



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

NRA endorses Kiel, Stutts

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Two area candidates for the Alabama Legislature have received endorsements from the National Rifle Association for the upcoming November 6 general election.

Jamie Kiel, Republican candidate for House District 18, and Sen. Larry Stutts, the Republican incumbent in Senate District Six, both received the NRA endorsements.

In a September 24 press release, Stutts announced he had been endorsed by the National Rifle Association Political Victory Fund. Stutts said the NRA-PVF "praised his defense of the Second Amendment and attention to firearm-related issues during his time in office."

Stutts has an "A" rating from the NRA-PVF, representing that he is a "solid pro-gun/pro-hunting candidate who is an advocate for the right to keep and bear arms."

Interestingly, Stutts' opponent, Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow, the Democratic nominee for Senate District Six, has an "A-plus" rating from the NRA despite not receiving the group's endorsement.

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Kiel, who faces Democratic nominee Eddie Britton next month in the general election, also received a local endorsement from the Franklin County chapter of BamaCarry, a pro-active Second Amendment group.

"I am pleased to receive the endorsement of these two exceptional organizations," Kiel said. "I am a firm supporter of the Second Amendment and will vote accordingly as the Representative of District 18."

Although he did not receive the NRA endorsement, Britton describes himself as pro-Second Amendment and as a legislator whose voting record will support the same.

Johnny Mack MORROW STATE SENATE

Pd. Pol. by Morrow for Senate, 1895 Hwy. 28, Red Bay, 35662

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Water & Sewer Board hires Hill

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

At a meeting held October 9, the Russellville Water and Sewer Board voted to hire Eric Hill as its new manager effective January 1, 2019.

Hill will replace Doug Clement, who is retiring on December 31, 2018, after 40 years of service, including 14 as manager, with the Russellville Water and Sewer Board.

Hill has been with Russellville Water and Sewer Board since 2004, after an 11-year tenure with the Phil Campbell Water and Sewer Department.

Hill and his wife, the former Tara Bianco, have two children, Sophie, a ninth-grader at Russellville High School, and Stella, a seventh-grader at Russellville Middle School.

He will serve as interim manager until the end of the year.

Clement said it was time for him to move on after more than four decades working for the Water and Sewer Board.

"We have grandkids now, and it's time for me to move on and do the things I want to do," Clement said. "I've enjoyed every second of it. I love all our employees, our office staff, and this job has been a blessing. Plus I love Russellville."

Hill said he decided to apply for the manager position because he wants to help keep the Water and Sewer Board moving in a positive direction.

"I've always cared a lot about this department and building relationships with our customers. It's always been my goal to keep going in that direction," Hill said. "I



Eric Hill

See 'HILL,' Page 11

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Pd. Pol. by Campaign to Elect Phil Andrews, 2449 Colburn Mtn. Road, Tusculmbia

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Neal David DeVaney, Tuscumbia, age 78

Died Friday, October 12, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Calvary Baptist Cemetery.

Betty Jo Fisher, Russellville, age 77

Died Friday, October 12, 2018. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

Harold Lee Hargett, Spruce Pine, age 76

Died Tuesday, October 9, 2018. Graveside services held at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Joan Christine Keller Partain, Russellville, age 79

Died Thursday, October 11, 2018. Graveside service held at Shady Grove Cemetery in Coffee Springs, AL. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Margaret Swinney Welborn, Phil Campbell, age 87

Died Monday, October 8, 2018. Funeral held at Liberty Hill Baptist Church in Phil Campbell. Interment in the adjoining cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

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Plaintiffs file deposition notices in Bevell lawsuit

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The plaintiffs in the pending Bevell State Community College lawsuit have filed notices of deposition for Sen. Larry Stutts, Gov. Kay Ivey and other individuals as part of the ongoing discovery process in the case.

Deposition notices were filed with the Marion County Circuit Clerk's Office on October 9 in the case filed by the Legislative Advisory Task Force for Education, Bevell State Community College, Hamilton Campus, against Dr. Kim Ennis, President of Bevell State Community College and Jimmy Baker, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College Systems (ACCS).

Last month, the plaintiffs, who are represented by Hamilton attorney Tony Glenn, filed requests for production of documents for Ivey, Stutts, Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow, Al Thompson (chairman of the Legislative Advisory Task Force for Education, Bevell State), Harold Wade (director, Bevell State Community College Foundation, Inc.) and U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt.

Each of those individuals was requested to produce documentation and communications, direct and indirect, relating to any report that was conducted for the purpose of closing or transferring Federal Workforce Development Programs at Bevell's Hamilton campus.

Additionally, the individuals were requested to produce dates and times of any communication received from or initiated with Ennis, Baker, Thompson, Morrow, Reeves, Wade, Aderholt and

Stutts.

The lawsuit seeks information pursuant to the Alabama Open Records Act regarding an alleged report Ennis said was conducted that showed eliminating the programs to be in the college's best interests.

Morrow, through multiple correspondences with Ennis, requested a copy of the report, as did the task force. To date, none of the requested information has been tendered to Morrow or the task force.

The courses that Ennis intended to eliminate included machine tool technology, drafting design engineering, and vehicle technology and repair. According to a press release from Bevell State spokesperson Tana Collins, the decision was "strategic and data-driven based on quantitative data over several years."

The programs were set to be discontinued at the Hamilton campus, based on their no longer being effective in training students with industry standards to get jobs in those fields, even though the same programs would still have been offered at another Bevell campus.

Morrow asked specifically for a copy of the 'study' that Ennis did which formed the basis of her action, and has suggested that no study was ever conducted or, if it was done, that it did not include input from local business or education officials.

The depositions will allow attorneys for the task force to ask Stutts, Ivey and others questions about what knowledge they had about Ennis's plan to close the programs and what conversa-

tions, if any, they had after the reversal of her decision.

In their complaint, members of the Legislative Advisory Task Force maintain they contacted Stutts on May 10, 2018, and requested his involvement in verifying such 'study/report' existed and to investigate and help prevent closure of the courses. The task force received no response or assistance from Stutts, and the same was true for their requests for assistance from Ivey, Sen. Greg Reed (R-Jasper) and Alabama State Board of Education District Seven representative Jeff Newman.

The depositions are tentatively scheduled for October 26, 2018, but pending motions filed by the defendants may delay them.

Attorneys representing Ennis and Baker have filed a motion to dismiss, or in the alternative, motion for summary judgment for lack of jurisdiction, alleging that the Legislative Task Force for Education, Bevell State Community College, Hamilton Campus, is not a proper party to bring the lawsuit.

Additionally, attorneys for the defendants have filed a motion to transfer the case to Montgomery County Circuit Court, based on the offices of the ACCS being located in Montgomery. Those motions are scheduled to be heard on January 16, 2019.

The court also granted a stay of discovery as to Ennis and Baker, the two party defendants, but not as to the other individuals set to be deposed.

The defendants are represented by the law firm of Hand, Arendall, Harrison, Sale, LLC.

Russellville celebrates Alumni Cheerleading Night

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

After she and Stephanie Mayfield watched the successful alumni night hosted at a Russellville football game for RHS Drum Corps alumni last year, Beth Gilmer and Mayfield thought the same idea might work for a cheerleader alumni event.

And it worked quite well, as 41 past RHS cheerleaders joined this year's varsity squad as part of Alumni Cheerleading Night on Friday, October 6, when the Golden Tigers hosted Lawrence County.

It was a busy week for the alumni cheerleaders. They practiced twice with the current squad, learning new cheers and dances. Gilmer, the junior varsity cheerleading sponsor, and Mayfield, the varsity cheer coach, enjoyed a week of reuniting with former students and watching their current squads meet and bond with cheerleaders from past years.

"The drum corps alumni night worked so well, and it was so much fun for them that we thought it would be something cool to do for our alumni cheerleaders," Gilmer said. "We'd like to make this an annual event, or at least do it every other year."

The alumni cheerleaders enjoyed a pre-game reception in the RHS Touchdown Club room before Friday's game. The alumni group also performed a group cheer and group dance prior to kickoff, then joined the varsity cheerleaders on the field during the third quarter.

For 2003 RHS graduate Tressa Hillman, the alumni week was a welcome surprise. Hillman said it took some work to get the cheers and dance routine down, but she was pleased at how it all came back to her during the week.

"They have a lot of different cheers than we had,



COURTESY PHOTO

More than 40 past RHS cheerleaders, including those above, took part in Alumni Night.

and the last time I cheered was fifteen years ago," Hillman said. "But once we started doing it, everything came back to you. It was fun to get with old teammates. It was a little tiring, but definitely fun."

For 2013 RHS graduate Lauren Reynolds, cheerleading remains in the family, as her younger sister Payton is this year's varsity squad captain. Reynolds was excited to hear about the alumni night, and the week reminded her of how much

work goes into preparing for game night.

"It brought back a lot of memories, including those hard after-school practices from 3-6 p.m.," Reynolds said. "We did the band dances and cheers like when I was on the squad. I was surprised at some of the stuff they do now, but it was nice to see what we used to do versus what they do now. This week brought back a lot of memories and reminded us of our youthful sides."

Honey Do: Smoke alarms

What happens when a smoke alarm sounds in your home? The answer to that question is based on your level of preparedness and how well your family is taught to react in this situation.

The answer should be, GET OUT!! On average, you will have one to two minutes to get to a safe place when a smoke alarm sounds. That means the first priority should be to get to safety. Each and every person in the household who can walk should know where that place of safety is. It should be a location outside the home where everyone can gather to be accounted for. It should be a place away from power lines and out of the way of emergency vehicles.

On average, you will have one to two minutes to get to a safe place when a smoke alarm sounds. That means the first priority should be to get to safety. Each and every person in the household who can walk should know where that place of safety is.

Safe procedures are a result of knowing what to do. Make up a simple plan and teach everyone in the family what to do and where to go in an emergency situation. Make a game of it with the kids. If they are of school age, they are already familiar with fire drills and how to respond calmly.

Children should also be taught how to dial "911" in an emergency, and every school-age child should know their home address and a phone number of a parent.

October is the month chosen to focus on fire safety, and each week we'll be touching on safety tips for your family. For more information on education and fire safety tips, go online and check out the site www.firepreventionweek.org.

This week, say "Thank You!" to a fire fighter, EMT or policeman, and remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green

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



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My take Spruce Pine Day is on this... set for this Saturday!

Oh yes, friends! Spruce Pine Day is almost here! The big day is this coming Saturday.

Vendors will be there around 8 a.m. The bands will begin at 9 a.m. Mark your calendar, highlight Saturday, or tie a string around your finger.

Bring your appetite for the famous and delicious bean dinner. You'll get the works (which, as usual, includes your dessert and tea) for the low price of \$5.00!

We will have more games for the young and the young at heart, including the Duck Pond, Pick-Up and two more the older kids will enjoy. John Sheffield is having a cornhole tournament, so let's see how good you really are! You have your talkers, and you have your experts. Time to put your money where your mouth is! It's always interesting to watch adults compete.

Backwoods Grill will be our food vendor this year. Everyone knows how delicious their food is, so come hungry!

For those of you who were so disappointed with having only one band, you can bring your smile back this year. A variety of music is back. The band lineup will begin at 9 a.m. with the very popular gospel group "Three Strong." The Fairlanes will perform at 11 a.m. You may notice the time in between groups being a little longer this year. We've got to allow time for the first group to break down their equipment and the second band to set up. Each band will have an hour-and-a-half to play instead of only one hour. We are going to see how it works.

The County Line Band will follow the Fairlanes.

Since a few members play in both bands, it will take less time to begin their musical entertainment. Around 2 p.m., the all-famous Bluegrass music will be provided by the Hallmark Band. The Hallmark Band consists of three sisters, and the lead singer is the daughter of one of the sisters. They are really keeping it in the family! This band is dear to my heart because the beautiful lead singer is my first cousin. I had requests for them to come back, so after years of full scheduling, they finally have an opening. I'm very proud I could make some dreams come true for you this year.

Please bring your own chairs, so you can relax all day for a great lineup of a variety of music. If you do need to get up and stretch your legs, that will be a great opportunity to visit all the vendors this year.

Our Spruce Pine Day this year will have a train. The shirts are polyester and cotton. They are softer, and we have a variety of colors and sizes to offer. You can buy ahead of time by contacting Sue Bowen at 256-810-6513. As I've said previously, you can purchase sizes small through XL for only \$10, which will buy you a shirt and a bean dinner. No other festival could offer such a deal!

Of course, I can't go without adding that when you arrive you will see the hard-working members wearing a Spruce Pine Day shirt and a



Gail Motes



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Spending money in the budget?

Dear Dave,
We are debt-free except for our home, and we have six months of expenses set aside in our emergency fund. Every time we do our monthly budget, we set aside a small amount of personal spending money for us both. Do you see anything wrong with this?

DeAnna

Dear DeAnna,
There's absolutely nothing wrong with having a little fun money calculated into your monthly budget when you're in good financial shape. The problems start when couples don't agree on these kinds of things—or worse, when they start hiding stuff and lying to each other about where the money's going.

People either grow together or they grow apart when they get married. When you start hiding things from your spouse, you're essentially keeping separate lives. That's a bad sign in any marriage, and in many cases this kind of thing leads to divorce.

Having an agreed-upon budget isn't just telling your money what to do. It's also an important part of a healthy sharing and communication process between husband and wife!

Dave

Close up small business?

'DAY,' from page 4

smile.

Vendor spots are \$10 for a 10X10 spot, and power access will be \$25. We have very limited power access spots, so there might not be any of those still available. As I'm writing this, there are a few 10X10 vendor spots available. Of course, there are no promises that any will still be available by the time you read this. If you have any questions about those spots, please call Zack Motes at 256-577-2047.

Bill Herring will have the car show. Now that's one place that is about to run out of space, so you better get there early! For more information, please contact him at 256-366-6046.

Spruce Pine Day is almost here! Hope to see you on Saturday! Come out and join us and have a great time!

As always, friends, we'll talk later.

Dear Dave,

I have a small business, and I love what I do. Unfortunately, things haven't been going well the last several months. On top of that, I've committed a lot of money to advertising in the coming year. Recently, I got a great job offer from a company that would pay me twice what I'm making now. What do you think I should do?

Hugh

Dear Hugh,

If it were me, I'd want to keep my options open. Closing your business would mean giving up all your customers. I'm not sure that's a good idea when the offer has just been made, and you know so little about the actual job.

If you think this new job is something you might like, why not accept the offer and see if you can continue your other work on the weekends? That would help cover some, if not all, of your advertising commitment. Plus, it would keep some money rolling in if the new job doesn't work out.

If you find you like this new job, then you've got a great income *and* something you like doing on weekends that pays. If you keep your business open—even on a small scale—there's always a chance it will begin to grow again. Who knows? It might give you the opportunity to jump back into it full-time somewhere down the road!

Dave

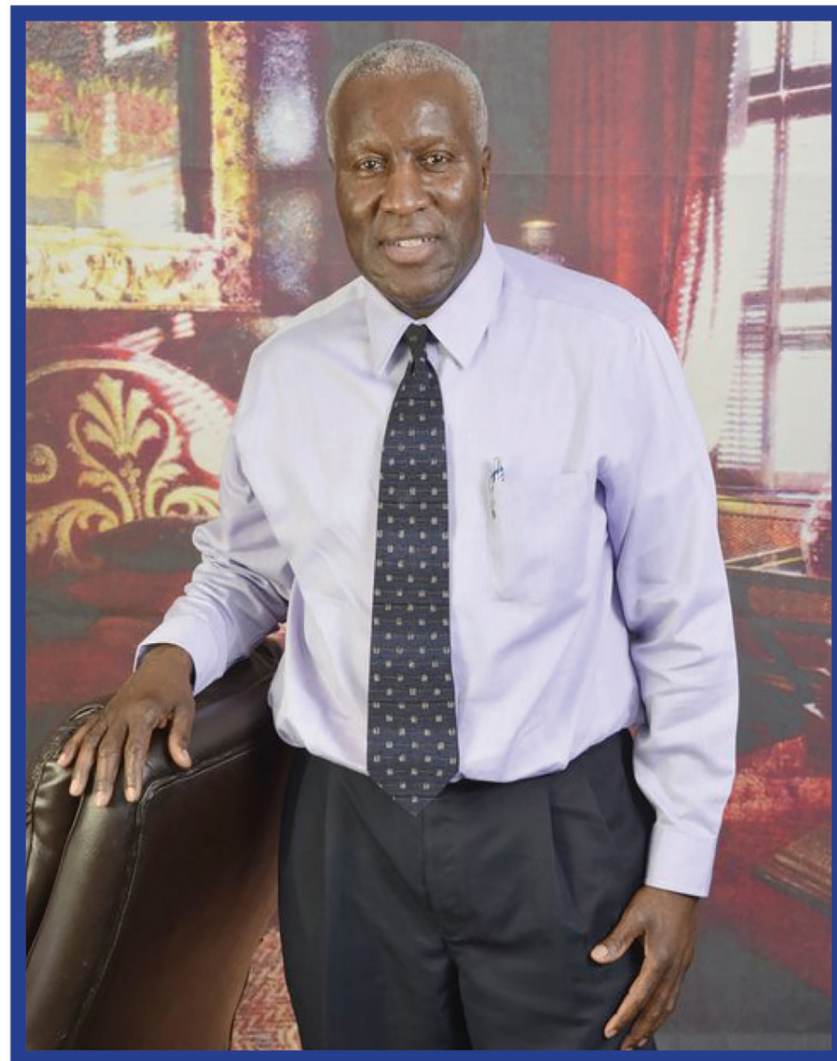
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to the
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The Back to Basics Life Skills Center is holding a white bean plate fundraiser. Plates may be picked up at the Old Reedtown School this Friday, October 19 at 11 a.m. Please make donations 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 Ilean Meade at 256-324-0515 or Joe Graham at 256-668-2228. All proceeds go to the Back to Basics Life Skills Center.

The Alvin Baker Family Reunion will be held this 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 info, call 256-398-8158 or 256-460-0849.

Fall Festival will be held at Belgreen Baptist Church, Hwy. 24 West in Belgreen, this Saturday, October 20 from 5-7 p.m. Hayride following the festival. Everyone is invited.

Gateway Church of God (Russellville Church of God) will celebrate its 67th Homecoming this Sunday, October 21. Morning service begins at 10:30 a.m. with evangelist Ronald Reagan preaching. He has a great ministry and shares his testimony regularly on TBN. Dinner will be served following the morning service, and a singing with the gospel group Purpose will start at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend! For more info, please call 256-332-7176 or 256-627-7935.

Bro. Johnny Smith will hold revival at the Church of God at Mars Hill in Phil Campbell. Revival begins this Sunday, October 21 at 5 p.m. Services will be held each night at 6 p.m. for the remainder of the week. For more information, call 256-324-5288.

October is SUPER SUNDAYS month at Shiloh Baptist Church! Come join us to hear preaching from 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!

ABreast Cancer Awareness and Fundraiser Walk will be held on Saturday, October 27 at Golden Tiger Stadium on the RHS campus. Registration will be held from 8:30-9 a.m. in the RHS Field House Touchdown Club Room (top floor), with the walk beginning at 9 a.m. Registration fee is \$20, which includes a T-shirt for the first 200 people to register. Refreshments will be served post-walk, and participants will receive a goody bag. The Book Lovers Study Club is coordinating the walk, with local businesses serving as sponsors. A portion of the funds raised from the Breast Cancer Walk will benefit the "Walking the Road to Wellness" organization. Most of the funds will be kept locally to help women on their journey to wellness and recovery. For info and applications, call 256-332-4761.

Belgreen Baptist Church will host Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 31 from 6-7:30 p.m. The church is located on Hwy. 24 West in Belgreen. Everyone is welcome.

The next meeting for American Legion Post 64 will be Thursday, November 8 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

On November 10, 2018, the first annual Adult Prom (theme: A Night to Remember) will be held at the A.W. Todd Center (201 Washington Avenue SW, Russellville, AL 35653) starting at 7 p.m. This is a formal event. There will be three DJs, a photographer, a red carpet and plenty of fun! Tickets cost \$30 for singles and \$50 for couples. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society and will also be used to help children in the community. For more information or to purchase tickets, call event organizer Tammy West at 256-668-7649.

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 RHS 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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Christmas in the air at Russellville Florist & Gifts

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Even though Chase Sparks recently purchased Russellville Florist & Gifts, he's not giving up his day job, at least not yet.

Sparks, the payroll clerk at G&G Steel, is the new owner of Russellville Florist & Gifts, located in the Franklin Shopping Center. With an experienced staff including Dawn Garrison, Deborah Oliver and Lila Fuller, Sparks' business is in capable hands, even when he's not there.

"Right now, my plan is to remain with G&G Steel. That might change in the future, though," Sparks said.

At Russellville Florist & Gifts, you'll find live and silk floral arrangements, gifts and holiday items, including a large Christmas inventory. Sparks now offers a bridal registry as well.

"We carry two lines of china and expect that to grow. We also carry three candle lines and a wide variety of gifts," Sparks said. "Our goal is to be a full florist and a full gift shop all in one."

Sparks' interest in flower arrangement and interior decorating isn't new. He operated a business out of his parents' home for more than a decade before purchasing Russellville Florist & Gifts.

The Franklin County native also has one of the most beautiful homes in Russellville, located on Lauderdale Street and regularly adorned with seasonal decorations.

"I use my home as a showcase for what I do," Sparks said. "I love decorating for the different times of year. I don't like taking them down, but it's

fun putting them up."

Christmas is already in the air at Russellville Florist & Gifts, with Christmas inventory growing daily. Sparks will host a Christmas Open House during the weekend of November 2-4, with special hours.

The Open House begins Friday, November 2, with a grand opening and ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. Russellville Florist & Gifts will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on November 2-3 and from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday, November 4.

"All Christmas items will be twenty percent off, excluding Open House specials," Sparks said. "We'll have refreshments, and it's an opportunity to find some beautiful items to decorate your home and to do some Christmas shopping at the same time. We also do gift wrapping. After the Open House, we'll be back to regular prices on Christmas until we decide to go further with it."

Sparks has approximately 10 standing customers whose homes he personally decorates for Christmas each year. That is a service he will continue to offer new customers based on how his schedule allows.

While his name may be the only one on the business license, Sparks said Russellville Florist & Gifts is a family business, as his parents, Randy and Dina Sparks, take an active part as well.

"I get a lot of help from my family. This truly is a family affair," Sparks said. "My mom helps me every Saturday, and dad helps do repairs. They like to have a hand in it."

Russellville Florist & Gifts is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday from 9



Chase Sparks recently purchased Russellville Florist & Gifts, which will host a Christmas Open House the first weekend in November.

a.m.-noon. For telephone orders, call 256-332-7771, or visit them on Facebook.

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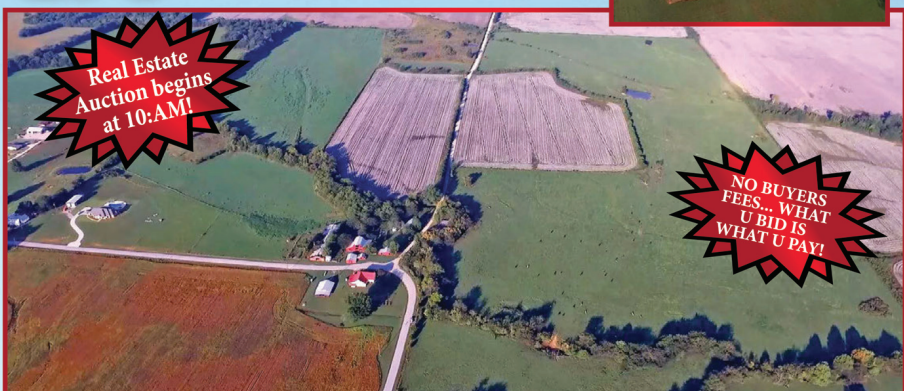
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Directions from the Moulton, Alabama Intersection of HWY-24 & HWY-157, travel west on HWY-24 for 11.4 miles, turn left on CR-39 & go 1.8 mile to stop sign (note: CR-39 turns into CR-41 then CR-23), turn left on CR-460, go 100 feet, turn right on CR-23 & go 1.4 miles, turn right on CR-448 at the Rock Springs Presbyterian Church & go 1.3 miles to Auction Site at the intersection of County Roads 448 & 25. **Watch for the SHANE ALBRIGHT AUCTION SIGNS!**
AUCTION TERMS: REAL ESTATE: A 10% down payment is due by the purchaser at end of auction. The balance is due on or before November 27th, 2018*. The sellers will provide a general warranty deed, preliminary title search, and property taxes will be prorated at closing. A new survey was run on Farm #1 and a copy will be provided to the purchaser/s. No survey was run on Farm #2. The buyer/s is/are responsible for all other closing cost. Title insurance is available at purchaser's expense. *Farm #1 Tract numbers 1 through 6 and 8 Through 12 are subject to an existing property lease through December 31, 2018. Possession will be given to purchaser/s on January 1st 2019, however the property rent will be prorated, between the sellers and purchasers, from closing date through December 31st, 2018. Tract #7 is the house tract and possession will be given at closing. Homes built prior to 1978 may contain lead based paints. In accordance with federal law you have 10 days prior to auction day to have the property tested using a nondestructive testing method or on auction day you will sign a form waiving this right. No inspections have been made of the property, house, barns or storage buildings and are sold AS-IS WHERE-IS with no warranties expressed nor implied. Shane Albright Auctions and its agents are acting as agents for the seller only in this transaction.
EQUIPMENT TERMS: Payment in full day of auction by cash or good check only. All items sold "AS-IS WHERE-IS" and must be removed day of auction so bring a truck or trailer. A loader will be available on auction day only.

Commission approves personnel moves within Solid Waste Department

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Several personnel changes within the Franklin County Solid Waste Department highlighted a short meeting of the Franklin County Commission Monday morning.

Anthony Wesley Pickett was terminated from the department, and Michael Mitchell resigned. Commissioners also approved the hiring of Edward Wesley Priest as a temporary employee. An addition of a second temporary employee was also approved, but Solid Waste manager Gene Ward did not yet submit a name for that position.

Commissioners also approved the low bid of 2.74 percent fixed rate interest on a two-year note in the amount of \$82,200 to finance the purchase of a new backhoe for the Solid Waste Department.

In other action, the commission:

- Agreed to advertise for a Tag/Property Clerk position with the Franklin County Revenue Commissioner's Office for the Red Bay Office. Rita Jeffreys will retire December 1, 2018, from that position.

- Approved catastrophic sick leave for Franklin County Highway Department employee Jackie Clark.

- Approved the payment of funds to the State of Alabama Employee Retirement Systems sufficient to cover the one-time lump sum payment for retirees that was approved by the commission last month.

- Renewed an annual agreement with the State of Alabama Department of Youth Services.

- Agreed to set a public hearing for the consideration of vacating Humphries Road for November 19, 2018 at 8 a.m.

- Elected Commissioner Rayburn Massey as Chairman Pro Tempore.

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REB crews provide aid to storm victims

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As Hurricane Michael made landfall last Wednesday afternoon near Mexico Beach, Florida, crews from the Russellville Electric Board were already on standby to offer assistance in the aftermath of the storm.

In addition to doing devastating damage to the Florida Panhandle, Michael ripped into southeast Alabama's Wiregrass Area as well. Michael, a Category 4 storm, carried top winds of 155 miles per hour.

The assistance from the Russellville Electric Board was coordinated through the Electric Cities of Alabama (ECA). The ECA coordinates power restoration assistance to electric city members across Alabama and neighboring states following

natural disasters.

"I am so thankful for the hardworking men and women that work for municipally owned electric companies throughout our state," said Jon Hand, ECA executive director. "When disaster hits, it's reassuring to know there are utilities such as the Russellville Electric Board ready and willing to lend a helping hand."

"When disaster strikes, it's time to pull together across our state as a team," Canida said. "We saw a tremendous response several years ago here after the April 27, 2011 tornadoes, and the Russellville Electric Board is ready to offer assistance in emergency times for our neighbors across Alabama."

Russellville Electric Board manager Charles Canida said his crews were en route last Thursday

to Havana, Florida, to aid in the restoration process.

"When disaster strikes, it's time to pull together across our state as a team," Canida said. "We saw a tremendous response several years ago here after the April 27, 2011 tornadoes, and the Russellville Electric Board is ready to offer assistance in emergency times for our neighbors across Alabama."

Utilities and contract crews from across the country are joining in a coordinated effort to restore power to areas impacted by Hurricane Michael.

The Electric Cities of Alabama is a coalition of Alabama's municipally-owned electric utilities that spans the state from the Tennessee Valley region in the north, to the Gulf and Wiregrass Regions of the south.

ADEM: Fertilizer used by Clement Road farm is legal

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

In spite of objections from some neighbors, a farm on Clement Road in eastern Franklin County is within the law to use a fertilizer that consists of waste products from chicken cooked at a Wayne's Farm facility in Morgan County. Franklin County Emergency Management Agency director Jody Hitt said the fertilizer consists of sludge that is a by-product of chicken cooked at the Wayne's Farm facility.

Neighboring residents complained to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office about the foul smell, and the complaint was routed to Hitt. Hitt told the residents that would be governed by the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

Hitt notified the Alabama Department of Public Health, and, along with ADPH officials, he investigated the matter.

"The farm was permitted to receive 64 eighteen-wheeler loads of the fertilizer on the ten acres," Hitt said. "That amount is allowed each year."

According to Hitt, Wayne's Farm contracts with Darling Ingredients, Inc., to repurpose industrial residuals and meat co-products from its plant into fertilizer. Terra Trucking then hauls the fertilizer to farms across north Alabama, including the one location in Franklin County.

"The neighbors didn't see how it was legal with the smell, but ADEM says it's fine," Hitt said. "There are two different densities of the fertilizer. One goes on crops like corn and wheat, and one goes on hay. The heavier material goes on hay crops like the farm on Clement Road."

The trucking company hauls the fertilizer to a farm and tills up the land; then hoses pump the fertilizer liquid into the ground. The final step in the process is to come back behind that and roll it and top off the ground, Hitt said.

At the October 9 work session for the Franklin County Commission, Hitt briefed commissioners on the situation and advised them there was some confusion that the fertilizer being used consisted of human waste. In fact, it's

waste from cooked chicken.

"We had received the complaints, and I wanted to make the commission aware of the situation in case they got some phone calls. We are trying to get ahead of it. It's not human waste," Hitt said. "It's nothing like we dealt with years ago. This is a different type of product coming in, and the landowner is legitimate to use it until or unless it's further investigated by ADEM or the United States Department of Agriculture."

Hitt said he was aware of only one farm in Franklin County using this type of fertilizer, which is provided to farmers free of charge.

"Wayne's Farm contracts with a company to take care of their waste, and, rather than pay per ton to a landfill, they take it to farms to be used as fertilizer," Hitt said.

Robertson running for State House District 7

Submitted to the FFP

Proncey Robertson is the Republican nominee seeking election to the State House of Representatives in District Seven on November 6.

Robertson was born and raised in Blount County, Alabama. He graduated from Susan Moore High School and joined the United States Air Force in 1986. He is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War and received an Honorable Discharge in 1990.

After his time in the armed forces, Robertson worked as a youth minister and in local law



Proncey Robertson

See 'ROBERTSON,' page 11

Vote November 6th

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Grave for sale in Franklin Memorial Gardens in the Round Section (oldest Garden of Devotion). Call 205-993-4155. (4)

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Four local eateries receive satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Each of the four Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of October 1-5 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.

Each of the four Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range. The highest score was 95, received by Jack's #136, 521 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, and 2 Moons Quick Stop, 606 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay.

Inspections of Franklin County businesses, with critical item violations noted, resulted in the follow-

ing scores:

•B&A Auction, 1385 County Road 77, Russellville, 89. (Presence of rodent droppings in pantry, no date on chopped lettuce).

•Willi's, 5680 Hwy. 243, Phil Campbell, 90. (No date mark on BBQ, dating sliced tomatoes for 8 days).

Of the 12 inspections done in Colbert County from October 1-5, no restaurant scored below the satisfactory range.

The high score for the week in Colbert County was 99, scored by Lenny's Sub Shop, 2101 Woodward Ave., Muscle Shoals.

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

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

Hello, my name is Gary Hughes, and I have been a safe driver for 53 years. I just saw an article in the *Franklin Free Press* addressing the speed limit along Highway 43 in Littleville and how the mayor would like to lower that limit due to the amount of accidents. The intent of this letter is to explain how posting a lower speed limit will not reduce accidents.

Let me say that I believe there is no such thing as accidents. Vehicles collide due to lack of driver awareness. Too many people drive as if they are the only one on the road and are not aware of others. This is reflected in their driving habits, such as lack of turn-signal usage. Changing a posted speed limit only works when people are paying enough attention to see the sign and understand the consequences, along with recognizing other drivers around them. Driver awareness eliminates accidents, not rules and regulations.

Can our law enforcement spend more time alerting drivers to "incorrect vehicle handling?" I'm referring to issues other than speeding. For instance, many drivers don't know it is breaking

the law to obstruct the flow of traffic. I'm referring to entering a roadway from a parking lot or side street without coming to a complete stop and yielding the right of way to flowing traffic. This causes many accidents.

Another driver habit causing accidents is following too close. This does not allow a driver enough time to stop suddenly without hitting the vehicle in front of them. This also is breaking the law.

How about crossing double yellow lines? Does the average driver even know what those lines represent? I doubt it, due to many drivers disobeying the law and passing vehicles by crossing these lines. I don't hear of tickets being issued for these offences, unless there has been an accident (too late).

The auto industry has been forced to add equipment to help make driving safer. One instrument is a brake light separate from taillights and mounted at a higher position, so it is obvious when a driver is applying their brake. This only works when the following driver is paying full attention to the vehicle in front of them. The use of cell phones has rendered these lights useless.

Not enough citations are being written for this offence.

I could continue with more explanation, but a list of other offences covers it well. There are more, but I think the point is made. Most traffic laws are written with common sense. However, they only work if people are aware of these rules and adhere to them. Because of the attention by law enforcement to only speeding, I believe drivers find it easier to disregard these rules and drive carelessly, thus reducing "driver awareness."

Other offences include:

- 1) Passing on the right.
- 2) Not utilizing turn signals.
- 3) Driving without "lights on" when it is raining.
- 4) Continuously driving in the passing lane while going slower than those on the right.
- 5) Driving without insurance.
- 6) Disobeying traffic lights and stop signs.
- 7) Not moving out of the path of emergency vehicles.
- 8) Cell phone texting.

Sincerely,
Gary Hughes

'HILL' from page 1

hope not necessarily to make it better, but to keep us moving in the right direction.

"I hope I've made enough of an impact over the years to help keep that going. I've been blessed to work with some great people. The biggest change will be not working out in the field. But I feel fortunate to work with our board, and I look forward to this opportunity."

'ROBERTSON' from page 9

enforcement in Russellville, AR. In 1994 he moved to Alabama, where he has served in the Decatur Police Department for more than 24 years.

Lt. Robertson has an extensive record of training and experience, which he applies to teach others at law enforcement academies throughout the state. He has supervised the Decatur Police Department's Robbery & Homicide Unit, Crime Scene Investigations (CSI), the Street Crimes Unit (ACU) and the Honor Guard Unit. He's worked as a member of the Decatur Police Department's Special Response Unit (SWAT) since 1995.

Robertson is one of the most decorated officers within the Decatur Police Department, with 16 department medals, including the department's highest award, "The Medal of Valor." He was named the 2003 American Legion "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" for the state of Alabama. Promoted to Lieutenant in 2011, Robertson's primary role is Homeland Security Coordinator and Public Information Officer.

Outside of law enforcement, Robertson serves on the Lawrence County Community Development Commission, which reviews and awards local grant requests for TVA in-lieu of Tax Monies within Lawrence County. He is known throughout the state for his work as the co-director of the non-profit, "The Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics." Over the past 20 years, Robertson has helped to build this organization from the ground up with grass-roots fundraising.

Robertson is married to his wife of 14 years, Kristi, with whom he has two sons, Jacob and Daniel. Proncey and Kristi are members of the Mt. Hope Baptist Church, where they have taught Sunday School to adults and assisted with young ministers for 13 years.

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Week 8 in the SEC

Last week's record: 2-2
 Year to date: 18-10
 Saturday, October 20
 Auburn at Ole Miss



Mike Self
 Sports Editor

A season that began with a Top 10 ranking, a big win over Washington and seemingly legitimate playoff hopes is now teetering on the brink of disaster for Auburn. Losses to LSU and Mississippi State were frustrating but forgivable; losing at home to a Tennessee team that hadn't won an SEC game in nearly two years was another matter entirely.

Now the Tigers are faced with this grim reality: Win in Oxford on Saturday, or stay home for the holidays. With November games looming against Texas A&M, Georgia and Alabama, Auburn will almost certainly need to beat the Rebels Saturday to ultimately reach six wins and bowl eligibility. Yikes.

Fortunately for Auburn, the Ole Miss defense may cure what ails the Tiger offense. Unfortunately for Auburn, the Ole Miss passing game is poised to pick apart a Tiger secondary that has struggled all year and got roasted by Jarrett Guarantano and Tennessee's receivers all afternoon.

The Pick: Ole Miss 34 Auburn 31
Alabama at Tennessee

The Volunteers looked great coming out of their bye week, particularly on offense. Guarantano made some big-time throws in the win over Auburn, and his receivers made plays all day. Repeating that success against a rejuvenated Alabama defense, however, will be a challenge.

The wild card here is the health of Tua Tagovailoa. He looked pretty hampered by his sprained knee last week, and there's really no sense in playing him much—or at all—in Knoxville. One wonders if Nick Saban is tempted just to roll with Jalen Hurts and give Tua three full weeks to get healthy for LSU.

Either way, Alabama should hammer UT.
The Pick: Alabama 45 Tennessee 13
Mississippi State at LSU

This looks like a classic letdown spot for LSU. They're coming off a sky-high performance against Georgia, and State is coming off a bye week following a potentially season-saving win over Auburn. Still, it's way past time to acknowledge that LSU is far better than most of us (including yours truly) thought they would be.

Dave Aranda's defense is no joke, and Joe Burrow is an absolute gamer.

The Pick: LSU 20 Mississippi State 14
Vanderbilt at Kentucky

Vanderbilt was whipping Florida last week. Then Derek Mason challenged the entire Gator sideline to a fight, and things deteriorated from there. Florida woke up and ran all over Vandy. There's a good chance Benny Snell and Kentucky will do the same.

The Pick: Kentucky 28 Vanderbilt 17

Winner take all



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW
THREE-HEADED MONSTER - Boyd (3), McNutt (19) and Buckhalter (33) have accounted for a total of 20 touchdowns of 30-plus yards. The big-play trio leads an offense averaging 45.4 points per game.

One year removed from missing the playoffs, Russellville heads to Jasper with a region championship at stake

Mike Self
 Franklin Free Press

All year long, Region 7 in Class 5A has been wildly unpredictable, producing head-scratching, eyebrow-raising results on an almost weekly basis. Consider:

- Dora, ranked No. 10 in 5A at the time, got shut out 16-0 by Class 3A Carbon Hill (which has since lost three of five games) on August 31.
- Hamilton, which won a shootout with West Point 48-42 on September 7 to improve to 2-0, got crushed 46-0 at Corner two weeks later—the second of five straight losses for the Aggies.

- After opening region play with back-to-back losses to Russellville and Jasper, Corner was stunningly dominant in its next two region games, the 46-0 rout of Hamilton and a 30-7 whipping of Dora. Naturally, the red-hot Yellow Jackets traveled to take on a 2-5 Hayden team last week and fell behind 18-0 on their way to a 32-15 defeat.

- Speaking of Hayden...the Wildcats entered the month of October having lost five straight games, the last three by an average margin of nearly 31

points. Hayden is 2-0 thus far in October, winning 30-21 at Hamilton and then spanking Corner last week to get right back in the thick of the playoff race.

"To say that we felt like we'd be here...I don't know about that," Ritter said. "But to say that we wanted to be here, that's one hundred percent fact. This is exactly where we wanted to be—the middle of October, playing a game to win a championship, to be the No. 1 seed and to host a playoff game."

Through all the twists and turns in the Region 7 race, though, two things have been constant from day one: Russellville is good, and Jasper is good.

Now we get to find out which one is better. The Golden Tigers (7-0, 5-0 in region play) and the Vikings (6-1, 5-0) will square off at Ki-Ro Gambrell Field in Jasper on Friday night, with the winner claiming the outright Region 7 championship. It's the biggest regular-season game for Russellville in quite some time—the kind of game that first-year head coach John Ritter didn't think

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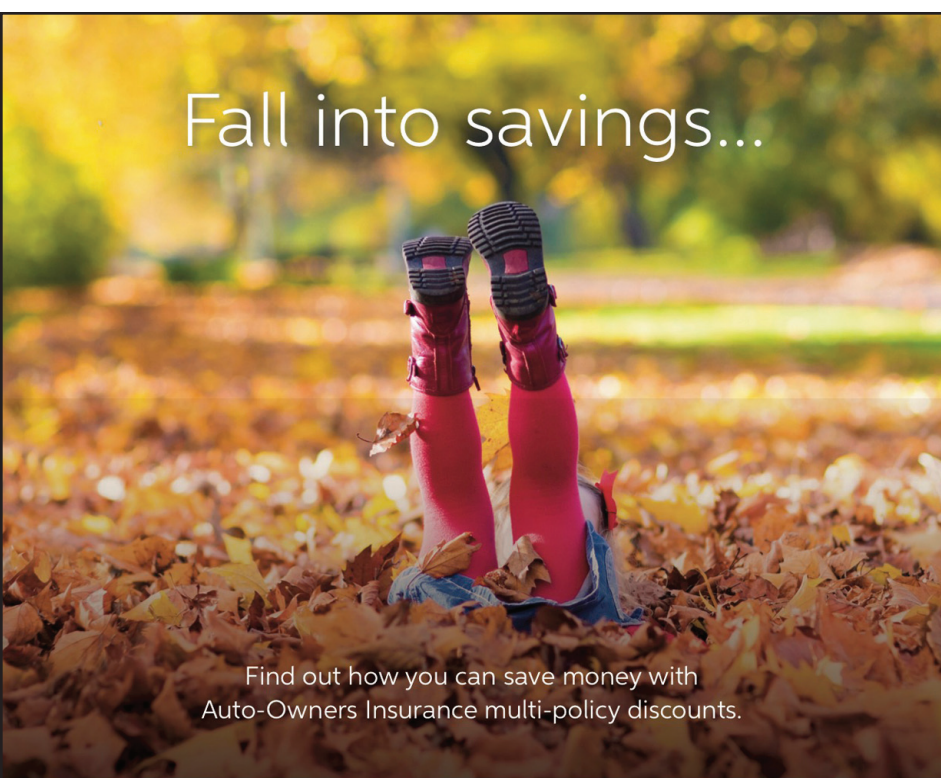
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**Local Tang Soo Do students
excel at region tournament**

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

On September 22, teams from across the Southeastern U.S. traveled to Foley, AL to compete in the Tang Soo Do Region 6 tournament. The tournament featured participants from Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and South Carolina.

One of the teams that competed was from right here in Russellville. The All American Tang Soo Do class of Russellville sent numerous participants to the tournament in Foley and even had some of the participants medal, receive trophies or both.

During the tournament, the participants competed in mostly individual events such as sparring, form technique, and weapon forms, which can include staffs, knives or swords. The members that received medals or trophies included: Susanne Belew, Jennifer Hogan, Nick Galloway, Stephen Strickland, Tom Jones, Amanda Galloway, Cade Parker, Dale Galloway and Eddie Puckett.

"All of the work that these guys have put in from the time they started until now really pays off when these tournaments come around," Jones said.

Tom Jones, who holds the rank of Master of Tang Soo Do, teaches the Russellville class and has competed in numerous region tournaments. Jones said that he was very proud of the hard work his students had put in.

"All of the work that these guys have put in from the time they started until now really pays off when these tournaments come around," Jones said. "I really think that the ones who medaled or got some kind of award can build off of this, and those who either didn't go or didn't place can continue to build and work on their techniques so they might be able to join their classmates one day at a tournament. I would love to see our entire class standing up on the podium with a medal."

According to a pamphlet handed out by Jones, the World Tang Soo Do Association has more than 1,000 studios and more than 170,000 members in 36 different countries. The average time it takes to go from a white belt (beginner) to a black belt is around three-and-a-half to four years, and all of the classes in Tang Soo Do are black belt oriented.

Classes for All American Tang Soo Do of Russellville are held at American Health and Fitness in Russellville and are open to anyone above the age of six. For anyone seeking to join the All American Tang Soo Do of Russellville, go by American Health and Fitness of Russellville to receive information about pricing, class times and other offers.

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Defense delivers for Red Bay in crucial win

Staff reports

Red Bay won an old-fashioned defensive struggle at Fred Bostick Memorial Stadium last Friday night, holding Colbert County to just 145 total yards and coming up with a critical stop late in the fourth quarter to preserve a 12-7 win over the Indians.

The Tigers (5-2, 3-1 in Class 2A, Region 7) are now tied in the loss column with both Colbert County (5-3, 4-1) and Addison (6-2, 3-1) atop the region standings with three weeks left in the regular season. Red Bay has two region games remaining, at Tanner this Friday night and at home against Tharptown on October 26. Colbert County closes region play this week at home against Sheffield, while Addison has region games left at Tharptown and at home against Hatton.

Addison appeared to be in the driver's seat to win the region title after handling Red Bay 39-12 on September 14. That changed two weeks ago when the Bulldogs visited C.T. Manley Stadium in Leighton and got smoked 35-8 by Colbert County.

The Indians could have clinched the region crown last Friday at The Fred, but the Tigers had other ideas. Red Bay opened the game with a 15-play, 78-yard march that lasted nearly nine minutes. Senior quarterback Kolby Bragwell scored on a two-yard run with 3:03 left in the first quarter, putting the Tigers on top early 6-0. The try for two was no good.

Neither team scored again until midway through the third quarter, when Bragwell found Colyn Humphres for a 25-yard touchdown pass. The try for two again failed, but Red Bay led 12-0 with 4:46 left in the third.

Just as they had done the previous week in a 24-12 win over Sheffield, the Tigers pitched a shutout for the first three quarters last Friday night. Colbert County finally got on the board on a six-yard touchdown run by junior back Ethan Smith with 6:21 left in the game. The extra point was good, and the Indians trailed 12-7.

Colbert County had a chance to score the go-ahead touchdown in the final minutes, but Red Bay's defense held on to seal the win in the first

meeting between the two teams since 1961.

Smith had run for 382 yards on 33 carries in the previous week's win over Addison, but the Indians managed just 108 rushing yards as a team on 32 carries last Friday night. Colbert County completed only 4-of-13 passes and went just 2-for-9 on third down.

Red Bay, meanwhile, ran for 121 yards on 49 carries and finished with 184 total yards. The Tigers went 3-for-5 on fourth down and had 11 first downs overall, one more than the Indians.

Bragwell attempted five passes on the night, completing three of them for 63 yards with one touchdown and one interception. Humphres had the 25-yard touchdown grab, and Mason Holt caught one pass for 29 yards. Colbie King ran 18 times for 53 yards, and Hunter King added 31 yards rushing on eight attempts.


Sophomore linebacker Cam McKinney led the Tigers with eight tackles, and fellow sophomore Alex Kennedy was in on seven stops. Bragwell and senior tackle Elijah Ingle each made six tackles, and Levi Blanton had five.

Senior moment



COURTESY PHOTO

Belgreen's varsity volleyball team wrapped up the most successful regular season in program history last Thursday with a Senior Night sweep of area opponent Hackleburg. Seniors Megan Smith, co-captain Kaycee Wilson, Maria Estrada and captain Camie Terrell (pictured above, left to right, with head coach Teresa Whitten) were honored after the match. The Lady Bulldogs also swept an area match from Hackleburg last Tuesday night on the road. They finished the regular season 20-11, notching the most wins and the fewest losses in program history. Belgreen only lost to two Class 1A teams this season, and both—Phillips and Lindsey Lane—are ranked in the Top 5 by the ASWA. The Lady Bulldogs are scheduled to face Covenant Christian in the area tournament at Phillips High School on October 23.



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'WINNER,' from page 13

would come so quickly.

"No. To be one hundred percent transparent, I didn't," said Ritter, who arrived this past spring to take over a Golden Tiger program coming off a 3-7 season, its worst in 20 years. "To get back to the standard we want to be at, it takes time. And even though we are playing in this big game, we're not where we want to be and where we expect to be in the future.

"But to say that I thought we'd be playing in this big of a game this quickly would be a lie."

Ritter, who picked up his 40th career win in six seasons as a head coach with last Friday's 65-34 rout of Hamilton, may not have expected the Golden Tigers to bounce back quite this far quite this fast, but he's been envisioning games like this one since he first set foot on campus in March.

"To say that we felt like we'd be here....I don't know about that," he said Sunday afternoon. "But to say that we *wanted* to be here, that's one hundred percent fact. This is exactly where we wanted to be—the middle of October, playing a game to win a championship, to be the No. 1 seed and to host a playoff game.

"We set three goals before the season started: One, to make the playoffs; two, to host a playoff game; and three, to win a region championship. We've taken care of the first one; now we're looking for two and three."

Now that they are preparing for a game of this magnitude, Ritter and his staff aren't the least bit surprised to look across and see Jasper on the other side. The Vikings, winners of six straight since losing 28-27 to Class 6A Cullman on a last-play touchdown in their season opener, have been looming on the horizon for several weeks now.

"Early on, we had some film on Jasper, and we saw that they were a very talented team," Ritter said. "Our schedules have not exactly lined up, but about every other week we will get a tape of Jasper. As you watch them play, you can see that they've grown, too. They've got a lot of skill guys and a lot of playmakers on the field.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Hubbard (15) had two sacks last week, and Russellville's D forced five Hamilton turnovers.

"This is one of the best teams we've played—physically, athletically, just top to bottom and left to right, they're a really, really good football team. They look the part, and they play the part. They're the most complete football team in this region, and they very well could be one of the most complete teams in 5A north. It's gonna be a huge task for us. We'll have to play really well to give ourselves an opportunity to win the game."

The Vikings, averaging 31.1 points per game and giving up just 15.3, are versatile and explosive on offense, big and athletic on defense. Senior quarterback Michael Crear had completed 69 percent (113-for-163) of his passes for 1,622 yards and 10 touchdowns through the first six games, but last week Jasper relied primarily on a balanced ground attack to beat Lawrence County 28-7 and remain perfect in region play. The Vikings rushed for 246 yards as a team, getting 78 yards from senior running back Cam Lambert (5'8, 175),

77 yards from Crear (5'10, 195) and 74 yards (with two touchdowns) from junior running back Kaden Shelton (5'10, 215).

For the season, Shelton leads Jasper with 462 rushing yards and six touchdowns, while Lambert has added 409 rushing yards and three scores. The dual-threat Crear has also contributed to the ground game with 401 rushing yards and seven touchdowns.

Crear's top two targets in the passing game are 5'9, 175-pound junior receiver Xavier Waldrop (32 catches for 543 yards and three touchdowns) and 6'0, 195-pound senior wideout Tyler Morrow (23 catches for 365 yards and two scores).

"They do a lot of RPO [run/pass option] type stuff," Ritter said. "They've got a very, very athletic quarterback who can run and can flat-out throw the ball, too. They've got big, tall, rangy receivers who can run. They're a lot like Lawrence County's receivers, with a more athletic quarterback. They do a bunch of stuff, and they're pretty good at all of it."

Ritter and his defensive coordinator, Chris Balentine, are staunch proponents of a simple defensive philosophy: Priority No. 1 is to stop the run. Priority No. 2? Stop the run.

Ritter believes strongly in forcing a given opponent to try and win the game through the air. Lawrence County nearly obliged two weeks ago, throwing for 332 yards (and three long touchdowns) in a 53-32 loss at Golden Tiger Stadium.

Russellville surrendered 271 passing yards to Hamilton last Friday night, but Ritter and Balentine are not inclined to tweak their defensive philosophy—even against a prolific passing team like Jasper.

"Three of the drives Hamilton scored on, we either dropped a pick or made a bonehead move, or we were in the right position and just didn't make plays," Ritter said. "We gave up 200-plus yards passing, but we also had two interceptions [one each by sophomore corners Caden Watts

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'WINNER,' from page 16

and Ashaad Williams, who have combined for six picks on the season]. They [completed] forty percent, and we won by thirty. I think our philosophy and what we hang our hat on works.

"At the end of the day, if you can't run the football, there's gonna come a time when you're gonna have to complete a pass. We just have to do a good job of walling off receivers, being in the right spot and making plays when we have the chance."

Russellville has given up 30-plus points in back-to-back games, but any defensive concerns are minimized by the most explosive offense in 5A football. The Golden Tigers rang up 63 points by the end of the third quarter against Hamilton and finished with 65, the most they've scored in a game since 2006. For the season, Russellville averages 45.4 points and 416.4 total yards per game—including an impressive 292.4 on the ground.

"I'm proud of our offense," Ritter said. "It's been an ever-changing deal the last couple of weeks. We've been a lot more spread-oriented, just because for whatever reason we've been having a lot of success with that—getting people out of the box and getting another athlete on the field as opposed to a blocking back with our sniffer. I'm proud of the way we've morphed into being whatever we need to be to be successful."

Russellville's prolific attack is built around the big-play trio of senior quarterback Lucas McNutt, senior tailback Zaye Boyd and senior receiver Devin Buckhalter. McNutt threw for a career-high 181 yards against Hamilton last week and has now completed 56 percent (48-for-86) of his attempts on the season for 845 yards and 11 touchdowns. Eight of those scoring tosses have gone to the 6'0, 190-pound Buckhalter, who leads the team with 28 catches for 517 yards (an average of 18.5 yards per reception). Including a 65-yard punt return to the house last week, Buckhalter now has six touchdowns of at least 40 yards on the season.

The 5'11, 195-pound Boyd has been an even bigger home run threat; his 75-yard touchdown burst late in the third quarter against Hamilton was his sixth scoring run this season of 50-plus yards and his 11th of more than 30 yards. Boyd has 21 rushing touchdowns in total, to go along with 1,352 yards on just 127 carries (a staggering average of 10.6 yards per attempt).

Sophomore receivers Cole Barnett (seven catches for 138 yards and a touchdown) and Rowe Gallagher (four catches for 70 yards and two scores) and junior back/receiver Austin Ashley (139 yards rushing and two touchdowns on 30 carries) have also made their share of plays this season, and an offensive line led by sophomore left tackle Edgar Amaya, senior left guard Will Rushing, junior center Jonathan Vargas, senior right guard Herson Rodriguez, junior right tackle Noah Pounders and utility lineman Luis Domingo has steadily improved.

"It's one of those things—when we execute and do what we're supposed to do, we've got guys who can make plays," Ritter said of an offense that has topped the 50-point mark three times in the last four weeks. "Everybody talks about Devin and Lucas and Zaye, but we've got other guys who can make big plays. Cole Barnett takes the first play of the game last week [52] yards down to the 15. Austin Ashley has been playing more and more in some of the packages we've had to use since Caden [Parker] got hurt. Rowe Gallagher has made some big catches for us.

"It's one of those things where if you're gonna line up and try to stop one person or one thing, we've got other guys who can hurt you."

Russellville's speed on offense has been too much for every other team they've faced in Region 7, but that likely won't be the case this Friday night. Jasper isn't hurting for athletes on the defensive side of the ball. The Viking D is led by linebackers Harrison Saunders (70 tackles, three for loss) and Taris Rudolph (54 tackles, two sacks), among others.

"Without a doubt, they're the biggest and fastest defense we've seen this year—including Deshler," Ritter said. "They're very good up front. They've got linebackers who can run and punish you, and they've got secondary guys who can flat-out play. We're gonna have to do a good job executing our game plan.

"The fact of the matter is, that game plan is not gonna change a ton. Each week, we really do the same stuff. We'll put in a wrinkle here and there. Once the game starts, we'll get in a groove and see what's working. We've done a good job all year of shifting to what's working and exploiting that. We're gonna have to have our best effort this week and not turn the ball over."

Regardless of what transpires on Friday night, Ritter is excited and pleased with how far his team has progressed in such a short time.

"I think it's a testament to our kids and their willingness to buy in to what we're telling them," Ritter said. "The way we do things is a little different. We're very demanding and very hard on our kids, but at the same time we love 'em up, too. The fact that they've adjusted to our style and the passion they play with just shows you their dedication to making sure we get back to where we want to be. I'm very proud of that.

"To go from where they were last year to the point they're at right now, there's a lot to be excited about."



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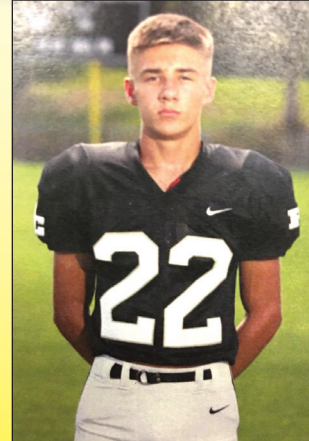
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Trey Leindecker Sophomore WR, Phil Campbell

Leindecker helped the Bobcats match their season-high point total last Friday, scoring five touchdowns in a 52-47 loss to Lauderdale County. The speedy sophomore rushed for 108 yards and four scores on 11 carries and also caught a touchdown pass from sophomore QB Luke Barnwell. (Barnwell had a big game in his own right, throwing for 295 yards and three touchdowns on 17-for-29 passing).

Leindecker and Phil Campbell will look to snap a three-game losing skid when they travel to face East Lawrence on Friday.




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American Tactical (ATI) Omni 300 Blackout Rifle New

Owner says if you come to the auction and stay until the last gun is sold we will draw from the registered bidders and give away a free Gun! You must register by 9:30 AM on auction day, must be present at drawing and pass background check to win. If you do not pass the Background check we will draw a new winner! Employees and family members of Alabama Gun & Pawn and of Shane Albright Auctions are not eligible to win.

AUCTION TERMS: Payment in full day of auction by cash or good check. Debit and Credit card users will pay a 3% convenience fee. Sale will be subject to 9% sales tax. There are no other Buyers Premium or Buyer Fees. All items sold as is where is and must be removed day of auction so come prepared. Licensed dealers bring a copy of your tax number. *Firearm Purchase Additional Terms: *All firearm sales will be subject to a 4473 Federal Background Check at no additional charge. The background check will result in one of three results: 1) Approved, 2) Free--Day hold, 3) Denied. Alabama residents that are approved will get to take firearm that day. Alabama Residents with a Current Driver's License and Current Pistol License will fill out the 4473 form but no background check is required. **Out of State Residents may purchase firearms. Residents from an adjoining state to Alabama, that are approved, may take long guns that day, however all handguns will be shipped to a FFL dealer in your State of residence at your expense. For Non--Adjoining State Residents, ALL firearms (long guns and handguns) will be shipped to FFL dealer in your State of Residence at your expense.

For more information contact **BEN PHILLIPS 256-710-9683**



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