter registration. In Alabama, Merrill is also specifically encouraging a "voter refresh" effort to update state voter rolls with correct information about our citizens.

"There is no freedom more integral to this Republic than the right to vote and participate in our democratic process," Merrill said.

"Since I became secretary of state, we have registered more than a million new voters who have helped us shatter state records for voter registration and participation in our elections," Merrill said. "But we also want our voter rolls to be up-to-date, so we are urging everyone to take a moment to make sure their current address is correct in the state system."

"We are pleased to participate in this special day that encourages more participation in our electoral process. We continue to work daily to make sure every eligible U.S. citizen in our state is registered to vote and has a photo

ID. We want to make it easy to vote and hard to cheat."

National Voter Registration Day, held on the fourth Thursday of September since 2012, is endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State and the National Association of State Election Directors. Since 2012, more than 1.4 million people around the nation have registered to vote or updated their registration as part of this event. This year, libraries, schools and other partners will hold local voter registration drives.

Since Secretary Merrill took office, Alabama has registered 1,064,616 new voters, bringing the state's total to 3,418,839 as of September 7, 2018.

Alabama residents can update their voter registration information by downloading the "Vote for Alabama" app on your smart phone or visiting the Secretary of State website at <https://sos.alabama.gov>.

"There is no freedom more integral to this Republic than the right to vote and participate in our democratic process," Merrill said. "I am so proud we are able to work with the partners involved with National Voter Registration Day to help make increased participation a reality."

For a full list of partners or more information about National Voter Registration Day, visit NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org.



Since Merrill took office, Alabama has registered more than one million new voters.

The Honey Do List: Time to go muddin'

Last week we filled that hole in our drywall, and now it's time to apply the mud (sheetrock compound).

This is a step that a lot of folks hate because they can't get a smooth finish. Don't worry so much about the application. There are ways to get rid of the ridges.

Using a medium-width putty knife, cover the seams and screw heads with a coat of sheetrock compound. This may be the "Honey Do tip of the month." Cut a piece of screen that will cover the patch and beyond by a couple of inches. Fiberglass or aluminum window screen will do fine. Place the screen over the repair and press it into the mud. Then smooth out the mud, working from the center of the patch.

If necessary, use a damp rag or smooth sponge to lightly smooth out ridges made by the putty knife. Let the patch dry thoroughly, maybe

even until tomorrow.

Now for the final coat of mud. It's helpful to have a wider "drywall knife" to spread the mud.

Feather out the mud well over the borders of the screen. Make sure the screen is not exposed. After a short dry time, use the damp cloth or sponge to smooth out the finish. When the mud is completely dry, lightly sand with sandpaper and you are ready for primer.

Now you should have a strong smooth patch that will not crack. For the best finish, you should use a coat of primer followed by two coats of paint to get your true color.

Next week, how do you match the paint? Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green

Please send your letters to the editor, guest columns, cartoon panels and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

OUR HOUSE

By: Ree SHANNON



Hitting reset on your financial goals

Summer is coming to an end, which means we are more than halfway through the year. What about those resolutions you made for 2018? If you're like most people, they probably went out the window during summer vacations. We've all been there!

With the holidays right around the corner, now is the perfect time to hit reset on your financial goals. Before you know it, you'll be busy booking holiday travel plans, buying gifts for loved ones and enjoying other festivities.

No matter how you're doing, you have plenty of time to get back on track. Here are a few ways to reach your financial goals before 2018 comes to an end:

1. Make some adjustments

Maybe your New Year's resolutions weren't realistic, or you had something pop up that drained your emergency fund and slowed you down. Life happens, and it's okay to adjust your goals. Look at where you are financially today, and decide where you want to be by the end of the year. Don't be afraid to set new goals for yourself, too. You can start making progress toward your future today. Just make sure you factor in the amount of time left in the year as you reset your goals to ensure they're attainable.

2. Get back to budgeting

A budget is the most important thing when it comes to winning with money. If you don't tell your money where to go, you'll wonder where it went! Assess how you've spent your money over the past few months. Look for areas where you can cut back (dining out, groceries, new clothes), and put that money toward your goals. Trust me, you'll feel less stressed.

3. Plan ahead

It's September, which means we'll be decking the halls before you know it. At this point, you can count how many paychecks you have left until the holidays. The last thing you want to do is spend money you don't have.

In 2017, roughly 74 percent of Americans said they failed to budget properly for the holidays and racked up an average of \$1,054 in debt. Plan ahead by adding a line item to your budget for holiday spending. Aside from gifts, don't forget to factor in travel expenses, charitable giving and parties. Start setting this money aside now so you can enjoy the holiday season guilt-free.

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4. Stay motivated by tracking your progress

You've got your budget, so now you just have to make sure that you stick to it and stay motivated. Tracking your progress can be one of the most helpful ways to do this. When you can visualize your progress, you'll be excited by those quick wins, you'll be less tempted to spend what you don't have, and you'll be motivated to keep going. I've created a free goal tracker that you can download at www.rachelcruze.com to make this part easy and fun!



Rachel Cruze

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The *Franklin Free Press* is published by hometown people, for hometown people. We urge contributions of all kinds, including guest columns, picture submissions, cartoons or letters to the editor. Send any letters to our office via U.S. Postal Service or e-mail, and we will gladly publish them. Letters must be signed and contain the hometown and phone number of the author. The *Franklin Free Press* reserves the right to edit letters for style, length and content.

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Planning and success

Dear Dave,
I'm stuck in a dead-end job, and I only have a high school diploma. I've never minded long hours and hard work, but I've begun to realize I need to have a better career, so I can spend more time with my kids. I feel like I'm missing out on their lives, because I work 65 to 70 hours every week.

Do you have any advice on how to change my situation?

Tim

Dear Tim,
Asking questions and exploring your options like this is a much smarter move than simply walking away from an unsatisfying job situation—especially when you have a family to think about. I'm glad you're wise enough to take a thoughtful look at the situation instead of making a rash decision that could have a negative impact on you and your family.

There's absolutely nothing wrong with wanting to improve yourself in terms of education or your career. But before you do any of that, you've got to have a definite direc-

tion in mind.

You need an in-depth, detailed game plan for the next three or four years that's designed to put you where you want to be.

It may involve going back to school for some classes, additional training in your field, or even getting a full-blown degree. If you identify your long-term goals in detail, it will lead you to some of the short-term goals that will help you arrive at your final destination.

Have you tried talking to your boss about your goals and your situation? See if you can have a sincere conversation with him or her, and discuss your feelings about your career and what's going on with your family, too.

Your company may be very receptive to the idea of increasing your value in the workplace. A good leader will also understand the importance of family.

Also, there's a great book by Dan Miller that addresses this topic. It's called *48 Days to the Work You Love*. In this book, he lays out the steps to discovering what you really love to do and how to get there.

Best of luck, Tim!

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.*

'RESET,' from page 4

5. Focus on what matters

Sometimes we want certain things so badly they start to feel more like needs.

Do you really need the newest iPhone?

Do you really need to replace your outdated computer?

These things are nice to have, but they're not must-haves. With social media today, keeping up with the Joneses is harder than ever. And who would want to anyway?

Don't compare your life to someone else's highlight reel. Focus on your goals and the things that really matter in life.

You don't have to wait for a new year to set new goals or make progress toward the goals you've already set. In order to win with your money later, you must be intentional today!

As a #1 New York Times best-selling author and host of *The Rachel Cruze Show*, Rachel helps people learn the proper ways to handle money and stay out of debt. She's authored three best-selling books, including *Love Your Life, Not Theirs* and *Smart Money Smart Kids*, which she co-wrote with her father, Dave Ramsey. You can follow Cruze on Twitter and Instagram at @RachelCruze and online at rachelcruze.com, youtube.com/rachelcruze or facebook.com/rachelramseycruze.



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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 Franklin County Health Department will have a Flu Shot Clinic this Thursday, September 20 from 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Please bring your Medicaid, Medicare, Blue Cross Blue Shield or All-Kids Insurance Card, or the cost is \$5 for the shot. If you have PHIP or SEIB Insurance, you will need to go through one of the wellness clinics for your flu shot.



The American Cancer Society Relay for Life will hold a Hand in Hand support group meeting (all cancers) this Thursday, September 20 at 6 p.m. at ECM East Community Room (2111 Cloyd Blvd., Florence, AL 35630). Guest speaker will be Khrist 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. this 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 this 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.



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!



Belgreen High School presents "Stars Wars 2018," a professional wrestling match, on Friday, September 28 at 7 p.m. at the Belgreen High School gymnasium. Main event features a \$1,000 King of the Ring Battle Royal. Second main event features United States heavyweight title match between WWE superstar Johnny Swinger vs. The Wrestling Superstar. There will be a Southern Tag Team title match between Action Mike Jackson & Doink the Clown vs. The American Brawlers and the United States Jr. Championship Match between Thundercat vs. Ultimate Dragon. Advance tickets may be purchased from the BHS office for \$8 starting September 17. Tickets the day of the show will be \$10. Ringside seats will be available. No reserved seats. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Autograph Party at CJ's Grocery from 3:30-5:30 p.m.



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, 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.



Belgreen High School will host its Fall Festival on Thursday, October 4 from 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m. There will be Bingo, Haunted House, Hayrides, Cake Walk, Fun Games, Fortune Teller, Toy Walk, great prizes, delicious concessions for sale and MUCH MORE! Admission is free, so come join the fun!

What's Happening

256.332.0255

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

The next meeting for American Legion Post 64 will be Thursday, October 11 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

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 SeniorRx 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 SeniorRx 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.

Village Square Apartments in Russellville host George's Country Boys each Monday night from 6-8 p.m. for some Gospel and Country singing. Come join in the fun!



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RHS to host Legends of Youth Baseball Camp

Submitted to the FFP

RUSSELLVILLE — Organizers of the second annual Olan Cunningham Legends of Youth Baseball Camp are now accepting participants for this year's camp on Saturday, September 29.

The camp, which is hosted in conjunction with the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association and sponsored by Johnny Mack Morrow, will be held at the Russellville High School Baseball Stadium from 9 a.m. until noon for students in grades 1-12 from Franklin, Colbert, and Marion counties.

Russellville head baseball coach Chris Heaps said they will be accepting 50 students from each county, and all 150 spots will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

"This is a great opportunity for students in these three counties to have a chance to attend a camp that they might not have otherwise been able to attend," Heaps said. "Because of the sponsors, this camp is free for the participants, and we believe each one will learn a lot, not just about skills and techniques but about life as well."

Former MLB pitcher Randy McGilberry, who played for the Kansas City Royals, will be in attendance at the camp, along with Vina High School baseball coach Donovan Hand, who pitched in the major leagues for the Milwaukee Brewers and the Cincinnati Reds. Both McGilberry and Hand represent the MLBPA.

"These camps are designed to come into communities and, in conjunction with the leadership there, provide an opportunity to hear from former players that were at one time kids with dreams too," McGilberry said. "I have been instructing

young players since 1986, and I know that not every young player is cut out to play baseball at higher levels, but I was able to teach them fundamentals and teamwork and how important hard work and fundamentals are to be successful at anything in life."

McGilberry said the Legends of Youth Baseball Camps, which are held across the country, are as much about life skills as they are about baseball fundamentals.

"When I first talked to Randy McGilberry over a year ago about hosting a camp like this for these three counties, I knew I wanted to name it after Olan Cunningham, who was my football coach at Red Bay when I was the captain during the '60-'61 season," Morrow said. "The reason for this is because I learned so much from him about teamwork, values, making good choices and so many other life lessons that translate well beyond the football field—things I still hold in high regard to this day. And that's what these camps that the MLBPA hosts are about."

"The main thing to learn is that any person, individually or in a team setting, has a role to play in being successful," he said. "It is similar to how the hands, eyes, ears, mouth, feet, legs and arms are all unique in their purpose in the human body; however, when working in unison, they can allow a person to be a successful doctor, lawyer, engineer, pilot, athlete, mechanic, plumber or anything they want to be."

Also in attendance at this year's camp will be members of the Governor's Commission on

Physical Fitness and Sports, local coaches and players who will be there to help with fundamentals and offer tips and advice, former State Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow, and the camp's namesake, Olan Cunningham.

"When I first talked to Randy McGilberry over a year ago about hosting a camp like this for these three counties, I knew I wanted to name it after Olan Cunningham, who was my football coach at Red Bay when I was the captain during the '60-'61 season," Morrow said. "The reason for this is because I learned so much from him about teamwork, values, making good choices and so many other life lessons that translate well beyond the football field—things I still hold in high regard to this day. And that's what these camps that the MLBPA hosts are about."

Morrow said he was impressed with last year's camp and is looking forward to this year's camp as well.

"Last year I watched as these kids received one-on-one time with these former big leaguers, and I saw how much it meant to them," Morrow said. "They learned techniques that improved their game and learned lessons that will improve their lives."

Those in Franklin County who are interested in participating can contact Heaps by text message at 256-345-0531 or email at chris.heaps@rcs.k12.al.us. Those in Colbert County can contact Troy Rutland by email at trutland@cherokeetel.net. Those in Marion County can contact Tony Shackelford by email at jane-shack@live.com or by phone at 205-495-2564. Include the participant's name, age and school they attend.

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'TRAFFIC' from page 1

driving lane, per se, to get from point A to point B. It's for passing vehicles or if you're turning left."

Hargett said when drivers 'hang out' in the left lane, it causes other motorists to get heated who are trying to get somewhere driving at a faster speed.

"That can create road-rage instances when someone blocks the passing lane. Another problem is people not using turn signals," Hargett said. "People take that for granted. It's a fast-paced world. Everyone is in a hurry to get where they're going, and they may roll through a stop sign. But that's what causes most accidents—people in a hurry and not obeying traffic laws."

Another area of renewed attention for officers will be enforcement of parking violations.

"Parking is a problem all over town," Hargett said. "There's an ordinance about reverse parking. You can't do it. In a parking lot, it's reverse parking when you pull into a spot from the wrong direction," Hargett said. "To leave, that requires you to pull out and go into the direction of oncoming traffic coming to park in that spot."

Handicapped parking spaces can also create some confusion for motorists, the chief explained. "The violation there is parking contrary to mark-

ings," Hargett said. "With van-accessible handicapped parking spots, there's a blue-striped area for the van to pull in and parallel park. It's illegal to park over those blue lines or any marked lines that aren't an actual parking space."

Hargett said that, with the hiring of two new officers recently, his department is nearing the number of officers that will allow for a traffic officer once again.

"We're in the process of hiring two more," Hargett said. "If we get them and no one else leaves, we'll have enough to sign up someone to just work traffic."

That officer will have plenty of violations to enforce, including fire lane parking, Hargett explained.

"Fire lanes are another big issue. There's never an appropriate time to pull into a fire lane," Hargett said. "Speeding on the four-lane is not as bad a problem as it is on city streets. Most people don't understand that if a city street isn't marked otherwise, in residential areas, state law sets the speed limit at 25 miles-per-hour."

Cross Street, which leads to the rear entrance of the Russellville Walmart, is a big problem for speeding, Hargett said, as is Oak Street.

"We get tons of complaints of speeders on Oak Street," Hargett said. "It's a main thoroughfare from Jackson to Waterloo Road to get to the schools. We work Oak Street heavily."

Motorists need to be aware that if they are cited for driving with no license or a suspended license, their vehicle will be impounded. Hargett said the lone exception is in cases where a licensed, sober driver is in the vehicle and willing to drive.

Medians are another subject of confusion and frequent violations in Russellville.

"We get complaints about medians all the time," Hargett said. "People need to know to stay to the right in a median. If you pull to the left, you can't see oncoming traffic."

Hargett said he has spoken with officials with the Alabama Department of Transportation about installing another deceleration lane for southbound traffic on Hwy. 43 at Gandy Street, one of the worst intersections for traffic accidents in the city.

"Another major problem is people crossing the opposite lanes of traffic on Jackson Avenue to park on the other side of the street," Hargett said. "It's illegal if you're going northbound to turn left to park on the southbound side."

'BUDGET' from page 1

to get all the FEMA funds the federal government owed us," Knight said. "After seven-and-a-half years we got a call about it, and they brought us a check to settle up for \$5.5 million. That was the balance the federal government owed us from that disaster."

The unexpected spike in revenue will allow Franklin County Schools to finish the current school year with \$3.1 million in reserve, which is \$900,000 more than the required amount.

"I can tell you, [Greg and Carla] worked extremely hard and concentrated heavily on obtaining these funds," said board attorney Danny McDowell.

The FEMA settlement also allowed the system to pay off its \$1.2 million line of credit with CB&S Bank. Those funds were borrowed last year to help Franklin County Schools make it through the fiscal year.

"We were paying more than \$100 a day in interest," Knight said. "We've been in close contact with Congressman [Robert] Aderholt and others who helped us get here. Seven-and-a-half years is a long time. We sometimes thought it would never happen, but it's like winning the lottery, and it finally did happen."

"We paid off the bank and then contacted the Alabama Department of Public Examiners to work out how to handle the funds."

Hamilton credited the work of his board as a major part of the process to receive the FEMA funds.

"We are past excited. There was a lot of difficulty in this process," Hamilton said. "These board members can tell you we worked extremely hard. There have been some tough times for Franklin County Schools."

"Revenue sources are not high in our county. The one-cent sales tax helped, and we finally caught a break [with the FEMA settlement]."

Board member Pat Cochran said the efforts of Hamilton and Knight in obtaining the funds had direct results at each Franklin County school, including Vina School, which he represents.

"It's pretty obvious that Vina would not have a new science lab and band hall if not for them," Cochran said. "When Mr. Hamilton ran for office, he had been at Vina a long time. He's very dedicated to our schools. He and Carla are being modest. There's no doubt what needed to happen to get this done, and I appreciate the work they put in."

Board chairman Mike Shewbart explained that the school system often receives funding after projects are completed, requiring Franklin County Schools to front the funds.

"There are projects in all our schools that are important, but often there just aren't funds available," Shewbart said. "We get backed up where people owe us money, and these two [Hamilton and Knight] are to be commended. They were consistent and persistent, and it all worked out for us."

"It took a team effort, and we think we have a pretty good team here in Franklin County."

The \$37.5 million budget is an increase of approximately \$1 million from the previous fiscal year and includes a 2.5-percent raise the Alabama Legislature approved to begin October 1, 2018.

With growth of more than 500 students since 2014, Franklin County Schools also receive more state funds that are based on enrollment. Those funds are paid based on the previous year, though, so this year's budget reflects the growth the system saw last year.

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 last June for two more years. The tax will appear on the November 6 ballot 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 Franklin County Schools finally enjoyed some old fashioned 'good luck.'

"Having a one-month fund is huge for our system," Hamilton said. "It's beyond words I can explain."



Letters to the Editor

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

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at franklinfreepress.net!

Letter to the Editor

Man of the people

To the Editor:
While attending several local festivals and events within the past month, I have been privileged to encounter an extraordinary young man.
Lee Auman, from Union Grove, AL, is challenging Robert Aderholt for his seat in the United States House of Representatives, District 4, on November 6, 2018.

Although Auman would seem to have placed himself in a David and Goliath situation, he is indeed in possession of many advantages. Most importantly, Auman cares! He cares about the hopes, dreams and general welfare of his would-be constituents. He cares enough about adequate and proper communications with the voters to hold at least two Town Hall meetings in every county in the 4th District before the mid-term election. He also pledges to open local offices populated by real live people, ready to address and answer questions and concerns of his constituents.

On Thursday, September 6, Mr. Auman held his first Franklin County Town Hall Meeting at the Todd Center. I did not find any announcement of this important meeting in the local print media. One must wonder why, and what had happened to prevent any announcement of this meeting from being published.

During that meeting it became evident that Mr. Auman possesses a great deal of courage and fortitude in order to challenge the embedded 20-year veteran of the do-nothing establishment.

He took questions from every audience member and answered them thoughtfully and intelligently. He presented logical and realistic solutions to some of our most pressing problems. He has pledged to avoid expedience and convenience in favor of DOING THE RIGHT THING.

He deeply cares about improving the employment and educational opportunities for all the District inhabitants. He also believes that health care is a basic human right and wants to work to maintain the viability of local hospitals. He has an excellent solution for the projected Social Security insolvency without raising taxes or contributions from the common man. Additionally, he would work to secure adequate funding necessary for the finishing of current highway and infrastructure projects as well as building new needed projects.

Although Lee Auman enjoys all the energy, vigor and enthusiasm of youth, he possesses knowledge, thoughtfulness and wisdom far beyond his years. The readership should expect the local print media to cover, or at least announce, all Town Hall meetings so that the voters of the district become the truly informed electorate so vital to our Democracy.

Randi Hull Gross
Russellville



COURTESY PHOTO

Lee Auman, Democratic nominee for U.S. House of Representatives, District Four Alabama, visited Franklin County recently for a town hall meeting at the A.W. Todd Centre. Auman, from Union Grove, will face incumbent Robert Aderholt in the November 6 general election. Auman (white shirt) took questions from the audience and shared his vision for Alabama's Fourth Congressional District.

Editor's Note: The only notification of Lee Auman's visit to Franklin County received by the *Franklin Free Press* was when a member of the local Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee contacted publisher John Pilati the day of Auman's planned visit. Neither Auman nor any representative of his campaign contacted the *Free Press* or WGOL-FM to notify us of his visit.

One would think a Congressional candidate, if he is wanting a "truly informed electorate," would notify the largest newspaper in the county he is planning to visit.

We run a What's Happening section weekly that provides, at no charge, notification to the community of coming events. Again, we can't publish what we don't know about, but we will gladly notify our readers of Mr. Auman's future visits to Franklin County if his campaigns makes us aware of them.

Commission approves contract for inmate medical services

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

After expressing their frustration at the cost and necessity of providing medical care to inmates in the Franklin County Jail, Franklin County commissioners approved a one-year contract with Southern Health Partners to provide medical services for up to 125 inmates.

The contract comes at a cost of \$233,443.32, an increase from last year due to the contract now including a larger number of inmates to be treated.

"This medical cost is a huge amount for the taxpayers who are good, hard-working citizens, many of whom are deprived of their medical needs," commissioner Rayburn Massey said. "It leaves a bitter taste in my mouth."

Before voting on the contract with Southern Health, Massey asked county attorney Roger Bedford, Jr. what the county's legal obligation was to provide medical care for inmates.

"The law requires you to provide medical care for inmates in the custody of the Franklin County Sheriff," Bedford said. "It's the same requirement across the state."

In other action, the Franklin County Commission:

- Approved the temporary hirings of Shonea Englethaler and Jenny Harris in the Franklin County Revenue Commissioner's Office. The two will work into January of 2019 to provide addition-

al manpower for the office during tax collection season.

- Approved the hiring of Dakota Lovett and Josue Aaron Catalan-Segura as correctional officers/jailers at the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, and the resignation of Carlos Lucas from the same position.

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- Approved payment of Alabama Transportation and Rehabilitation Improvement Program (ATRIP) invoice to Civil Group for \$4698.40 for work on County Road 11.

- Approved preliminary engineering contract for bridge replacement on CR 138 at McNair Creek in the amount of \$44,554. Of that amount, \$35,643 will be federal funds and the county's obligation is \$8911.

- Approved the hiring of James Hill as the new Franklin County Technical Project manager. Nine candidates were interviewed for the position, with a committee of EMA director Jody Hitt, Ken Dobbs

and Massey recommending Hill.

- Rejected bids submitted for IT contract services for Franklin County, since Hill was hired to fill that need.

- Approved the meeting schedule for the next year to hold work sessions on the second Monday of each month at 5 p.m. and regular meetings the third Monday of the month at 8:30 a.m.

- Continued an agreement with Tatum Oil Company for fuel for Franklin County vehicles in an amount of \$.0689 markup over the rack price.

- Approved a bid from MG Roofing in the amount of \$12,715 to construct a new roof on the Red Bay Tax/Tag Office.

- Approved the reappointment of Doug Hatton to the 911 Board.

- Approved the reappointment of Lavon Duboise, Scott Wiginton and Jerry Groce to the NACOLG Board.

- Approved a one-year contact with the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$5,500.

- Approved a one-year agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department to provide Mental Health Officers for the county. Billy Burks, Doug Hallman and Chase White will provide the service at a cost of \$5,200 for the year.

- Approved the meeting times for the Franklin County Safety Committee on the second Wednesday of each quarter at 9 a.m. at the



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1997 Pontiac Firebird with WS6 performance package. 107,000 miles. Can be viewed at Belgreen Car Wash until Sunday. \$7,500.

MISC. FOR SALE

Grave for sale in Franklin Memorial Gardens in the Round Section (oldest Garden of Devotion). Call 205-993-4155.

1985 Honda Spree Scooter. 50 Hp. 900 original hours. Good tires. All lights, gauges work. New batter, oil and air filter. 180-lb. maximum weight limit. Made for street riding. \$650. Call 256-332-1143.

2007 Yamaha Road Liner 1900. 22,000 miles. Hard Case Saddlebags. Craig pipes. Has windshield, backrest driver and passenger. 22,000 miles. \$5000. Call 256-332-1143.

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

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. (5)

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

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Low rates!

Two local eateries receive satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Two of the three Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of September 3-7 had scores that fall into the "satisfactory compliance" range.

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

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

Areas of inspection by ADPH include management and personnel; food storage, preparation and service; equipment; utensils; linen cleanliness; plumbing and waste; poisonous or toxic material storage; and an inspection of the physical facility or property.

Two of the three Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food

and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

One business, J&L Convenience and Bait, LLC, 23791 Hwy. 24 West, Russellville, scored a 79. Violations included gallon jugs of degreaser stored with gloves, using quaternary ammonium to sanitize, no test papers, only chlorine test papers and food exceeding date limit and/or no date marked on food, including outdated slaw, mushrooms and no date on dressing.

The highest score was 96, received by Panaderia Adonai, 311 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville.

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

•Bojangles Famous Chicken & Biscuit, 13810 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 92. (Unable to produce FERA).

Of the five inspections done in Colbert County from September 3-7, no restaurant scored below the satisfactory range.

The high score for the week in Colbert County was 99, scored by The Renaissance Olive Oil Company, 711 Woodward Ave., Muscle Shoals.

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

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

This is and always will be something I hold near and dear to my heart. My sweet daddy has spent countless hours in rain, lightning, thunder and any other inclement weather you can think of restoring power.

So during this difficult time with Hurricane Florence on the east coast (winds, rain and floods), please be mindful that the ones out working tirelessly to restore YOUR power—they have

families too!

They're away from their loved ones giving their time and energy to make you become more comfortable.

Instead of becoming frustrated for the short inconvenience, go thank them, because I assure you, they are not stress-free either during this time.

Be kind.
Be mindful.
Be patient.

Also, be in prayer for the uncertainty of the days ahead.

Pray for the ones who have to stay behind to work, for the ones who don't have the means to evacuate and the ones traveling.

Kalli Sutton

(Kalli Sutton is the granddaughter of Travis and Myra Brewer of Russellville. She lives in South Carolina. She wrote this about her father, Jerry Sutton, in the hours as Hurricane Florence approached the eastern United States.)

Andrews running for sheriff in Colbert County

Submitted to the FFP

I am your Republican candidate, Phil Andrews, and I'm asking for your consideration and vote for the position of Colbert County Sheriff on November 6, 2018.

I have been married to Tracy for 31 years, and we have two children, Carley and Austin. I do my very best to live out my Christian beliefs each day.

I believe that God, Family, Honesty, Integrity and our Second Amendment are the backbone of our life. My word is my bond, and I will not make empty promises that I know I can't keep to get your vote. I am a man that will listen to your concerns and will make honest and intelligent decisions in the matters of this county.

As a lifelong resident of Colbert County, I have served in the Law Enforcement field for 16 years. I started as a reserve officer in Rogersville, AL in 2002. I then paid my own way through the APOST Police Academy. After graduation I worked in Rogersville as an officer. I then became a Colbert County Deputy for three years. I'm currently an officer of Muscle Shoals Police Department, where I have served as a Firearms Instructor, Sniper for the MSPD TACT Team and Motorcycle Unit for eight of these ten years.

I have the experience necessary to meet the needs of our local county government. Since the age of 23, I have owned and operated my own small business, a CNC machine shop, Alabama Metal Duplications Inc., which has employed more than 100 employees in the last 32 years. The skills I have gained in this time have given me insight into how to hire and keep good employees as well as operate within my budget. I strive to provide excellent services in my business and have learned the importance of communication in the workplace. I hope to have the opportunity to carry all of these skills over into the role of Colbert County Sheriff.

You know what's really frustrating about the drug problem in Colbert County? Everybody

knows it's going on, and they can even tell you exactly where it's happening! I have spoken with many citizens around the county, and this is the No. 1 issue that keeps coming up. I do not find this acceptable, and I have several plans in place to work on this huge problem. I will never say that I will get rid of all the drugs in Colbert County, because we all know is impossible.

I feel we are in a crisis here in Colbert County when drugs such as cocaine, meth, opioids and crack are being brought right down our major highways straight to the local dealers in our neighborhoods and then being sold to our family members and our young children. This problem is not just secluded to the rural areas; it's happening in our upscale neighborhoods, too, and we have got to start working to arrest and prosecute these folks. I have already spoken with some state officials on proactive measures we can implement from day one of my term to get the ball rolling towards cleaning up these known drug areas.

I enjoy training, and I want to have one of the most professional, well trained Sheriff departments available for the protection of our citizens. I will require at least two mandatory firearm training sessions a year, and I will use some of the pistol permit money to help pay for the ammo for the deputies and reserve deputies to use during these real-life scenario training sessions.

To me, these men and women are stepping straight into the unknown when they are approaching suspects in any given situation, and I want them to be prepared so they will return home safely to their families after shift. Therefore, I will implement cross-training with other first respon-



Phil Andrews

ders, volunteer firefighters and EMT's to learn more about their job and operating of the equipment so we can help each other out when responding to situations.

As your Sheriff I will do everything in my power to defend your Second Amendment Rights...I would like for all residents of the county who are legally qualified and desire to carry a firearm to be able to do so. I have earned thousands of hours of practical firearm training, and as a certified firearms instructor I will teach FREE safety firearms classes to those who are interested. I also have already spoken with several local church leaders about working with them for free to teach their staff how to implement security teams throughout the building in case of an active shooter.

I would very much appreciate your consideration and am asking for your vote on November 6, 2018.

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Week 4 in the SEC

Last week's record: 3-1

Year to date: 8-4

Saturday, September 22

Georgia at Missouri

The Bulldogs passed their first September road test with flying colors, hammering South Carolina two weeks ago. Now they visit the *other* Columbia in SEC country to take on a Missouri team that has won nine straight regular-season games while scoring 40-plus points in all of them.

Drew Lock is on fire (44 TD passes and just seven picks over his last 11 regular-season games), but Georgia's defense didn't exactly look vulnerable against Jake Bentley and the Gamecocks. Meanwhile, Georgia's offense should have a field day against a Missouri D that allowed Purdue to throw for 572 yards last week.

I'll be surprised if either Alabama or Georgia are genuinely threatened in any game prior to the SEC championship in December.

The Pick: Georgia 45 Missouri 20

Texas A&M at Alabama

Speaking of the Crimson Tide....their defense struggled with the Ole Miss passing attack for exactly one play. Sixty-two unanswered points later, order had been restored and Alabama had become the first SEC team ever to open the season by scoring 50-plus in each of its first three games.

The A&M defense will be the best Bama has seen so far, but that's not saying much. The real story will be whether or not Jimbo Fisher's offense can actually put some points on the board against a Tide defense that was supposed to be, you know, not as fantastic as usual. [We heard.]

The Pick: Alabama 49 Texas A&M 14

Florida at Tennessee

Couldn't get excited about picking South Carolina-Vanderbilt, and Mississippi State shouldn't have much trouble with Kentucky, so we'll go with this one instead. If Dan Mullen thought Florida folks were upset about losing to Kentucky for the first time in 32 years, try dropping a game to Tennessee—something the Gators have done exactly once since 2004.

The Pick: Florida 27 Tennessee 17

Arkansas at Auburn

Auburn's defense underperformed against LSU, failing repeatedly to get off the field in critical third- and fourth-down situations and struggling to generate anything resembling a consistent pass rush. On the other side of the ball, the offensive line—with the exception of three scoring drives in the middle portion of the game—continues to be something of a problem.

Fortunately for the Tigers, Arkansas is coming to town, fresh off a 27-point loss to North Texas. Time to get well.

The Pick: Auburn 41 Arkansas 17



Mike Self
Sports Editor

Russellville rolls



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Russellville's first-team defense, led by Jose Gaspar (45), Albaro Francisco (26), Ashaad Williams (6) and Wylie Boyd (16), held Hayden to one touchdown in last Friday's 48-13 rout.

After a pair of close wins to open the season, the Golden Tigers roared past Hayden behind a bunch of big plays and a dominant defense

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - After watching his team dig its way out of an early 13-0 hole at Corner the week before, Russellville head coach John Ritter hoped to see the Golden Tigers get off to a much better start in last Friday's home game against new region opponent Hayden.

Mission accomplished. And then some.

Russellville found the end zone on its first two drives of the night and racked up big play after big play in all three phases, opening up a 41-7 half-time lead and cruising to a 48-13 rout of the Wildcats.

The Golden Tigers (3-0, 2-0 in Class 5A, Region 7) rushed for 170 yards in the first quarter alone, including touchdown runs of 37 yards by senior tailback Zaye Boyd and 63 yards by senior quarterback Lucas McNutt. Senior receiver Devin Buckhalter broke out in the second quarter with a 50-yard punt return for a score and a 25-yard touchdown reception.

Boyd later ripped off a 49-yard touchdown run on Russellville's opening drive of the third quarter,

giving him 100-plus yards from scrimmage in all 15 games he's played for the Golden Tigers since the beginning of his sophomore season. He finished last Friday night with 120 yards rushing and three touchdowns on just eight carries and now has 430 yards and nine touchdowns on 54 attempts through the first three games.

McNutt had his best game of the season against Hayden, completing 6-of-8 passes for 96 yards and a score while also rushing for 95 yards and a touchdown on only five carries. Buckhalter caught four passes for 68 yards and a touchdown and also rushed twice for 35 yards, in addition to scoring on the long punt return.

Russellville's defense shined as well, holding Hayden to 249 total yards and getting fumble recoveries from senior safety Donald Ramson and senior tackle Gage Cook. Sophomore linebacker Brooks Scott had two tackles for loss, and Cook, senior linebacker Nate Green and senior tackle Will Rushing each recorded a sack.

The Golden Tiger offense got off to a shaky start, drawing an illegal motion penalty prior to its first snap of the night and quickly finding itself facing a

Late score lifts Phil Campbell to first win

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Kevin Barnwell has seen the video from Super Bowl LII, the one where Eagles quarterback Nick Foles suggests to head coach Doug Pederson during a timeout that the team run a trick play called "Philly Special" in a key goal-line situation.

Pederson gave the green light, the play worked beautifully, and the Eagles went on to win their first ever Super Bowl title.

That sideline exchange between player and coach was on Barnwell's mind last Friday night at M.T. Newman Stadium, where his Phil Campbell Bobcats had just scored a touchdown midway through the fourth quarter to cut Clements' lead to 7-6. The 'Cats were lining up to attempt the tying extra point when Barnwell started to have a change of heart.

"We called timeout," the first-year head coach said on Sunday night, "to discuss what we wanted to do."

Sophomore quarterback Ridge Raper, making his second start in place of injured starter Luke Barnwell, injected himself into those discussions, imploring his coach to forego the extra point in favor of trying to take the lead with a two-point conversion.

"Ridge just said, 'I'll get it. I'll stick it in there,'" Barnwell recalled. "So we decided to go for two."

Raper made good on his vow, converting the two-point try on a quarterback keeper to put Phil Campbell on top 8-7 with roughly six minutes remaining. The Bobcat defense, which hadn't allowed Clements to score since the first quarter, came up with another key stop, and sophomore receiver Trey Leindecker capped off a game-sealing drive with a touchdown run on a speed sweep at the 1:00 mark to put the finishing touches on a 15-7 win, Phil Campbell's first of the season and Barnwell's first ever as a head coach.

"I'm more proud for our players and for our coaches than I am for anybody," said Barnwell, who was hired this past spring to take over a Bobcat program that hadn't posted a winning season since 2001 or won a playoff game since 2000. "It's not about me. I'm proud for the whole organization. We're not just trying to build a team for this year; we're trying to build a program."

"The kids were pretty excited on Friday night. They're working hard, and they're starting to buy in."

Barnwell has been urging his players to take ownership of the rebuilding effort, and granting

Raper's request in that late-game huddle was simply the first-year coach's way of putting his money where his mouth is.

"This is about the players," he said on Sunday. "It's their team. It's not my team. We're just here as coaches to try and put our guys in a position to be successful."

Sometimes that means being willing to make adjustments and go back to the drawing board when the initial plan isn't working. Barnwell spent the spring and summer installing a spread offense with designs on throwing the ball all over the field. Then, in the first half of the regular season opener against Red Bay on August 31, Luke Barnwell—Kevin's son and the team's starting quarterback—suffered a shoulder injury that knocked him out of commission.

"Our focus is just on getting better and on controlling the things we can control," Barnwell said, "like our effort and the way we compete on every single play."

The Bobcats lost that game 36-8 and then dropped their Class 3A, Region 8 opener at Lexington the following week by a score of 35-12. At Clements last Friday, they relied on a more run-oriented approach, with Raper, Leindecker, sophomore back Austin Baker and rugged senior Dakota Mansell spearheading a 171-yard effort on the ground.

"You can't put a square peg in a round hole," Kevin Barnwell said. "You have to do what works best for your personnel and for the team you have. We're still in the process of figuring out what works for us and what we do well."

The ground game worked so well last week largely due to a solid performance by Phil Campbell's offensive line, led by senior Logan Hill, junior Kaleb Solis and sophomores Ethan Foster, Eli Smith and Johnson Lee. Senior tight ends Trent Gonzales and Nate Owens also contributed to the success of the rushing attack.

"Our offensive line did a great job the other night," Barnwell said. "Those guys played really well."

Barnwell was particularly pleased with how his offense finished the game late in the fourth quarter. Leading 8-7, the Bobcats (1-2, 1-1 in region play) took possession with roughly three minutes remaining and put together a clinching drive that culminated in the touchdown run by Leindecker to seal the deal.

"We were really just trying to manage the clock," Barnwell said. "We got the ground game rolling a

little bit, and our kids just sort of willed their way down the field. It was good to see us finish the game like that."

The Phil Campbell defense did its part, too, holding Clements (2-1, 0-1) to just 205 total yards and coming up with five takeaways, including a pair of interceptions by junior safety Brandon Baker.

"Brandon is one of those guys who's really starting to buy in to what we're doing," Barnwell said. "He's doing what he's been coached to do, and he's working hard. On Friday night he started to see some of the results of that."

After allowing Clements to score a first-quarter touchdown, the Bobcat defense shut out the Colts (who came into the night averaging 30.5 points per game) for the final three-plus quarters. Barnwell was especially pleased with the play of his four-man defensive front, led by senior Ty Leindecker, juniors Eli Jackson and Imer Ordenez, and freshman John Randle Herring.

"Overall, we're running to the ball better on defense," Barnwell said. "We played with better technique on Friday night, and that makes a big difference. We made some critical errors that killed us the first two games. We were getting upfield too far when we should have been playing flat, and we weren't wrapping up when we were tackling. We did a much better job of that last week."

"We still made mistakes, of course, on offense and defense, but they weren't the kind of critical mistakes that hurt us so bad the first two games."

Now, with win number one under the belts, the Bobcats turn their attention to this week's homecoming game at Parrish Field against county rival Vina (0-4). The two schools have only met twice in varsity football since 1974, with Phil Campbell winning 41-15 in 2008 and 24-8 in 2009.

The Bobcats will play another non-region game next week at rival Phillips before entering a stretch of four straight region games (versus Westminster Christian, versus Lauderdale County, at East Lawrence, versus Colbert Heights) that will determine their playoff fate. For now, though, Barnwell doesn't want his players thinking that far ahead.

"It's really not even one game at a time; it's one play at a time," he said on Sunday. "Regardless of the circumstances, just focus on playing the next play. Then, when the game is over, we'll see what the scoreboard says. And when the season is over, we'll see what the final records say."

"Our focus is just on getting better and on controlling the things we can control, like our effort and the way we compete on every single play."

Belgreen finishes runner-up to Colbert Heights

Submitted to the FFP

Belgreen's varsity volleyball team finished second at its own tournament on Saturday at Belgreen High School, dominating three pool-play matches and sweeping Covenant Christian in the semifinals before falling to Colbert Heights in a hard-fought three-set championship match.

"Overall, it was a great day for the program. Our girls represented Belgreen High School very well," said head coach Teresa Whitten, whose team did not drop a set in pool play. "We had a large crowd, and my team played hard in very warm conditions. I'm very proud of my girls' tenacity and grit."

The Lady Bulldogs beat Colbert County, Cherokee and Belmont (MS) in pool play, sweep-

ing each match in two straight sets and out-scoring their opponents by a combined margin of 150 to 76. Belgreen then cruised by Covenant 25-13, 25-6 in the tournament semifinals to earn a date with Class 3A Top 10 Colbert Heights in the finals.

The Lady Bulldogs dropped the first set 26-28 before bouncing back to even the match with a 25-20 win in the second set. Colbert Heights took the third and decisive set 15-11, avenging a 2-1 loss to Belgreen from earlier in the week.

"The players all did their jobs well," Whitten said. "My passers worked hard getting digs and keeping our opponents from scoring many points on us."

In the five matches combined, the Lady Bulldogs out-scored their opponents 262 points to 158. Sophomore hitter Emma Dempsey finished the

tournament with 39 kills, three digs, 17 service points and 12 aces. Junior setter Autumn Bragwell had 61 assists, 17 kills, 25 service points, 29 aces and six blocks.

"I totally believe we have made a lot of progress by changing our perspective on competition," Whitten said. "Every practice and every match we play, I remind my girls to keep their focus on their job and on the process. For the most part, they have bought into that, but it's so easy to get caught up in the excitement of the fans yelling and to start thinking about the outcome."

"If we as a team continue to put our priorities in the right place, we'll continue to grow. Lessons learned from the experience of this tournament will help us."

Home, sweet home

Back on The Mountain for the first time since last Thanksgiving, Colbert Heights cranked up the ground game and ran wild on Lauderdale County to pick up its first win of the season

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Maybe all it took for Colbert Heights to get back on track was to get back on The Mountain.

After dropping three consecutive road games to open the season, the Wildcats returned to Amos Mitchell Stadium last Friday for the first time since last year's state quarterfinals and rode a monster night on the ground to a critical 40-34 win over region rival Lauderdale County.

"It was great to be back at home and to give those buses the night off," said head coach Taylor Leathers, whose team has now beaten the Tigers in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 2006 and 2007. "Our community has stayed behind these guys, and they really came out to support us the other night. Lauderdale County brought a good crowd, too, so we had a packed house. A lot of our fans have been waiting to see these guys play, because we've had three pretty lengthy road trips in a row. So it was great to play at home."

"We looked at this game as a turning point for our season. We've got two more coming up at home now, so hopefully we can keep things going in the right direction. I really feel like we're getting better as a football team every week."

Colbert Heights (1-3, 1-1 in Class 3A, Region 8) couldn't overcome big early deficits in its first two games at Red Bay and at Wilson before simply being out-manned in a 50-20 loss at Westminster Christian two weeks ago. In danger of starting a season 0-4 for the first time since 1997, the Wildcats circled the wagons and then ran all over Lauderdale County to the tune of 392 rushing yards on 34 carries—a stellar average of 11.5 yards per attempt.

"It was great to be back at home and to give those buses the night off,"

Leathers said. "Our community has stayed behind these guys, and they really came out to support us the other night....A lot of our fans have been waiting to see these guys play, because we've had three pretty lengthy road trips in a row. So it was great to play at home."

"We looked at this game as a turning point for our season. We've got two more coming up at home now, so hopefully we can keep things going in the right direction. I feel like we're getting better as a football team every week."

"I'm proud of our offense," said Leathers, whose team racked up a season-high 528 total yards and led 40-20 with roughly five minutes left in the game. "To score forty points and rush for almost four hundred yards, that's huge for us. Our offensive line continues to improve, and we had three guys the other night who had really big games on the offensive side."

Speedy senior Braden McCaig led the way for Colbert Heights, rushing for a career-high 170 yards and two touchdowns on just nine carries. A slot back by trade, the 5'9, 152-pound McCaig also filled in at fullback last week for injured senior Riley Fuller and racked up 250 yards of offense on 13 touches. [He caught four passes for 80 yards, including a 55-yard touchdown in the first quarter that gave the Wildcats an early 7-6 lead.]

"Braden had an incredible game for us," Leathers said of McCaig, who had carried a total of just eight times for 78 yards through the first three games. "He's got great vision and great speed, and we wanted to get the ball in his hands a little more this week. That was on me as a coach to make sure we did that. He had some holes to run through, but they weren't giant holes; they were more like seams. But he sees things so well and just has the ability to hit the crease and then use that speed of his to make big plays."

"All of our guys did a great job of getting on the edge and making some big runs last week."

Senior slot back Cayne Balta also had a huge game against Lauderdale County (1-3, 1-1), piling up 152 rushing yards on just seven carries. He had a 55-yard touchdown run and also added two catches for 25 yards.

"We ran the jet sweep with Cayne a few times," Leathers said, "and he was able to get to the edge and make some big plays for us. He had a really good

See 'HOME,' page 16



Braden McCaig

Senior RB/DB, Colbert Heights

McCaig helped the Wildcats pick up their first win of the season last Friday, totaling 274 all-purpose yards on only 14 touches in a 40-34 victory over Lauderdale County.

The 5'9, 152-pound speedster rushed for a career-high 170 yards and two touchdowns on nine carries. He also caught four passes for 80 yards (including a 55-yard score) and returned a kickoff 24 yards. For the season, McCaig has 248 rushing yards on 17 carries, 204 receiving yards on 11 catches and a total of seven TDs (two on kick returns) in four games.



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'HOME,' from page 15

game as well."

So did sophomore quarterback Carson Shaw, now 100 percent healthy after suffering a minor knee injury in the first game of the season against Red Bay. Shaw was at his dual-threat best last Friday, rushing for 70 yards and a touchdown on 18 carries (including a 36-yard run) while also completing 8-of-14 passes for 136 yards and a score.

"We're a little more balanced on offense this year," said Leathers, whose team averaged less than seven pass attempts per game in 2017 on its way to a record-setting 11-2 finish. "Carson played well for us the other night. He did a good job in the run game, and he made some plays in the passing game as well."

Leathers continues to be pleased with the progress of a remade offensive line that had to replace four starters from a year ago. Seniors Tyler Tubbs (the lone returner) and Ryan Sanderson are joined up front by junior guard Logan Simpson, and Leathers had high praise for the job freshman Trey Robinson has been doing at the center position. Another freshman, Cory Martinez, started at tackle for the final three quarters of last Friday's win.

"Those guys up front are playing well," Leathers said. "I think our offensive line is definitely improving."

Leathers knows all too well that homecoming week can present some unique challenges in and of itself in the form of distractions and ancillary activities. Last season, the Wildcats hosted a 1-5 Elkmont team for homecoming on The Mountain and barely escaped with a 15-13 win.

"The important thing for our guys this week is to stay focused on the task at hand," Leathers said. "There are a lot of things going on during homecoming week, but I keep reminding our guys that the main event happens at seven o'clock on Friday night. That's the part we're responsible for, and that's where our focus needs to be."

Despite two late touchdowns by Lauderdale County that turned a rout into a six-point game, Leathers was also pleased with how his undersized defense hung in there against a big, physical Lauderdale County offense. The Tigers rushed for just 107 yards on 26 carries (an average of 4.1 yards per attempt) and finished the night with 260 yards of total offense.

"Lauderdale County is gonna try to pound you with the running game," Leathers said. "They're always known for their physicality, and they're really big on the offensive side of the ball. I told our guys before we went out to stretch, 'You're gonna look down at the other end of the field and think you're seeing giants.' But our guys hung in there and fought."

"I saw some 5'9, 140-pound guys going toe to toe with 240-pound blocking fullbacks. I was proud of our defense. I thought they played really well."

In fact, Leathers said last Friday was his team's best overall performance of the season to date—with the exception of the final five minutes of the fourth quarter. Lauderdale County scored two late touchdowns to cut a 20-point deficit down to six, but a last-ditch onside kick attempt failed. The Wildcats recovered and then put the game away, driving all the way down to the Tiger one-yard line in the final seconds before taking a knee.

"We played 43 minutes of really good football," Leathers said. "We just didn't finish the game very well. Part of that is we're still learning how to play with a lead. We've only got two or three returners [from last year], so most of these guys haven't got to experience what it's like to play with a lead. That's something we'll continue to work on."

Colbert Heights now turns its attention to this week's homecoming game against region rival East Lawrence. The Eagles (0-3, 0-1) have been outscored 123-6 in their first three games, but Leathers knows all too well that homecoming week can present some unique challenges in and of itself in the form of distractions and ancillary activities.

Last season, the Wildcats hosted a 1-5 Elkmont team for homecoming on The Mountain and barely escaped with a 15-13 win.

"The important thing for our guys this week is to stay focused on the task at hand," Leathers said. "There are a lot of things going on during homecoming week. I've already been asked once if the players will be allowed to escort [members of the homecoming court] during halftime. I've been asked a couple of times if we want to ride in the parade as a team."

"There's a lot going on this week, but I keep reminding our guys that the main event happens at seven o'clock on Friday night. That's the part we're responsible for, and that's where our focus needs to be."

East Lawrence lost 44-6 to Locust Fork last week, on the heels of being shut out twice to open the season by St. John Paul II (51-0) and Lauderdale County (28-0). Still, Leathers is urging his players not to take the Eagles lightly.

"They're 0-3 so far, but we were 0-3 last week and then came out and played really well," Leathers said. "So our guys know how quickly things can change."

Ordonez setting a precedent at Tharptown

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

When Noeli Ordonez walked into Tharptown head football coach Kevin Lacey's office in May, neither one of them knew what to expect from one another.

On one hand, Ordonez was unsure of what Lacey's response would be, and on the other hand, Lacey was unsure just how serious Ordonez was. The ensuing conversation would be centered around whether or not Lacey would let Ordonez suit up for his team. The primary reason for the concern on Ordonez's part was due to the fact that Noeli is a girl.

According to Lacey, while he did not anticipate Ordonez wanting to play, his response came without hesitation.

"I've had girls come up to me before and say, 'Can I play football?' And I always tell them the same thing," Lacey said. "I always tell them that they can, but when the time comes they don't show up. Noeli approached me in my office, and it was clear to see that she was dead-set on playing."

Lacey handed her a summer workout schedule, told her what she needed to bring to practice and told her what time to be there.

A transfer from Russellville as a freshman, Ordonez (now a sophomore) said she was nervous, not because of the challenge that lay ahead of her, but about whether or not Lacey would agree to give her a shot. Now that she's playing receiver and defensive back for the Wildcats, she couldn't be happier about her move to THS.

"It was really a blessing in disguise, because we were forced to move schools due to the rezoning situation with Russellville," she said. "I came here, and I've been given the opportunity I've wanted for a long time."

From a coach's perspective, Lacey said that Noeli has made tremendous progress and is getting more accustomed to the physicality that comes with playing the game.

"When Noeli started out she was kind of timid, but you could see that she was wanting to learn and get in there in the thick of things, but that it would take time," Lacey said recently. "Now, fast-forward into week two of the season and she knows all the drills we're running, she's always one of the first ones up to run the drills, and she's always asking questions and wanting more information."

As for the impact that Noeli has had on her fel-



COURTESY PHOTO

Noeli Ordonez, a sophomore, saw her first game action for the Wildcats on defense in the season opener against Shoals Christian.

low teammates, Lacey says that she has had a positive impact on the team and it has pushed a lot of the other players to step up their game and put forth their maximum effort.

Ordonez has felt as though she has been accepted by her teammates and feels encouraged that the team has been so receptive about her playing with them.

"Of course I was nervous going in, but it was a good kind of nervous," Ordonez said. "That kind of nervous you get when you're finally doing something you've wanted to do for a long time. Now that I've gotten my feet wet, I want to work harder to get more playing time. I want to be able to help my team even more."

"It was such a big relief for me when my teammates were in favor of me being on the team," Ordonez said. "They treat me like one of them, like one of their brothers. They protect me just like they would anyone else. Any time I make a play or do great on a drill, they're always there building me up and pumping me up."

Ordonez has grown up around football. When

she was younger, her cousins would always invite her to play backyard games with them. She also said that her mother and her sisters were big supporters of hers in giving her the strength and determination to actually step out onto the field.

Although a majority of the response she has received has been positive, there has been some negative feedback from a few people.

According to Ordonez, there was an anonymous Snapchat account created with the intent to try and harass Noeli out of playing football. Ordonez says that that even though they attempted to bring her down, she used it as motivation to make sure she proved all of her doubters wrong.

"The person behind that account basically just didn't want me, a girl, playing football," Ordonez said. "They basically said that I would give up after one day on the field and I didn't stand a chance of actually getting in the game. But I didn't let that bother me, and I just used that hate to motivate me."

Coming into the Tharptown season opener it wasn't a question of if Noeli would play, but when. Lacey knew that he would find a way to get Noeli into the game but wanted to make sure that it was in the perfect moment, since it was her first actual competitive football game. Towards the end of the fourth quarter in Tharptown's rout of Shoals Christian, Noeli Ordonez checked into the game on defense for the Wildcats. It was the perfect situation for Noeli to get her first snaps in an actual game.

"Of course I was nervous going in, but it was a good kind of nervous," she said. "That kind of nervous you get when you're finally doing something you've wanted to do for a long time. Now that I've gotten my feet wet, I want to work harder to get more playing time. I want to be able to help my team even more."

Lacey says that Ordonez will not only continue to get practice snaps on the defensive side of the ball, but will also get a chance to play on the offensive side as a receiver and at running back during practice and potentially during games.

Although she has already achieved so much, Noeli's favorite moment so far this season might come as a shock to most people, but it puts a big smile on Noeli's face.

"I got my first football 'injury' this week in practice," Ordonez said as she held up a slightly sprained finger with a smile on her face. "It hurts a lot, but it's worth it. It's worth it because if I get an injury or something like that, it means I'm doing something right."

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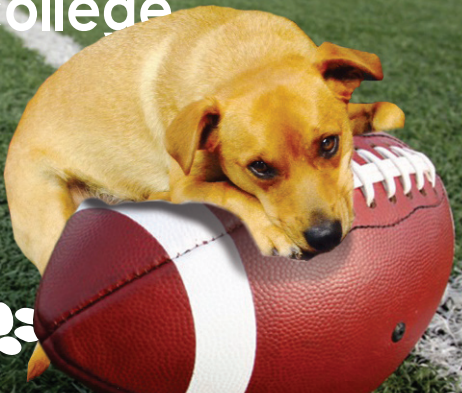
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Submit your picks to us each week in one of two ways: Fill out the entry form on this page and mail it to us at 113 Washington Ave. NW, Russellville, AL 35653, or email your picks to us along with your name and number at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. **Picks sent in by mail for Week 4 must be postmarked by Friday, September 21, and picks submitted by email for Week 4 must be received by Saturday, September 22 at 10 a.m.** Each week, the contestant who correctly picks the most games will win a free T-shirt and the chance to pick in the grand-prize final-week contest. If multiple contestants correctly pick the same number of games in a given week, the tiebreaker score will be used to determine a winner. Contestants are only eligible to win the weekly contest once. Thanks for playing, and good luck!

Congrats to Week 3 winner CEDRIC DAWSON, who correctly picked 7 out of 9 games (one game was PPD) and also picked LSU to beat Auburn 24-21!



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Week 4: Sept. 22

Brady's Pick

Your Pick

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Texas A&M at Alabama	Alabama	
South Carolina at Vanderbilt	South Carolina	
Mississippi St. at Kentucky	Mississippi St.	
Florida at Tennessee	Florida	
Arkansas at Auburn	Auburn	
Nebraska at Michigan	Michigan	
Kansas State at West Virginia	West Virginia	
TCU at Texas	TCU	
Stanford at Oregon	Stanford	
Tiebreaker Score:	Texas A&M	Alabama
Your Name:		
Phone number:		

'ROLLS,' from page 13

third-and-11. McNutt fired a receiver screen to the right to Buckhalter, who worked his way all the way back across the field to the left sideline to pick up exactly 11 yards and move the sticks.

Boyd followed with a nine-yard run on a stretch play to the right, and the dynamic senior back raced virtually untouched to the end zone for a 37-yard score on the next play. Kenner Perez drilled the extra point to make it 7-0 with less than three minutes gone by.

After a quick three-and-out by Hayden (1-3, 0-2), the Golden Tigers took possession at their own 37 yard-line. McNutt threw incomplete on first down before taking care of things with his legs on second down. The senior quarterback ran right on an option keeper before cutting it back to the left around midfield and turning on the jets to out-race two Wildcat defenders to the left corner of the end zone for a 63-yard touchdown. The PAT was blocked, and Russellville led 13-0 with 6:51 left in the first quarter.

Hayden scored its only touchdown of the night against Russellville's first-team defense on its next drive, cutting the lead to 13-7 when running back

Evan Orr bolted 43 yards down the left sideline to the end zone on a third-and-two play.

Buckhalter broke loose for runs of nine and 26 yards on the ensuing drive as the Golden Tigers moved deep into Hayden territory, but Russellville fumbled at the five-yard line and the Wildcats recovered. The Golden Tigers got the ball right back when Ramson recovered a fumble three plays later at the Hayden 15, and Boyd muscled his way into the end zone on the next play for his second touchdown of the night to make it 20-7 with 1:32 left in the first quarter.

Russellville's defense forced a quick punt on Hayden's ensuing drive. Buckhalter fielded the kick at the midfield stripe and took it to the house, stretching the lead to 27-7 with less than a minute gone by in the second quarter.

Green sacked quarterback Silas Miller on fourth down to end Hayden's next drive and give the Golden Tigers excellent field position at the Wildcat 40. McNutt found Buckhalter for a gain of 11, and two plays later the pair hooked up again as McNutt floated a beautiful ball over a defender on a fade route that Buckhalter caught in stride for a 25-yard touchdown. Perez kicked the extra point, and Russellville led 34-7 with 4:51 left in the first half.

Cook recovered a fumble on the first play of Hayden's next drive, and junior tailback Austin Ashley capped off a four-play, 37-yard drive with a seven-yard touchdown run to make it 41-7 going into the half.

The Golden Tigers out-gained Hayden 290 total yards to 129 in the first half, out-rushing the Wildcats 213 to 97.

Russellville's offensive starters played one possession to start the third quarter, and they made it count. Buckhalter turned a short pass from McNutt into a 19-yard gain, and then Boyd burst through the middle of the Wildcat defense for a 49-yard touchdown. Perez added the extra point to finish off the scoring for the Golden Tigers on the night and make it 48-7.

Hayden scored its final touchdown on a five-yard run by Carson Rickels with 3:10 left in the game.

Russellville will look to remain unbeaten and improve to 3-0 in region play this Friday night at West Point. The Warriors (2-2, 0-2) got pounded 43-7 by Lawrence County last Friday. The Red Devils are tied for first with Russellville and Jasper at 2-0 atop the region standings.

The Golden Tigers have never lost to West Point, winning all six meetings. The two teams last met in 2015, with Russellville winning 27-7 at home.

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PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW

Above, sophomores Jaxon Hallmark (10) and Omarian Jackson (63) bring down a Hayden ball carrier. Below, senior quarterback Lucas McNutt prepares to take the shotgun snap. McNutt had a 63-yard touchdown run in the first quarter and later hooked up with Devin Buckhalter on a 25-yard scoring toss. He finished the game with 96 yards on 6-for-8 passing and 95 rushing yards on just five carries.



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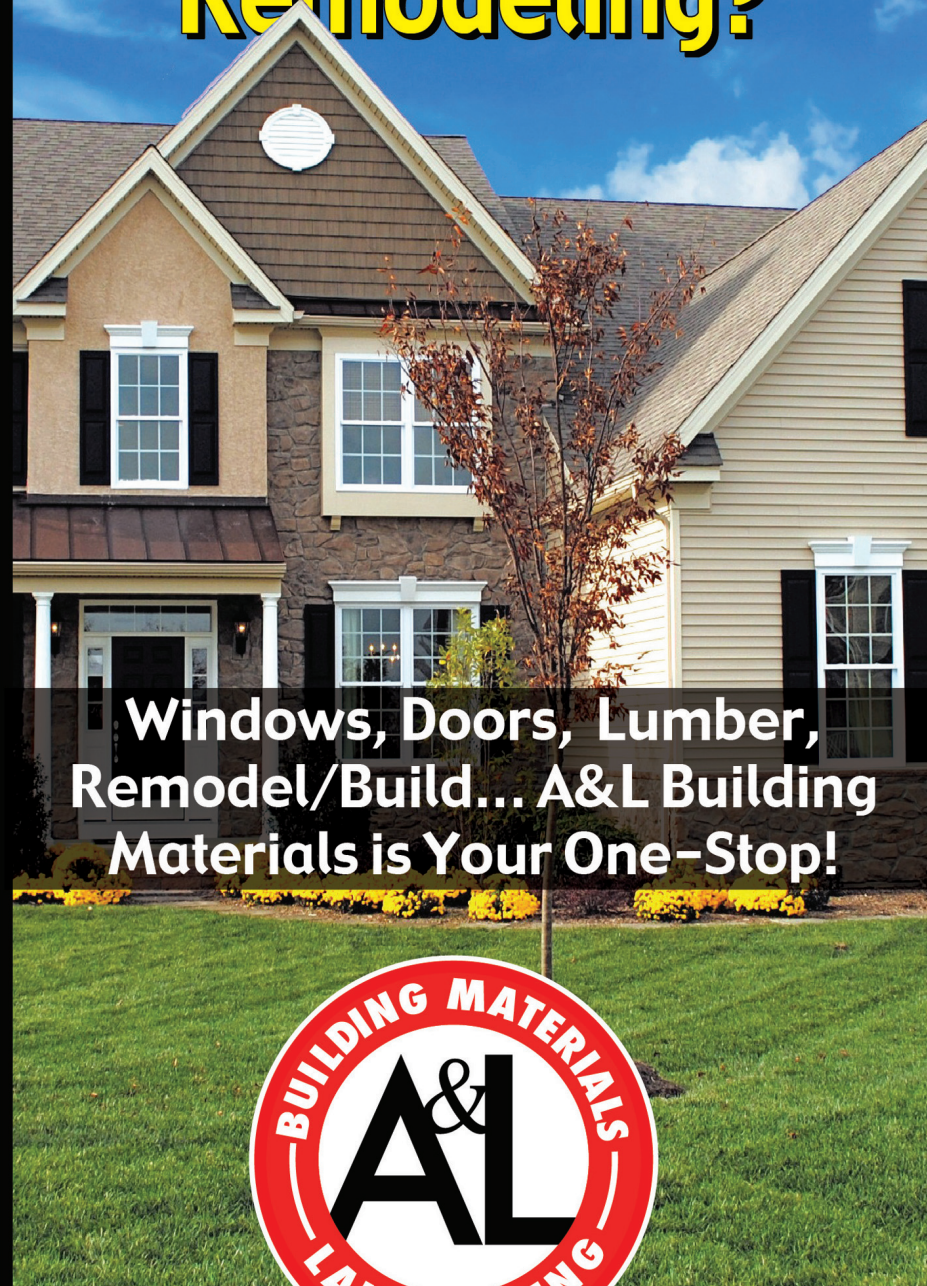


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