



Pd. Pol. Adv. By: Eddie Britton, 4771 Hwy 524, Russellville, AL 35653

# Littleville mayor intent on seeing speed limit lowered

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

It's not the first time Littleville town officials have tried to get the speed limit on U.S. 43 reduced through the city limits.

But after another accident, which included two fatalities, Littleville mayor Scotty Howard reached out to Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D-Red Bay), and Morrow arranged a meeting with John Cooper, director of the Alabama Department of Transportation. Morrow and Howard traveled to Hoover October 1 for that meeting.

A two-vehicle wreck on September 27 claimed the life of Tina Bogue, 30, the manager of the Russellville McDonald's, and eight-year-old Jaelia Smith.

With 27 intersections, driveways, roads and businesses that enter directly onto U.S. 43, travel in and around Littleville almost always involves crossing the busy highway.

Howard was notified Tuesday that there would be two solar-powered speed limit signs installed in Littleville, one at the north end and one at the south end on 43. The signs have the radar feature and a flashing light that notify motorists of the posted speed limit and their actual speed as they approach the signs.

**"We just want to keep our citizens safe," Howard said. "Last week's tragedy left four kids without a mother and a young child dead. I'm not saying speed was involved, but we need to slow down because it's getting way too reckless."**

Howard said the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency uses a formula whereby they take two weeks of recording speeds of all vehicles on a highway or roadway and then set the speed limit at 85 percent of the average speed. Howard hopes the new flashing signs will slow down motorists and help lead to a lower speed limit

See 'SPEED,' Page 8

**Johnny Mack MORROW STATE SENATE**

Pd. Pol. by Morrow for Senate, 1895 Hwy. 28, Red Bay, 35892

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# Martin stepping down at FBC, heading home to Jacksonville

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

When Florida natives Patrick and Allison Martin headed west five years ago, leaving their Jacksonville home behind, Martin thought he might never return to his hometown.

After a five-year tenure as pastor of First Baptist Church of Russellville, Martin is returning to Jacksonville. He will take over as pastor of Russell Baptist Church in Jacksonville later this month.

Martin's final sermon at First Baptist Russellville will be Sunday, October 14.

"As we left Jacksonville in our U-Haul heading west on I-10, I saw the Jacksonville skyline in the distance

and thought I'd never be back," Martin said. "I thought that was it for us there. But the Lord is good, and He opened the door for a second chance.

"My dad and Allie's dad are both pastors on opposite sides of town in Jacksonville. My new church is right in the middle of both families. I've known this church my whole life, but never thought I'd be back to Jacksonville."

Martin wasn't actively looking for a new church home. In fact, he said he's never sent out a resume searching



Patrick Martin

See 'MARTIN,' Page 11

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**Margaret S. Welborn, Phil Campbell, age 87**  
Died Monday, October 8, 2018. Funeral arrangements had not been announced at press time. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville was assisting the family.



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

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at [franklinfreepress.net](http://franklinfreepress.net)!

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# RHS 2018-19 Homecoming Court



(Above) Addie Scruggs is the daughter of David and Libby Scruggs. She is escorted by Brayden Bendall, son of Brett and Natalie Bendall.



(Above) Carley Grace McCalpin is the daughter of Tracy and Jennifer McCalpin. She is escorted by Hunter Briles, son of Chris and Stephanie Briles.



(Above) Jennifer Perez is the daughter of Martha Abarca. She is escorted by Eric Boutwell, son of Jason and Kelly Barnett and the late David Boutwell.

(Below) Jessica Gonzalez is the daughter of Ozzy Gonzalez Hervera and Veronica Guadalupe V. She is escorted by her brother, Osvaldo Gonzalez, Jr.

(Below) Josie Kathryn Willis is the daughter of Chris and Tina Willis. She is escorted by Carson Reeves, son of David and Amy Reeves.

(Below) Karlie Greenhill is the daughter of Shawn and Brandi Greenhill. Karlie is escorted by her brother, Jax Greenhill.



# RHS 2018-19 Homecoming Court



(Above) Kaylee Smith is the daughter of Travis and Dezeree Smith. She is escorted by Levi Gist, son of Jason and Kristy Gist.

(Below) Morgan Moon is the daughter of Chris and Monica Moon. She is escorted by Jaceton Murray, son of Mark and Leanne Murray.

(Above) Lindsey Bolton is the daughter of Rodney and Donna Bolton. She is escorted by Blake Murray, son of Michelle and Myron Murray.

(Below) Sydney Holt is the daughter of Dusty and Sherry Holt. She is escorted by Spencer Holland, son of Barrett and Alisha Holland.

(Above) Megan Warhurst is the daughter of Chad and Jennifer Warhurst. She is escorted by Tanner James, son of Jeff and Dawn James.

(Below) Tyrica Lewis is the daughter of Aundre Phillips and Tarus Lewis. She is escorted by Isaac West, son of Amber West and Charles and Andrea Canida.



# RHS 2018-19 Homecoming Court

**Addie Scruggs** is the daughter of David and Libby Scruggs. Addie is an active member of the National Honor Society Leadership Committee Christian Students United; Future Business Leaders of America; Mu Alpha Theta; Drama; and Chemistry Club. She also serves as Co-Captain and Chaplain of the Varsity Cheer Squad and served as the Alabama Girls State Delegate. She is escorted by Brayden Bendall, son of Brett and Natalie Bendall.

**Carley Grace McCalpin** is the daughter of Tracy and Jennifer McCalpin. She serves as Treasurer of Student Council, Senior Class Representative, and as a member of the National Honor Society Service Project Committee. Carley is also a member of Mu Alpha Theta; Annual Staff; Christian Students United; Spanish Club; Students Against Destructive Decisions; Future Business Leaders of America; Student Booster Club; and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America. She is also a part of the Girls Golf Team. She is escorted by Hunter Briles, son of Chris and Stephanie Briles.

**Jennifer Perez** is the daughter of Martha Abarca. Jennifer is a member of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America; Future Business Leaders of America; Spanish Club; and Chemistry Club. She also participates in Drama and Annual Staff. She is escorted by Eric Boutwell, son of Jason and Kelly Barnett and the late David Boutwell.

**Jessica Gonzalez** is the daughter of Ozzy Gonzalez Hervera and Veronica Guadalupe V. Jessica participates in Health Occupation Students of America and is participating in the Certificated Nursing Assistant program. She is also a member of the Spanish Club and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America. She is escorted by her brother Osvaldo Gonzalez Jr.

**Josie Kathryn Willis** is the daughter of Chris and Tina Willis. Josie is an active member in Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America; Christian Students United; Spanish Club; National Honor Society; and Mu Alpha Theta. She is also a part of the Varsity Volleyball Team and Varsity Golf Team. She is escorted by Carson Reeves, son of David and Amy Reeves.

**Karlie Greenhill** is the daughter of Shawn and Brandi Greenhill. Karlie is an active member of Annual Staff; Art Club; Educators Rising; Christian Students United; Science Club; Spanish Club; and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America. She is also a part of Library/Media Club; Students Against Destructive Decisions; and Student Council. She serves as the Secretary for the History Honors Club, Class Representative for Student Council, and Historian for National Honor Society. Karlie is escorted by her brother Jax Greenhill.

**Kaylee Smith** is the daughter of Travis and Dezeree Smith. Kaylee participates in Student Booster Club, Spanish Club; National Honor Society; Future Business Leaders of America; and Students Against Destructive Decisions. She is also a member of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America; Mu Alpha Theta; and Health Occupations Students of America. She is escorted by Levi Gist, son of Jason and Kristy Gist.

**Lindsey Bolton** is the daughter of Rodney and Donna Bolton. Lindsey participates in the ACT 30+ Club; National Honor Society; Annual Staff; Christian Students United; Student Booster Club; Mu Alpha Theta; and Spanish Club. She is also a member of Student Book Lovers Club; History Honors Club; and History Club. She is also a Marching 100 Tigerette. She is being escorted by Blake Murray, son of Michelle and Myron Murray.

**Megan Warhurst** is the daughter of Chad and Jennifer Warhurst. Megan is an active member of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America; Christian Students United; Mu Alpha Theta; Chemistry Club; Student Booster Club; and Library/Media Club. She also is a participant in Future Business Leaders of America; Students Against Destructive Decisions; and Varsity Softball. She also serves as Project Chairperson for the National Honor Society and Treasurer for the History Honors Club. She is escorted by Tanner James, son of Jeff and Dawn James.

**Morgan Moon** is the daughter of Chris and Monica Moon. Morgan is an active member in Christian Students United; Spanish Club; Students Against Destructive Decisions; Future Business Leaders of America; Student Booster Club; and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America. She also serves as Senior Class Secretary-Treasurer and Representative. Additionally, she is a member of the National Honor Society; the Varsity Golf Team; and Co-Captain of the RHS Varsity Cheer Squad. She is escorted by Jaceton Murray, son of Mark and Leanne Murray.

**Sydney Holt** is the daughter of Dusty and Sherry Holt. Sydney participates in Christian Students United; Student Booster Club; Annual Staff; Book Lovers Club; Students Against Destructive Decisions, Spanish Club; and History and Government Honors Club. She is also a Marching 100 Tigerette; National Honor Society Member; 28+ Club and Mu Alpha Theta member. She is escorted by Spencer Holland, son of Barrett and Alisha Holland.

**Tyrica Lewis** is the daughter of Aundre Phillips and Tarus Lewis. Tyrica is an active member of the Cosmetology Club and Art Club. She is also a member of the Spanish Club. She is escorted by Isaac West, son of Amber West and Charles and Andrea Canida.

## The Tradition Continues

The 2018 Court features three members and one escort of four former RHS Homecoming Queens: Sydney Holt, daughter of the 1985-86 Queen, Mrs. Sherry Crews Holt; Addie Scruggs, daughter of the 1984-1985 Queen, Mrs. Libby Meeks Scruggs; Megan Warhurst, daughter of the 1993-1994 Queen, Mrs. Jennifer Willis Warhurst; and Brayden Bendall, son of the 1994-1995 Queen, Mrs. Natalie Jackson Bendall.

Pictured at right are the members of Russellville's 2018-19 Homecoming Court: Front row (L to R) - Karlie Greenhill, Jennifer Perez, Morgan Moon, Josie Kathryn Willis; Middle row (L to R) - Tyrica Lewis, Kaylee Smith, Megan Warhurst, Addie Scruggs; Back row (L to R) - Sydney Holt, Jessica Gonzalez, Lindsey Bolton, Carley Grace McCalpin. Full bios on each member of the Homecoming Court can be found at the top of this page.

## RHS 2018-19 Homecoming



# What's Happening

256.332.0255

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

**R**ussellville Masonic Lodge 371 is selling Boston butts for \$30 each. Pick-up will be this Saturday, October 13 from 8-10 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge on Coffee Street. Pre-order by calling 256-810-1970.

**T**he 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.

**T**he Foster Grandparent Program and the Franklin County Extension Office will sponsor the fifth annual Senior Health Fair this Thursday, October 11 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Todd Center in Russellville. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Learn more about how to improve your health; how to make the most of local, state and national health services and resources; how to make positive, healthy behavior choices; and how to implement self-care practices. Area exhibitors on site! The event is free, and lunch will be served. Pre-register by calling the Extension Office at 256-332-8880 or the Foster Grandparent Program at 256-332-6800.

**T**he Greenhill-Ezzell Cemetery Board will meet this Saturday, October 13 at 9 a.m. at Rustic Youth Camp. All friends of the cemetery are invited and encouraged to attend.

**T**he Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre in Russellville this 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.

**O**ctober is SUPER SUNDAYS month at Shiloh Baptist Church! Come join us to hear preaching from Bo Shedd (October 14), Sherman Kimbrough (October 21) and Keith Box (October 28). Services will be held at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Sunday. Shiloh Baptist Church is located between Hamilton and Hackleburg off Hwy. 43 on Hwy. 41 at 1920 County 41, Hamilton, AL 35570. Everyone is welcome!

**R**ussellville 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 to attend!

**C** 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!

**T**he Back to Basics Life Skills Center is holding a white bean plate fundraiser. Plates may be picked up at the Old Reedtown School on Friday, October 19 at 11 a.m. Please make donations in the amount of \$8.00 per plate, \$3.00 per pint or \$5.00 per quart. For more information or to order your plate in advance, please call Irean Meade at 256-324-0515 or Joe Graham at 256-668-2228. All proceeds go to the Back to Basics Life Skills Center.

**T**he Alvin Baker Family Reunion will be held Saturday, October 20 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Friends and relatives are invited to bring a covered dish to Union Community Center (5988 Hwy. 93, Russellville, AL 35654). Lunch will be served at noon. For more information, call Louise Baker at 256-398-8158 or Leila Moore at 256-460-0849.

**T**he 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.

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by Dave Ramsey

### Mortgage disability insurance?

Dear Dave,  
If someone is following your plan, is it a good idea to get mortgage disability insurance during Baby Step 2?

Craig

Dear Craig,  
No, it is not. Mortgage disability insurance is a gimmick, and I would never recommend it to anyone.

I think I know where you're going with this. During Baby Step 1, I encourage people to save up and set aside a beginner emergency fund of \$1,000. Baby Step 2 is where you start paying off all your debts, except for your home, using the debt snowball system.

A thousand dollars may not seem like a lot in savings during that time, but in the beginning it's an attainable amount to save. Plus, it's more than a lot of people have when they make the decision to get out of debt and gain control of their finances.

Then, after finishing Baby Step 2, you move directly in Baby Step 3—fully funding your emergency fund with three to six months of expenses.

What I *would* recommend is having long-term disability insurance in place. It's fairly inexpensive, especially if you get it through your employer.

Dave

### Fix it, or buy another?

Dear Dave,  
I'm driving a 12-year-old car with 210,000 miles on it. The car needs close to \$2,000 in repairs, and it's worth \$5,000. I have \$40,000 in cash saved, \$40,000 in investments, and I make \$80,000 a year. I also have \$15,000 in student loan debt, but the only other thing I owe on is my house. Should I pay to repair the car or buy something else in the \$15,000 price range?

Brett

Dear Brett,  
Let's see, if you wrote a \$15,000 check for a newer car and wrote a \$15,000 check for the student loans, it would leave you with \$10,000. I wouldn't buy a \$15,000 car in your situation. I'd buy a \$10,000 car. You could probably sell the old one for around \$3,000 if it needs repairs, combine that with your money and get a \$13,000 car. Then, you could write a check and pay off the student loan debt.

With no car payment, no student loan payment *and* a good car, you can really lean into your budget and saving money. You'd have no debt except your home, and you could rebuild your savings in a hurry. You'd be in really good financial shape in about six months. Plus, you'd have \$15,000 in the bank in the meantime!

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](http://daveramsey.com) and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

Please send your letters to the editor, guest columns, cartoon panels and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

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# Council requests help from ALDOT on street light project

Brady Petree  
 Franklin Free Press

At last week's Russellville City Council meeting, mayor David Grissom announced that he and councilman Arthur Elliot wrote a letter to the Alabama Department of Transportation requesting help with the ongoing project of fixing street lights on Hwy. 24. Grissom also announced that downtown Russellville was approved by the state of Alabama to be listed on the National Historical

Register. Approval on a national level is pending. In other business, the council:  
 • Authorized Grissom to sign Program of Work for Performance Management with the GEDI of Auburn University. The amount totaled for this project will be \$6,969.29.  
 • Made a few changes to the 2018 Personnel Policy and Procedure manual and also elected to help implement a salary for Franklin County Archives director Chris Ozbirn, who has worked without pay for many years. The city council

agreed to appropriate \$2,000 to combine with \$10,000 from other sources.  
 • Approved a proposal with Civil Group, LLC, for engineering services for a TAP project that will take place on Montgomery Street and Limestone Street later in the year.  
 • Approved the purchase of a 2019 Dodge Durango for the Russellville Police Department at a cost of \$44,333.89.  
 • Authorized the abatement of a nuisance at 1101 North Washington Avenue.

## 'SPEED' from page 1

through his town.  
 "We just want to keep our citizens safe. Last week's tragedy left four kids without a mother and a young child dead," Howard said. "I'm not saying speed was involved, but we need to slow down because it's getting way too reckless. If not for our great [Littleville] Police Department and the great response time of our Littleville Volunteer Fire Department, there would be more deaths."  
 In 2016, more than 150 Littleville residents signed a petition and presented it to the council asking for the speed limit on 43 to be reduced. According to Howard, many of the speeding citations written by the LPD are for speeds in

excess of 80 miles-per-hour.  
 Howard was optimistic about receiving a quick response from ALDOT and said he won't stop working on this until the speed limits are reduced.  
 "They are working with us to see what can be done to make our citizens and town safer," Howard said. "Johnny Mack and I had a good meeting with Mr. Cooper, and we are all working on getting something done."  
 Morrow also believes the meeting was beneficial and a major step toward making U.S. 43 through Littleville safer.  
 "It was a very positive meeting," he said. "He gave us some ideas, and I think we'll be able to move forward on some things to address these issues."

# 9:AM Friday, October 19th

- COLLECTIBLES**
- 100 American Eagle Silver Dollars
  - 10oz Silver Bar
  - 2001 Colorized Silver Eagle Coin
  - Ronnie Brown Signed Football
  - Jason Campbell, Carlos Rogers, 2-- Ronnie Browns, Zarwell Cadillac Williams, Bobby Bowden signed helmets
  - Signed Tim Tebow Heisman helmet
  - Auburn Helmet
  - George Wallace for President bucoons
  - Autographed Bobby Bowen Books
  - 2016 Nafonal Championship jersey #94 Dakota Ball
  - 2-- Cam Newton Heisman trophy winner pictures
  - Nick Saban / Gene Chizik "A House Divided Iron Bowl 2010" print
- TRACTORS, TRUCK, BIKE, WAVERUNNER, BOAT**
- 3020 Jon Deere Tractor Restored Like New (Local One Owner)
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  - 1993 Ford F-250 118,200 miles
  - 1984 Yamaha Big Wheel 200 runs great 1 of 6000 made that year
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  - Pallet Jack
  - Motor stand
  - Transmission jack
  - Chicago Electric mig welder 180
  - Job Smart mig welder 125
  - Clarke Weld mig 130 EN fan cooled
  - 3.5 HP air compressor
  - Chain A--long
  - Chipping hammer Ingersoll Rand
  - Excel air compressor
  - Shtl MS 180c Chain Saw
  - Dewalt grinder
  - Boschif 20V 2 drill set
  - Ryobi 18v - 2 drill set
  - Dewalt Electric drill
  - Piesburgh socket set
  - Tool boxes & tools
  - Husqvarna chain saws
  - Shtl chain saws
  - 16" Delta scroll saw
- MISCELLANEOUS**
- Military Steam Cleaner
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  - Sentry safe w/combination
  - 5X10 message sign
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  - Tatum 16" roping saddle gator print seat
  - Sim Co 16" Bulldogging saddle
  - Coleman lantern
  - Haler air conditioner
  - Camouflage hats
  - Danze Roman tub faucet set
  - Assortment rods & reels
  - Tackle Box
  - Sony digital mivica Camera
  - TV's & Electronics
  - 39" Element flat screen TV w/remote
  - 40" Element TV w/remote
  - 23" Vizio TV w/remote
  - 43" Vizio TV w/remote
  - 50" Sanyo TV w/remote
  - 50" Vizio TV w/remote
  - Curfs 5.1 Home Theater system
  - Surveillance camera
  - Music/Sound equipment
  - Epi phone Guitar w/case
  - Kona Acoustic guitar
  - Sigma Guitar
  - Delta Guitar
  - Yamaha RYZ 211m electric guitar
  - Washburn electric guitar
  - Johnson MA 100 Mandolin
  - Keith Urban guitar amp & disc
  - Kustom KBA65 bass amp
  - PA system
  - The following items need repair
  - Troy Built String Trimmer
  - Homelite 3650 generator
  - Black & Decker drill
  - Hitachi cueer
  - McCullough FR 2.0 chain saw
  - Several Misc. Chain saws, weed eaters, blowers, Poulan, Cub Cadet, Shtl, Husqvarna
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150 Guns, 50+ Case Knives, Silver Coins, Power Tools, Guitars, Fishing Rods, Welders, Flat Screen Tv's, Tools & Tool Boxes, 2 Tractors, & Much Much Much More!!!



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# Honey Do: Fire safety

Fire safety is always an important topic, especially at this time of year as we begin preparing our homes for the cold winter months to come.

In October of 1871 there was a huge fire that did a lot of damage in Chicago. According to NFPA.org, the event killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. Of course, you can imagine that there were way more wooden structures, more primitive fire codes and quite a lack of fire-fighting technology in those days as compared to now.

several presumed causes of this catastrophe, and the reporter who made up the "fake news" story on the cow admitted it in 1893. Glad we don't have to worry about that kind of thing today over a hundred years later.



Doug Green

But the fire was not "fake news," and, since 1922, the week of October 9 has been recognized as "National Fire Prevention Week." You can find all of this information and a lot more useful stuff on NFPA.org.

This month, as usual, for this column we will be looking at fire safety, fire safety equipment and fire safety education tips.

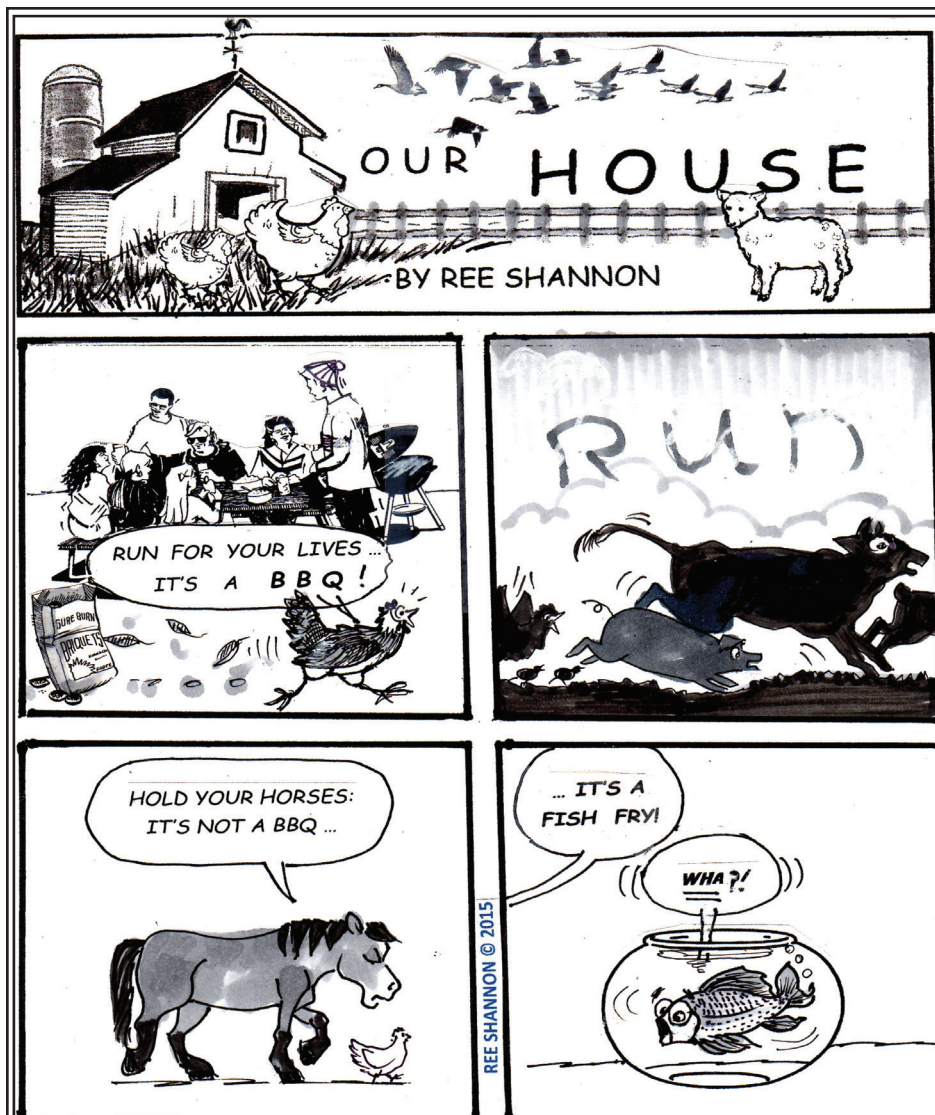
So, if you see a fireman or fire truck going down the road, give a handshake or a wave. They deserve our gratitude for their dedication to our safety and their willingness to face real danger for our benefit.

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

**Fire safety is always an important topic, especially at this time of year as we begin preparing our homes for the cold winter months to come.**

You may remember that Mrs. O'Leary's cow took the heat for this event, at least in pop culture. One cow plus one kicked-over lantern and a lot of hay can get out of hand pretty quickly. Actually there are

**For updates on news and sports throughout the week, remember to visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net).**



## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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## Letters to the Editor

To the editor:

The only time that a current national president of the National Rifle Association visited northwest Alabama was when Jim Porter came to my home in Red Bay. He and his wife, Kathryn, attended a reception Martha and I held in their honor. At the reception, he made extremely positive comments and congratulated me for my A+ rating with the National Rifle Association.

When it comes to the Second Amendment, I stand alone among legislators. I am the only Legislator ever to pass pro-gun legislation in Alabama that protects school children at remote rural schools. I passed this legislation by overriding a second veto by Governor Bentley. Because of the impact of this landmark legislation, HJR 20 was passed in January 2018, by both houses of the legislature, proclaiming that the Franklin County School System was the safest county school system in Alabama.

In 2006 I constructed a gun range on my property that is currently open to the public. Lt. Scotty Belue is a police officer in Red Bay. He is also an instructor in numerous firearm courses that have been taught at my gun range. Just about every law enforcement and special response team from Franklin, Marion, and Colbert counties have trained at my gun range. Scotty has also taught courses for Bama Carry, courses for numerous area churches for church security, and citizens basic and advanced firearms courses. A few area school personnel and teachers have also attended various classes at the range.

We in northwest Alabama are extremely fortunate to have a gun range of the quality that I have constructed on my property. I open up my

property daily to the public so they can have access to a quality shooting range. Protection of our children at school, protection of the public in general, proper firearm use and firearm safety have all been enhanced tremendously because of the public having access to my shooting range.

I was attacked recently by Larry Stutts saying that I was not pro Second Amendment. Instead of running your campaign by making false accusations about me, I challenge my opponent to tell the voters what he has done! Tell the voters what you will do for them if you are elected! The voters deserve better from their elected officials!

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Johnny Mack Morrow  
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To the Editor:

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I will not vote for any person that has to go negative, including Mr. Larry Stutts.

Regards,  
Darren Woodruff  
Russellville



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## Nine local eateries receive satisfactory ratings

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Each of the nine Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of September 24-28 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 con-

sidered 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. All nine Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range. The highest score was 100, given to Red Bay Hospital, 211 Hospital Road, Red Bay. Inspections of Franklin County businesses, with critical item violations noted, resulted in the following scores:

- El Quetzal Buena Vista, 118 East Franklin St., Russellville, 90. (Cut melons out of temperature).
- Backwoods Bargains, 30012 Hwy. 24, Russellville, 90. (No date mark on slaw. Reach in cooler holding 50-51 degree food).
- Swamp John's Country Store, 5181 Hwy. 24, Red Bay, 91. (No hot water at commissary hand sink).
- Marty's Meat Market, Inc., 85 Scotty Moore Dr., Russellville, 96.
- Best Western, 13770 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 97.
- Russellville Skateland, 801 Cross Ave., Russellville, 98.
- Redmont Skateland, 312 Hospital Road, Red Bay, 99.
- Vina High School Cafeteria, 8250 County Road 23, Vina, 99.

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Of the 24 inspections done in Colbert County from September 24-28, no restaurant scored below the satisfactory range. The high score for the week in Colbert County was 100, scored by Jack O'Lantern Farms, 500 S. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield. Updated ratings are available at www.foodscores.state.al.us and may be viewed by city or county.

## 'MARTIN' from page 1

for a new job. And that was the case with Russell Baptist as well.

"Our philosophy has been that any time a church calls for a resume from me, to send it out of obedience," Martin said. "If God doesn't want it to go further, that's His prerogative. They called me a few months ago and asked for my resume. I sent it and didn't think more about it. I never felt God would release us from our ministry here. Seven weeks from when I got the phone call, I was preaching in view of a call at the [Russell Baptist] church."

Two committees at First Baptist will work to fill the void left by Martin's resignation. The pulpit supply ministry team will be the ones to find an interim pastor, and the ministry team on ministry teams will form a search committee to submit the name of a new pastor to the church for a vote.

One project close to Martin's heart was the addition of a Hispanic ministry at First Baptist. Several months ago, First Baptist started hosting the weekly services of Pastor Salvador Blanco's Iglesia Aliento de Vida. The group holds a Spanish-language service Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the FBC prayer chapel. While Iglesia Aliento de Vida has almost doubled in the size of its congregation in recent months, the church's move into FBC wasn't without controversy, including resistance from some First Baptist members.

"God cast a vision that He wanted us to be the ones to break cultural barriers here in Russellville," Martin said. "I think we started that with our Hispanic ministry, but we've got a ways to go. I hope that's something that will continue way after I'm gone."

Russellville attorney Jeff Bowling, an FBC deacon and Martin's closest friend, was candid about how difficult it was for him to learn Martin was leaving town.

"He was the best preacher and pastor that I have ever known," Bowling said. "He was willing to spread God's word and message to everyone, and was willing to break down the barriers that separate people. He is my best friend, mentor and counselor who guided me, and is still guiding me, through the loss of my mother.

"This church and this town are losing a true man of God."

As his time in Russellville winds down, Martin reflected on the changes he's seen in FBC the last five years, as well as the changes in the community.

"I hope folks here see church membership as not about a name on a roll. It's about being aligned with the gospel of Jesus," Martin said. "If our folks grow in their knowledge of what church membership means, to be active and involved, I'll consider that a win.

"In Russellville, we've seen a change demographically and socioeconomically in the five years we've been here. I hope we're living more in our community across cultural lines and learning to do life together even with language and cultural barriers. That's the only way Russellville will thrive—if we embrace, regardless of the language we speak or the country we hail from, each other as one of God's creations. Until that happens, we've still got work to do."

*Jeff Elledge's*  
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## Week 7 in the SEC

Last week's record: 2-2  
 Year to date: 16-8  
**Saturday, October 13**  
**Tennessee at Auburn**



**Mike Self**  
Sports Editor

Auburn's sputtering offense predictably struggled in Starkville last week, failing to sustain drives in the first half and then leaving multiple touch-downs on the field in the second half of a 23-9 loss. Jarrett Stidham, whose accuracy on deep balls has always been one of his greatest strengths, has regressed in recent weeks. His struggles are undoubtedly due—at least in part—to poor pass blocking, but his over-throw of a wide-open receiver on a trick play last week was one he'd like to have back.

A home date with Tennessee comes at a good time for the Tigers, but—until the offensive issues get resolved—this team can't take anybody for granted.

**The Pick: Auburn 24 Tennessee 17**  
**Georgia at LSU**

I can't help but wonder if Kirby Smart is tempted to do what fellow national championship contenders Alabama and Clemson have done and make the switch from really good to potentially great at quarterback. But as long as he keeps putting up performances like he did Saturday against Vanderbilt (276 passing yards and three TDs in a blowout win), Jake Fromm will probably continue to hold off Justin Fields.

LSU's rush defense sprung a leak in The Swamp on Saturday, which is bad news with the Bulldogs' boss ground game coming to town. I'm also betting that Smart and his defensive staff will have an excellent plan for shutting down the LSU offense.

**The Pick: Georgia 27 LSU 13**  
**Texas A&M at South Carolina**

One of the more shocking stats from last week in the SEC was that Kentucky's offense failed to cross midfield against A&M before the game went to overtime. If Mike Elko can continue to coax that kind of performance out of his defense, then the Aggies are going places.

South Carolina continued its rollercoaster ride of a season with a 37-35 win over Missouri last week. Here comes the drop.

**Texas A&M 31 South Carolina 20**  
**Missouri at Alabama**

There's not much left to say about Alabama's offense after the Tide put up 65 points against an Arkansas team that had been playing decent defense. Tua Tagovailoa keeps putting up video game numbers (10-for-11 for 334 yards and four touchdowns in the first half last week), and the list of big-play weapons at his disposal keeps getting longer.

Oh, and Missouri is bound to see an ornery Alabama defense playing with something to prove after giving up 31 points to the Hogs.

**The Pick: Alabama 52 Missouri 17**

# Second helpings



PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW  
 THE BUCK STOPS HERE...OR NOT - Buckhalter (33) and Boyd (below) found the end zone three times apiece, helping Russellville match its season-high point total.

Trailing rival Lawrence County by a point at the break, the Golden Tigers continued their season-long trend of big second halves and rolled past the Red Devils 53-32 to remain unbeaten

Mike Self  
 Franklin Free Press

**RUSSELLVILLE** - Russellville entered last Friday night's home game with Lawrence County looking to get to 6-0 for the first time since 2007 and to pick up an all-important fourth region win of the year.

The rival Red Devils, of course, weren't about to make things easy. They rallied from an early 12-0 deficit to take a one-point lead into the locker room, but the Golden Tigers answered the bell with a 35-point second half on their way to a 53-32 win highlighted by big plays in bunches on both sides.

In addition to the 85 total points (the most scored in a Russellville game since the Golden Tigers beat Fayette County



# 'SECOND' from page 13

58-27 on November 2, 2012), the two teams combined last Friday for 876 yards of total offense and seven touchdowns covering 40-plus yards—three by Lawrence County (2-4, 2-2 in Class 5A, Region 7) and four by Russellville (6-0, 4-0).

Senior receiver Devin Buckhalter bobbed and weaved and juke'd his way down the left sideline for a 42-yard touchdown run on the Golden Tigers' first play from scrimmage, and the big plays kept on coming. Buckhalter hauled in a 70-yard scoring strike from senior quarterback Lucas McNutt to open the third quarter, giving the Golden Tigers a lead they would never relinquish. Buckhalter later had a punt return touchdown negated by a penalty but still finished the night with three catches for 77 yards and two touchdowns, plus three carries for 27 yards and a score.

McNutt gashed the Red Devils all night on zone-read plays, rushing for a career-high 110 yards on 15 carries, including a 37-yard touchdown run midway through the third quarter that stretched Russellville's lead to 33-19. McNutt also threw for 143 yards and two touchdowns, completing 7-of-15 attempts.

Senior running back Zaye Boyd, bottled up in the first half and held to just 29 yards on nine carries, erupted in the second half for 166 yards—including touchdown runs of 53 and 42 yards—on 11 carries. He finished the night with 20 carries for 195 yards and three scores, giving him 1,142 yards rushing and 18 touchdowns this season in just six games.

Last Friday's 35-point explosion after the break continued a trend of strong second-half play by the Golden Tigers this season. In four region

games thus far, Russellville has out-scored its opponents (Corner, Hayden, West Point and Lawrence County) by a combined margin of 84-19 in the second half. Factor in two non-region wins over Deshler and Haleyville, and the Golden Tigers have scored 131 points in the second half (plus overtime) this season while giving up only 38.

**Last Friday's 35-point explosion after the break continued a trend of strong second-half play by the Golden Tigers this season. In four region games thus far, Russellville has out-scored its opponents (Corner, Hayden, West Point and Lawrence County) by a combined margin of 84-19 in the second half.**

Russellville's defense surrendered 332 passing yards last week to Lawrence County quarterback Austin Blankenship (including touchdown passes of 66, 67 and 49 yards to three different receivers, plus a 75-yard scoring pass to tight end Garrett Lee that was nullified by a penalty), but the Golden Tiger D also recorded five sacks and picked off two passes—one each by sophomore corner Caden Watts and senior safety Wylie Boyd. Senior safety Donald Ramson had a pick-six in the first half that was negated by a roughing the passer penalty.

Russellville matched its season-high point total from two weeks prior at West Point and finished the night with 511 total yards, including 368 rushing yards on 42 carries. The Red Devils rushed for only 51 yards on 26 attempts but still amassed 383 total yards thanks to their prolific passing game. The Golden Tigers were penalized 10 times

for 75 yards, while Lawrence County was flagged six times for 35 yards. Each team had two touchdowns called back due to penalties.

After a quick three-and-out (and a 12-yard punt) by the Red Devils to open the game, Buckhalter took a handoff from McNutt on an end-around and turned it into a highlight-reel 42-yard touchdown on Russellville's very first offensive snap. The extra point was no good, and the Golden Tigers led 6-0 with 9:15 left in the first quarter.

Watts intercepted Blankenship on Lawrence County's next drive, and Zaye Boyd rambled 33 yards on a screen pass to put Russellville deep in Red Devil territory. Two plays later, McNutt found Buckhalter on a fade route in the back right corner of the end zone for a two-yard touchdown. The try for two failed, and the Golden Tigers led 12-0 with 3:42 left in the first.

Lawrence County lost a fumble on the ensuing kickoff, but Russellville was unable to take advantage and had to punt. Blankenship connected with speedy receiver Jacob Little on a long touchdown pass for the Red Devils, but the play was negated by a penalty for an ineligible receiver down the field. On the next play, Ramson leaped to pick off a Blankenship pass and returned it 20 yards to the house, but the touchdown—which would have stretched Russellville's early lead to 18-0—was wiped out by a roughing-the-passer flag.

On the next snap, Blankenship lofted a beautiful deep ball down the left side to a streaking Malik Strickland, who hauled it in and coasted into the end zone for a 66-yard score. The Red Devils missed the extra point and trailed 12-6 with 32

See 'SECOND,' page 15

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# 'SECOND', from page 14

seconds left in the first quarter.

After a punt by the Golden Tigers, Lawrence County converted a critical fourth-and-10 when Blankenship found Little for a 24-yard gain down to the Russellville seven. Two plays later, Blankenship strolled into the end zone on a naked bootleg, and the extra point put the Red Devils on top 13-12 with 6:59 left in the first half.

McNutt made three big plays on Russellville's ensuing drive, rushing for gains of 12 and 19 yards and then finding sophomore receiver Cole Barnett for a gain of 18 down to the Red Devil seven. Two plays later, Boyd scored untouched from five yards out to put the Golden Tigers back in front 18-13 with 3:46 left in the half. Again, the try for two failed.

Undeterred, Lawrence County answered with a 66-yard scoring drive, reclaiming the lead when Blankenship found Malik Strickland all alone in the end zone for a 15-yard touchdown with 38 seconds left in the half. The try for two failed, and the Red Devils took a 19-18 lead into the locker room.

Boyd opened the second half with a 13-yard run around left end, and two plays later the Golden Tigers took the lead for good.

McNutt scrambled to his right, evaded a couple of rushers and waited until the last possible second before feathering a pretty pass to Buckhalter, who had uncovered along the right sideline near midfield. Buckhalter got one big block down the field and sprinted the rest of the way to the end zone for a 70-yard score. He then caught a slant from McNutt for the two-point conversion, giving Russellville a 26-19 lead with 10:39 left in the third quarter.

The Red Devils moved into Russellville territory on their first drive of the second half, but senior defensive tackle Gage Cook sacked Blankenship on third-and-six from the Golden Tiger 27. Cook and sophomore linebacker Brooks Scott sacked Blankenship again on fourth down to end the drive.

Russellville's ensuing drive started with a 17-yard loss on first down, but a personal foul penalty against the Red Devils a couple of plays later got the Golden Tigers back on schedule and left them facing a third-and-five from the Lawrence County 49. Boyd ripped off a 12-yard run to move the sticks, and McNutt scored his third rushing touchdown of the season on the next play from 37 yards out. Freshman Miguel Flores kicked the extra point to make it 33-19 with 5:02 left in the third.

Lawrence County answered two possessions later with a big play of its own when Little caught a short pass over the middle from Blankenship and turned it up the field, out-racing Russellville defenders to the end zone for a 67-yard touchdown to cut the lead to 33-25 with 1:01 left in the third.

McNutt gashed Lawrence County for 20 yards on the ground to open Russellville's ensuing drive, and on the first play of the fourth quarter Boyd broke loose for a 53-yard touchdown run—his fifth of the season covering at least 50 yards. The extra point was partially blocked and bounced off the crossbar, and the Golden Tigers led 39-25 with 11:47 remaining in the game.

The Red Devils refused to go away, cutting into the lead again when Blankenship found Tayi Strickland for a 49-yard touchdown barely a minute later. The extra point was good, and Lawrence County trailed just 39-32 with 10:34 left to play.

Russellville turned the ball over on downs on its ensuing drive, and the Red Devils took possession with a chance to drive for a tying score. Wylie Boyd picked off a Blankenship pass over the middle, however, and two plays later Boyd burst through the middle of the Red Devil defense for a 42-yard touchdown run—his third of the night and 18th of the season—to essentially seal the deal. Flores added the extra point to make it 46-32 late in the fourth quarter.

The Golden Tigers sacked Blankenship for the fourth time in the second half on Lawrence County's next drive, eventually regaining possession at the Red Devil 23. A few plays later, junior running back Austin Ashley bolted to the end zone for a 19-yard touchdown on fourth-and-six, pushing Russellville past the 50-point mark for the second time in three weeks. Flores made the PAT to make it 53-32 and finish the scoring on a wild night.

Russellville will host Hamilton (2-4, 1-3) this Friday for homecoming. The Aggies lost their fourth straight game last Friday, falling 30-21 to Hayden. Lawrence County will host Jasper (5-1, 4-0) this week. Wins by Russellville and Jasper this Friday would set up a battle of region unbeaten for the Region 7 title next week when the Golden Tigers visit the Vikings at Ki-Ro Gambrell Field.



Russellville's D had five sacks, including this one by Scott (36).

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## Lucas McNutt Senior QB, Russellville

McNutt's dual-threat ability helped propel the Golden Tigers to a 53-32 win over region rival Lawrence County last Friday. The 6'1 senior rushed for a career-high 110 yards on 15 carries, including a 37-yard touchdown. He also threw for 143 yards and two scores on 7-for-15 passing, helping Russellville match its season-high point total and improve to 6-0.

For the season, McNutt has thrown for 664 yards and nine touchdowns while also rushing for 345 yards and three scores on 39 attempts (an average of 8.8 yards per carry).



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# Jayvee Lady Bulldogs finish undefeated again

Submitted to the FFP



COURTESY PHOTO

Belgreen's junior varsity volleyball team recently finished unbeaten for the second year in a row. Team members pictured above are: Front row (L to R) - Abby Smith, Maria Estrada, Nora Castillo, Kelsey Wilson, Felicia Campos, Hannah Borden; Back row (L to R) - Kaley Chandler, Maddie Parker, Lily Blackburn, Makayla Lane, Bailey Oliver, Ella Wiginton, Noelle Willingham. Head coach Teresa Whitten is not pictured.

When Teresa Whitten took over the Belgreen volleyball program in the fall of 2012, she knew that starting a junior varsity team would be a key step toward building the Lady Bulldogs into a perennial contender.

But Belgreen's jayvee volleyball team has done more than merely lay the foundation for future success; they've experienced plenty of their own as well. The jayvee Lady Bulldogs recently finished off their second consecutive undefeated season.

"Every year, the jayvee team does a great job, but the past two years my jayvee teams have gone undefeated," Whitten said. "Four of this year's starters were returning, so we had experience on our side. To go one year undefeated is a great achievement, but to go two years in a row is outstanding. The ones who will move up to varsity are leaving high expectations for the teams to follow."

Team captain Bailey Oliver led the Lady Bulldogs this season with 66 kills and 58 digs; she also led the team in regular service points with 46 and recorded 23 aces.

"Bailey was our most consistent server, passer and hitter," Whitten said. "She kept the girls in line with her great attitude and enthusiasm."

Kelsey Wilson also had a big season for Belgreen, recording 70 assists and leading the team with 47 aces. She had 20 service points. Kaley Chandler finished second on the team with 50 kills on the year.

Joining Oliver, Wilson and Chandler as starters for the Lady Bulldogs were Makayla Lane, Noelle Willingham (co-captain) and Nora Castillo. Other team members included Abby Smith, Maria Estrada, Felicia Campos, Hannah Borden, Maddie Parker, Lily Blackburn and Ella Wiginton.

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# Play ball!



COURTESY PHOTO

Nearly a hundred children took part in the annual Olan Cunningham Legends Youth Baseball Camp hosted by Russellville High School on September 29. Pictured above (front, L to R) are Dee Nance with the Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness and Sports, Cunningham, former Kansas City Royals pitcher and camp coordinator Randy McGilberry and Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow, who helped organize the camp in Franklin County. Standing in back is former Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Steve Woodard, who also assisted with the camp.

## RHS hosts Legends Youth Baseball Camp

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The second annual Olan Cunningham Legends Youth Baseball Camp was hosted by Russellville High School on Saturday, September 29.

Almost 100 children participated in the annual camp. RHS varsity baseball coach Chris Heaps and his staff organized the stations that were used by the campers.

Randy McGilberry, former Kansas City Royals pitcher and a representative of the Major League Baseball Player Alumni Association (MLBPAA), has coordinated the camp in Franklin County the past two years. Last year, Red Bay High School served as the host.

"Coach Heaps and his staff are, without a shadow of a doubt, outstanding individuals who will always be rated A-plus in my world," McGilberry said. "It was one of the most organized baseball camps I have ever been associated with."

The MLBPAA hosts youth camps across the country each year. Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D-Red Bay) was instrumental in bringing the first two legends camps, which feature former MLB players sharing their expertise with young athletes, to Franklin County.

"Johnny Mack Morrow has organized the city officials and funding in both cities and allowed me to work with local coaches and various area coaches to provide the funding and support to youth of several area counties who would not otherwise be exposed to former MLB players and local high school coaches to have instructions as well as life lessons," McGilberry said.

In addition to Morrow, McGilberry expressed his appreciation to former coach and honoree Olan Cunningham, Russellville City Schools superintendent Heath Grimes, Heaps and his staff and players, Dee Nance of the Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness and Sports, former Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Steve Woodard, area youth camp coordinator Tony Shackleford, and the parents and youth who participated.

Morrow, who attended this year's camp, said he quickly saw first-hand why Heaps and Russellville baseball players have captured three of the last four state 5A championships.

"I was proud to work with Coach Heaps and his staff at the MLBPAA Camp," Morrow said. "What they have done on the field is extremely impressive. Now that I have had the opportunity to work with them, I see why they have been so successful."

"The very positive concepts and messages he's teaching will follow his players and students throughout their lives."

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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 7 must be postmarked by Friday, October 12, and picks submitted by email for Week 7 must be received by Saturday, October 13 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 6 winner WAYNE PIPKINS, who correctly picked 9 out of 10 games and also picked Mississippi State to beat Auburn 21-18!

# Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 7: October 13	Brady's Pick	Your Pick
Florida at Vanderbilt	Florida	_____
Tennessee at Auburn	Auburn	_____
Georgia at LSU	Georgia	_____
Texas A&M at South Carolina	Texas A&M	_____
Missouri at Alabama	Alabama	_____
Ole Miss at Arkansas	Ole Miss	_____
Michigan State at Penn State	Penn State	_____
Washington at Oregon	Washington	_____
Wisconsin at Michigan	Wisconsin	_____
Colorado at USC	USC	_____
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# Stakes high for Red Bay's first meeting with Colbert County in nearly 60 years

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

Red Bay had a clear-cut plan of attack heading into last Friday's region game against Sheffield: Run the football, control the clock, keep the Bulldogs' big-play offense on the sideline and tackle in space.

The Tigers checked each of those boxes, and then some. They opened the game with a 17-play drive that chewed up nearly 11 minutes of the first-quarter clock; they ran the ball on 57 of their 58 offensive snaps, gaining 316 yards on the ground; and they limited Sheffield to just 41 plays, only five of which produced gains of 10-plus yards. [The Bulldogs were 0-for-9 on third down in the game and had just three rushing yards on 25 attempts.]

Red Bay led 24-0 at the half and held on for a 24-12 win, snapping a two-game losing skid and remaining in the hunt to host a first-round playoff game.

This week, the challenge for head coach Michael Jackson and the Tigers is a tough one: Execute last week's plan all over again, against an even better opponent.

"We're playing the best team we've played all year," Jackson said of Colbert County, which crushed Addison 35-8 last week and will visit Fred Bostick Memorial Stadium this Friday night. "They're extremely talented. We've got to make them play on our terms to be successful. We know what kind of athletes they have. We've got to do some things to limit them in space."

Addison, whose 5-1 start to the season included a 39-12 rout of Red Bay on September 14, had no luck whatsoever limiting Colbert County running back Ethan Smith last week. Smith, a junior, ran 15 times for 234 yards—in the first half alone. He finished the night with a career-high 382 yards and two touchdowns on 33 carries, including long gainers of 85 and 81 yards.

Quarterback Lucas Craft also had a good night for the Indians (5-2, 4-0 in Class 2A, Region 7), finding receivers Jay Olivis and Themetri Carter for touchdowns.

"From watching them on film, they played their best game of the year last Friday night," Jackson said. "They were at home, and they did a good job of using their speed and getting those guys free. Addison had a couple of players out, too. I know their linebacker/fullback did not play in the game, and he's a really good player."

"Colbert County is the biggest threat athlete-wise that we've seen all year. They have a really good receiver, a really good running back; they don't have one player that can hurt you, they have three or four options on any given play that can hurt you. Most schools in north Alabama don't have that."

Colbert County and Red Bay have been two of the more successful programs in north Alabama over the past 20 years. Since 1998, the Indians have made 19 postseason appearances and won 36 playoff games, while the Tigers have made 18 trips to the playoffs and won 13 postseason games.

The two schools have not met in a varsity football game since 1961, but Colbert County dropped down to Class 2A when the AHSAA reclassified last November and landed in Region 7 with Red Bay.

"They've got great tradition," Jackson said. "They're dropping down in 2A from being really good in 3A. They beat most of the 4A and 5A schools they played last year. We know they've got the confidence factor working for them, and going down to 2A helps with that. Their numbers are good—better than most 2A schools. They have more players than most 2A schools."

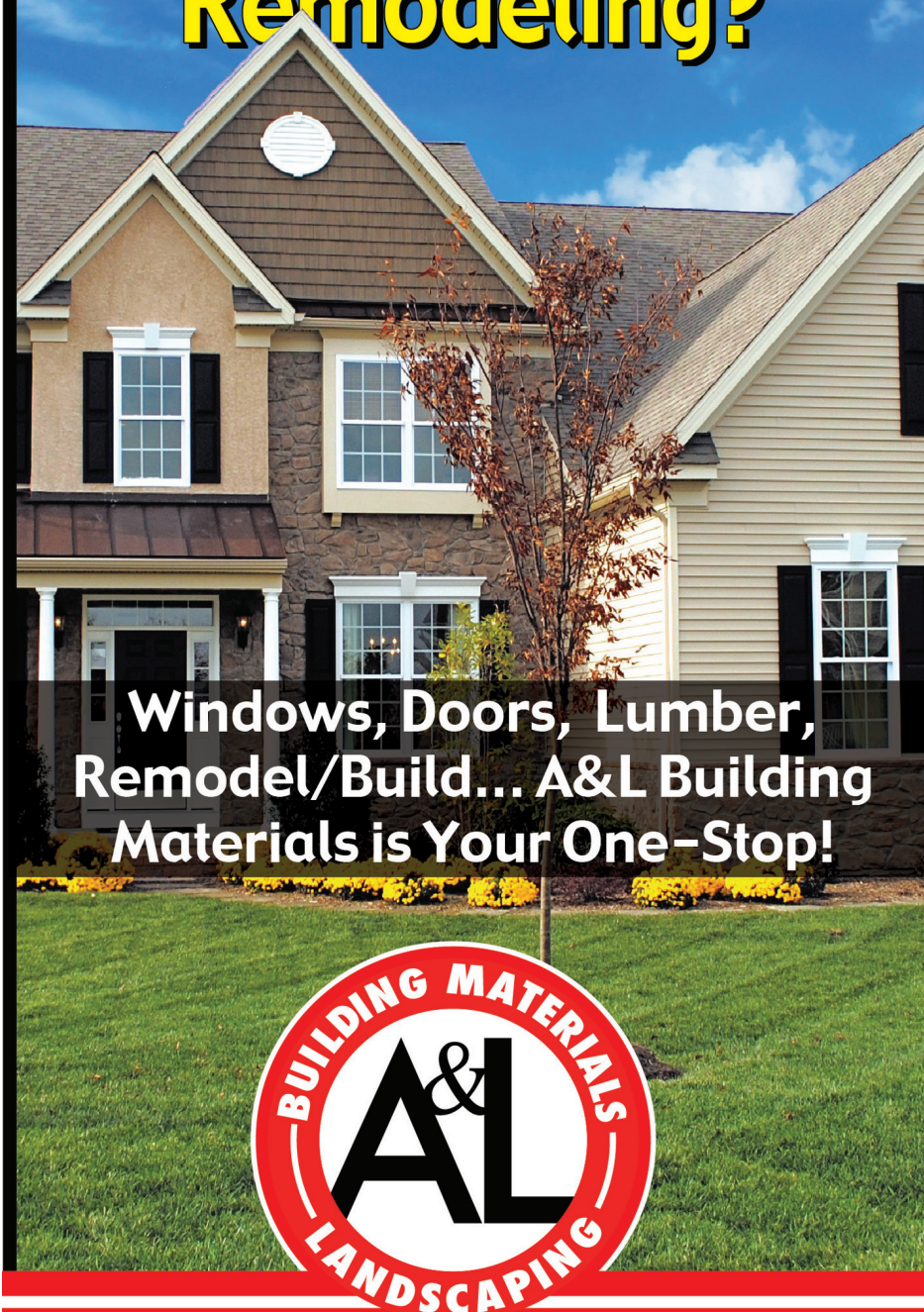
"They're definitely the best team we've played all year. We've got to limit their opportunities."

The best way to do that is to run the football, which Red Bay (4-2, 2-1) did extremely well last week. Tailback Colbie King, a 6'0, 170-pound junior, rushed for a career-high 170 yards on 22 carries, including a 67-yard touchdown early in the third quarter that extended the Tigers' lead to 24-0. Senior quarterback Kolby Bragwell added 82 rushing yards and a touchdown on a season-high 24 attempts.

"Colbie [King] had his best game this season," Jackson said. "He ran extremely hard and did a good job of running up inside. He made some really good cuts. It was by far his best game of the year. Kolby Bragwell did a good job of running up inside, too. We were really good on third down all night, and most of them were third-and-four or less."

The Tigers attempted only one pass the entire game, but they made it count. Taking possession in plus territory after a bad punt by Sheffield with less than a minute remaining in the first half, Red Bay doubled its lead from 8-0 to 16-0 when Bragwell found sophomore receiver Jalen Vinson for a 34-yard touchdown.

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"We were just gonna get out of the half, but then they shanked a punt and we took over inside their 40-yard line," Jackson said. "We decided to take a shot. Kolby threw a deep ball to Jalen Vinson, and he made a great catch on it. That gained us a lot of momentum going into halftime."

A win over Colbert County on Friday at the Fred (where Red Bay is now 19-3 in the regular season in four-plus years under Jackson) would give the Tigers a ton of momentum heading into their final three games. Beating the Indians would put Red Bay in excellent position to earn the No. 2 seed in Region 7 and a first-round home game.

"Our keys will be our offensive line being able to move and come off the ball like they did last week," Jackson said. "That was the best game our offensive line has played the whole year, as far as getting off at the point of attack. That'll be a major key again. Can we control them at the line of scrimmage?"

"Their offensive and defensive line is one of the strengths of the team. It's gonna be a little bit harder this week to control the ball, just because of their sheer size. They're probably forty to fifty pounds heavier per man across the front than we are. We'll have to take care of the football, and defensively we have to control the space game as far as making plays in the open field when we have to. With the amount of speed they have, we can't afford to miss tackles in the open field, because we won't catch them."

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