

• PRO-LIFE PRO SECOND **AMENDMENT**

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Britton **DISTRICT 18**

FranklinFreePress.net

10.24.18

AFF endorses Morrow

Britton receives several labor endorsements

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

The Alabama Farmers Federation recently endorsed Johnny Mack Morrow for State Senate District Six, which covers all of Franklin and Colbert counties and portions of Lawrence, Lauderdale and Marion counties.

"Johnny Mack Morrow has done an outstanding job serving our district in the House of Representative, and we know he will do an equally great job for us in the Senate," said Franklin County Farmers Federation president David Herring. "We are proud to support him.'

Colbert County Farmers Federation president Luther Bishop echoed Herring's support for Morrow.

"No one works harder in Montgomery than Johnny Mack Morrow," Bishop said. "He is a man of honesty and integrity, and he has our full support."

FarmPAC, the political action committee of the Alabama Farmers Federation, announced the endorsement last month.

"No one works harder in Montgomery than Johnny Mack Morrow," Bishop said. "He is a man of honesty and integrity, and he has our full support."

House District 18 Democratic candidate Eddie Britton recently received the endorsement of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, AFL-CIO, as well as endorsements from the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 760, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 558, the Iron Workers Local 477, the Shoals Area Central Labor Council and the Alabama Democratic Conference.

Britton said some groups like the Alabama Voice of Teachers (A-VOTE) and the Alabama Optometric Political Action Committee chose to support both him and his opponent, Republican Jamie Kiel.

"I am extremely proud to have the support of hardworking local folks over the big corporations," Britton

See 'MORROW,' Page 14

Johnny Mack MORROW STATE SENATE







Candidates for House District 18 share thoughts with Free Press

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

With election day (November 6, 2018) fast approaching, the *Franklin* Free Press, in an effort to better inform voters about the two candidates seeking the position of House District 18, submitted a questionnaire to Democrat Eddie Britton and Republican Jamie Kiel.

House District 18 includes a majority of Franklin County, and portions of Colbert and Lauderdale counties.

The following are their answers to those questions:

FFP: Please tell us about yourself, your family and your reasons for seeking elected office:

career in education before retiring with 38 years of experience. I taught at

Britton: "I spent my

Red Bay, Phil Campbell and Belgreen Schools and Northwest Shoals Community College (parttime at night). I also served as principal of Belgreen High School for 21 years before serving as principal of

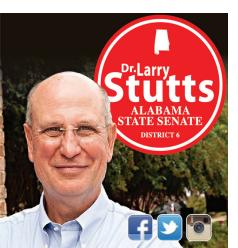
Tishomingo County High School in luka, MS for six years.

"Kathy, my wife of 40 years, and I have two children, Alison Gallman (husband Pete) and Dr. David Britton (wife Traci), and four grandchil-

Jamie Kiel dren, Noah, Kathryn, Bryant and Nicole. Kathy and I still farm and own six small businesses.

"My parents are Ruby Streetman Britton and Athel Britton (deceased)

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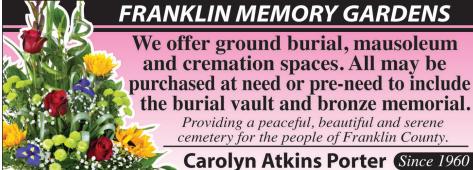


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Neva "Cricket" Porter Brannon,

Russellville, age 79 Died Sunday, October 14, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Sardis Cemetery #2 in Addison.

Sammy L. Garner, Belgreen, age 70 Died Sunday, October 14, 2018. Graveside service with military honors held at Belgreen Cemetery. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.

R.C. Hester, Russellville, age 88 Died Wednesday, October 17, 2018. Graveside service held at Knights of Pythias Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

May "Nanny" Baker King,

2710 Waterloo Road • 256.332.2115

Phil Campbell, age 63 Died Sunday, October 14, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

A.T. Malone, Jr., Russellville, age 81 Died Saturday, October 20, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Colbert Memorial Gardens.

Jeffrey Wade Snider,

Russellville, age 58 Died Monday, October 15, 2018. Graveside service held at Knights of Pythias Cemetery. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.





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Pay it off!

Dear Dave,

I can't decide what to do about my car. I owe \$8,000 on it, and I have the cash to pay it off with plenty left over. One of my co-workers said I shouldn't pay it off, because I have a very low interest rate on the loan. What do you think?

Derricka

Dear Derricka,

What do I think? I think your coworker is broke. Taking financial advice from broke people is like taking dieting advice from fat people. In other words, it's dumb.

Pay off your car, and never borrow money to buy a car again for the rest of your life. If you want to win with money, you have to get out of the land of car payments. The idea that you're stuck with car payments—that you're always going to have one—is the mantra of those who've given up hope. You are in charge of your life. You are in charge of your financial situation.

Don't be like all those folks out there who whine about stuff like stagnant wages and are unwilling to get up off their stagnant butts to make their lives better.

Derricka, pay off your car today. And please, don't take any more financial advice from broke people!

Dave

Emergency fund in cash?

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are completely debtfree. We would like to have part of our emergency fund in cash inside a heavy-duty safe at home. How should we document this cash in the event of fire or theft? Also, would our homeowners insurance policy cover cash?

Will

Dear Will,

Typically, homeowners insurance policies have a limit as to how much cash they will cover. I'd advise rereading your policy and double-checking with your insurance agent just to be sure. When it comes to documenting valuables, I'd suggest making a video or taking photographs. Just to be extra cautious, you could store these in a safe deposit box at your local credit union or bank.

Having some cash on hand is never a bad thing. When it comes to the portion of your emergency fund you keep at home, I'd recommend just being reasonable. If you've got \$10,000 set aside for emergencies, I'm okay with you keeping \$5,000 at home in a quality safe. I wouldn't put all, or even most of it, in a safe, though.

Again, just make sure your homeowners policy covers anything you might put in there. A strong, fireproof safe is a must!

Dave

*Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 14 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

Have an event you'd like to publicize in our paper? Call us at 256-332-0255, or email us at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com



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- Native and resident of District 7.
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- •Member and Chairman of Lawrence County Industrial Development Board.
- Member and past president of Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce.
- •Long-time presenter and sponsor of Youth Leadership Lawrence program.
- •Lifelong member, teacher and Trustee Board President at Oakville Missionary Baptist Church.

A positive change for State House District 7!

kbrackins@bellsouth.net (256) 280-8371

Honey Do: Gas heaters

This article may be a little late, as many of you have already turned on the heat. Who would have thought that Mother Nature would throw on the brakes and go from 90 to 38 like she had seen a state trooper. By the time you read this, we will probably have experienced a light frost.

Gas heaters are one of the best options around for heating specific areas of your home. If you have one or are thinking about installing one in your home, there are a few things you need to know.

First of all, as with any appliance or tool, read your owner's manual. This is the best source for care and maintenance of any product you buy. Also, it is recommended to seek out a licensed, bonded service man when dealing with gas line

The greatest enemy of unvented gas heaters is dust. LP (liquid propane) and natural gas are both delivered at very low pressures. A build-up of dust or a small spider web is all it takes to create a clogged line. Most of the time, a little spray of compressed air around the pilot and ignition system will clear them. Caution: Air compressors are not recommended, as

these areas can be easily damaged. Canned air, such as used to clean computers and electronics, works well.

Heavy dust build-ups

can be removed with a **Doug Green** duster, and surface areas can be cleaned with a damp cloth. Remove the front of the heater if possible to make the controls and burner more accesssible. This can be done without disturbing any gas lines on most models.

If, after cleaning, the heater doesn't light, it's time to do a little troubleshooting. The most common parts that may need to be replaced are thermocouples and igniters. A bad thermocouple will cause the pilot to go out when you release the control knob. Look for a spark at the pilot assembly to see if the ignitor is working. A gas heater, like anything else, needs a little TLC from time to time for it to work properly and efficiently. These heaters have proven to be very safe and dependable.

For other heating ideas and help with your honey-do list, remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.











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My take Life on the outside on this... doesn't come free

I'm like everyone else; I have opinions about almost everything. There are even times when I've expressed my opinions on things I know very little about. That seems to be a common denominator among us all. Why do we even do such a crazy ting? Some of you might know why you do it, but I can honestly say I have no idea why I do

I'm sure most of us have been told at one time or another, "Don't give your opinion until you are asked." Well, that's no fun! Just think how silent everything would be. But I'm sure we've all heard that "silence is golden." Well, now, isn't that a rock and a hard place?

Have you ever thought that a judge's decision is even based on his opinion after hearing the opinions of others? They are literally a part of life. So, on with my story.

I've thought about the conveniences of our criminals versus our elderly who have put in a lifetime of hard work and our homeless veterans who have sacrificed their lives and limbs and the joy of sharing their family life. Some of them never got to hold their newborn babies because they never made it back home. Such sacrifices go unappreciated by too many. All of this because we are taking care of some who don't even know what a real job is.

It seems to me we have our priorities all wrong. Our elderly people struggle financially to have just a few of the many conveniences our prisoners have. Have you thought about the expense of building a new jail because of the overcrowding

of them? They even get nicer with each one built.

Did you know there are more crimes committed in the winter months? Crimes of convenience, don't you think?

The convicted have the lifestyle our elderly and our veterans **Gail Motes** deserve. We are taking care of some who don't even know what work is because they never had to work a day in their

Can you even imagine how to choose between nourishment and a full stomach or medicine that improves your way of life, simply because you can't afford both? It disgusts me that we, the taxpayers, are taking care of the prisoners while our elders and veterans are the real prisoners of the society.

It makes me sick to my stomach knowing the ones most deserving have to choose between food or medicine. Can you even imagine how to choose between nourishment and a full stomach or medicine that improves your way of life, simply because you can't afford both? It disgusts me that we, the taxpayers, are taking care of the prisoners while our elders and veterans are the real prisoners of the society.

We provide a clean environment, rent for free, and clothes and shoes and three meals a day. They stay warm in the winter and comfortable in

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Local schools take part in Bus Safety Week

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

While teachers and administrators receive most of the credit, there's another arm of the successful, and safe, education of a child—bus drivers.

As schools across America take part in National School Bus Safety Week, students, teachers and administrators at Belgreen, Tharptown and other schools are taking time to thank bus drivers for their service.

National School Bus Safety Week is held the third full week of October each year. The focus is on addressing school bus safety, and the 2018 theme is "My Driver-My Safety Hero!"

National School Bus Safety Week is sponsored by the National Association for Pupil Transportation, the National School Transportation Association and the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transporation Services.

Belgreen principal Ann Scott said students at her school, along with teachers, have made thank you notes and posters to give to bus drivers.

Additionally, the school hosted a breakfast to honor its bus drivers on Tuesday.

"I feel like sometimes bus drivers and other support staff don't get the recognition they deserve," Scott said. "Their job is so important. They play a big part in our children's lives. I feel like they do a lot for our children, and they should be recognized for that."

At Tharptown Elementary, bus drivers have been



COURTESY PHOTO

Belgreen principal Ann Scott said students at her school, along with teachers, have made thank you notes and posters to give to bus drivers. Additionally, the school hosted a breakfast to honor its bus drivers (who are pictured above) on Tuesday. National School Bus Safety Week is held the third full week of October each year.

invited to read stories to students in kindergarten through second grade this Thursday, October 25, and students are constructing thank you posters for the school's drivers.

"We wanted to bring the bus drivers into our classrooms to interact with children," said TES

special education teacher and Robotics instructor Jake Ward. "We'll talk about bus safety, and it's a way to tell them how much they are appreciated."

For more information on National Bus Driver Safety Week, go online and check out the website www.napt.org/nsbsw.

'FREE,' from page 4

the scorching summer. It doesn't end there. Doctor visits are free of charge to them, and transportation is always available. Let's not forget the dental insurance at no cost to them. Most of us "on the outside" can't afford trips to the dentist, but we pay for theirs with our hard-earned money. Is this the right way to do things? Well, it doesn't make sense to me.

If only all of that could be reversed. I would prefer placing the homeless veterans and elderly in jail. I'd much rather my tax dollars go to the people who are more deserving. Instead of guarding the jails "for" criminals, we could use the guards to ensure our elderly and homeless veterans are safe and secure "from" the criminals.

Wouldn't it be more satisfying for all criminals to be sentenced to work and eight- to twelve-hour job and, from there, go to another part-time job like the majority of civilians do? The number of crimes might be reduced if all these roles were reversed. It's at least worth a look on a trial basis.

Who do you think is more deserving of the better life?

As always, this is just my take. I'd love to see a response in the form of a etter to the editor to this paper. As always, until later, my friends.





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Directions from the Russellville, Alabama Intersection of HWY-24 & HWY-43, travel east on Hwy-24 for 14.9 miles, turn right 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 ft, 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!

ROBINS 440 & 25. WAICH FOR THE BLANGHI AUCTION SIGNS!

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!

Roads 448 & 25. Watch for the SHANE ALBRIGHT AUCTION SIGNS!

AUCTION TERMS: REAL ESTATE: A 10% down payment is due buy 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 purchasers' 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 waving 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.

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.

ussellville Masonic Lodge 371 is selling Thanksgiving hams. Hams Are \$30 and may be pre-ordered by calling 256-810-1970. Pickup will be Wednesday, November 21 from 8-10 a.m. at the Lodge on Coffee Street. Dhil Campbell Elementary School will hold its Fall Festival this

Thursday, October 25 from 5-8 p.m. at the school. Free admission. Hayride, haunted house, Bingo, Escape Room, Cake Walk, Games, Prizes and Food! Breast Cancer Awareness and Fundraiser Walk will be held this 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.

There is one Super Sunday left in October at Shiloh Baptist Church! Come join us to hear preaching from Keith Box this Sunday, October 28. Services will be held at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.. 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!

Russellville FUMC hosts a men's and a women's Step Study on Sundays from 3-5 p.m. A step study guides you through a process of discovery and recovery over your hurts, hang-ups and habits. Everyone is welcome! ou are invited to a Gospel Meeting at Washington Avenue Church of I Christ in Russellville October 28-31. Services will be held at 9:15 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday, and 7 p.m. each night Monday-Wednesday. Speaker is Dale Robins. Everyone is welcome!

elgreen 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 Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833, will meet Thursday, November 1 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center on Ash Avenue. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For more info, call 256-324-2317. Everyone welcome!

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

n 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 purchas 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. Tolly Day will be December 1 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the A.W. Todd

Holly Day will be December 1 from 10 a.m. 1 p.m. a. Clause drink, cookie decorating, games, entertainment and a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus! ranklin County Christmas parades will be held according to the following schedule (all begin at 6 p.m.): Red Bay, December 3; Vina, December 4; Russellville, December 6; Phil Campbell, December 13.

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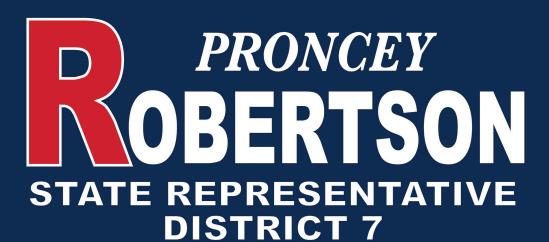
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McClure seeking seat on Public Service Commission

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

Growing up in her Birmingham home as part of a family with six children, Cara McClure never envisioned a run for political office.

In fact, it wasn't until last year that McClure was inspired to run for the Alabama Public Service Commission's Place One seat.

And that inspiration came from a very unexpected source.

McClure spent most of 2017 driving elderly and lower-income Alabamians without transportation to their doctor's appointments. The modest-paying job took her across the state, and as they drove to the scheduled doctor's visits McClure and the people she met had deep conversations about real-life problems.

"They told me about having to choose from buying groceries, paying for their medication or paying their utility bills," McClure said. "This is not a Democratic or Republican problem. This is an Alabama problem. If we can figure out a way to give these folks some relief in their lives, we need to do it."

McClure began to research the Public Service Commission (PSC) in Alabama, where she learned the PSC has not held a formal public hearing on the state's utility rates since 1982.

"I know transparency is important in government, but I didn't know how important until I attended a PSC meeting and realized that every decision was already made behind closed doors," McClure said. "I felt robbed, and they were raising prices on utilities many Alabamians could already barely afford.

"Most states have a rate review every three to five years. Alabama hasn't had one since 1982. I want to help open up that process and have people of this state involved. We are overpaying for our utilities. They have forgotten about the rural areas across our state."

McClure is the Democratic nominee for PSC Place One. She will face incumbent Jeremy Oden in the November 6 general election. Oden narrowly defeated Marion County resident James Bonner in the June primary, even though the Alabama Republican Party announced it would not certify any votes cast for Bonner after he allegedly made racially insensitive remarks on social media.

In spite of being censured by his state party, Bonner received 49.66 percent of the votes, losing to Oden by a margin of .68 percent.

McClure, who is African-American, looked beyond Bonner's social media postings and found they shared similar opinions about the PSC in Alabama. "Jim Bonner's message resonated with me. I looked at his platform, and it basically was the same as mine," McClure said. "He believes the process of setting Alabama's utility rates needs to be open and include more involve-



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured above are Alabama Public Service Commission Place One candidate Cara McClure and Jim Bonner appearing on WFMH-FM Morning Show in September.

ment from the public.

"I received a lot of messages on Facebook after the June 5 primary from voters who supported Mr. Bonner and didn't appreciate what happened. Your vote is your voice, and it shouldn't be taken away that easily. I think those voters felt like a lot of other people feel when their vote has been taken away from them."

Although she has faced both personal and financial difficulties in her life, McClure developed a passion for fighting for others in need.

"I was a homeless single mom. I never called on the government to help me. I worked and read my way out of it," McClure said. "I started my own company, ASAP Apartment Locators, with no money. It became very successful.

"Most states have a rate review every three to five years," McClure said. "Alabama hasn't had one since 1982. I want to help open up that process and have people of this state involved. We are overpaying for our utilities."

"I did that for two years, then I became a community organizer. I started doing things like fighting predatory lending. Look at the poverty and homelessness in our state. I wanted to play a role in fighting those problems."

As the Democratic challenger for PSC Place One, McClure faces several hurdles based on the current climate of Alabama politics. An additional challenge comes from the fact that few Alabamians are familiar with the PSC and the important role it plays in their lives.

"That's the most challenging part. People just don't know about the Public Service Commission," McClure said. "It's not as easy as saying you're running for state representative, mayor or governor.

"We have to take our time, with very little money, to educate the public what the PSC is, what they do, who they are and where they come from. Why is it such a secret? It's the most important agency in our government that nobody knows about."

McClure has made multiple campaign visits to Franklin County, including appearing on WFMH-FM 95.5's morning show with Tommy "Hutty" Hutcheson. Her campaign manager is Phil Campbell resident Rebecca Swinney.

"I knew about Cara through mutual friends. I love politics and decided just to ask her if she needed any help," Swinney said. "It's my first time being involved in a campaign. I most definitely believe in Cara. I know her as someone who very much stands up for people, especially those who are not able to speak up for themselves. That's the kind of person we need to elect—someone who will work and fight for people not necessarily able to do that for themselves."

McClure and her grass-roots campaign have benefited from Swinney coming onboard.

"Rebecca has been a blessing. I was basically doing everything on my own when she started helping me out," McClure said. "Her husband [Jamie] is a Republican, but our message resonated with him and he feels like the issue of our high utility bills is not a Republican or Democrat issue. It's a Public Service Commission issue that needs to be corrected."

McClure's campaign includes her pledge that the PSC will hold at least monthly meetings to keep Alabamians informed on important policy decisions and to allow residents to voice their concerns.

"We are the sixth-poorest state with the second-highest utility rates in the country," McClure said. "And that's not right."

Bonner, in the midst of a write-in candidacy for Alabama Senate District Six, said he supports McClure's campaign and has appeared with her on the radio.

For McClure, this campaign is about Alabama's forgotten people, those who she spent a year of her life with, and allowing them to have a voice.

"Each day, when I would drive home to Birmingham, it would be so quiet because I'd be in tears," McClure said. "I felt like nobody cared about these people. Where is anyone in state government looking at these problems?

"I would love to do something in a more official capacity to be a blessing to

our entire state. I'm thankful to God to have this opportunity."

For more information on Cara McClure, log ont www.iamcaramcclure.com.

DO THE WRITE THING!



Because the best politics is good governance and the best governance is based on Republican principles, I vote for Republican nominees so Republicans can control government and enact a Republican agenda to provide the good governance we all expect and deserve.

This means politics is like a team sport. I like the principles of Republicanism, so my team is Republican. I expect everyone on the team to cooperate in getting Republicans into office and in advancing a Republican agenda. Unfortunately, this year I am disappointed by the many Republicans who are not cooperating as they should, so now, unlike the last 50 years, I am not voting a straight Republican ticket in the general election in November.

I will vote for nominees who please me. I will not vote for nominees who displease me. I will use the Dick Shelby precedent and write in the names of Republicans whom I like better.

Some Republican nominees have already won me over. I will vote for my Republican congressman, nominees for county offices, and nominees for local and state-wide judicial offices. I will be voting for most of the Republicans nominees on my general election ballot.

Except for the judges, my plan is to not vote for Republican nominees who want a job in Montgomery. There are 12 of them – the Republican nominees for the House, Senate, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, commissioner for agriculture and industries, public service commission places 1 and 2, and state board of education. Those nominees who want to remain or become Montgomery Republicans are welcome to urge me to change my mind, but they should hurry because I am looking for names to write in. Weighing in out loud on the issues below would help them with me.

I am disappointed in Montgomery Republicans who stay quiet while others of them break the law.

For example, Attorney General Steve Marshall has taken \$735,000 of unlawful contributions from the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) in blatant defiance of Alabama law which prohibits 527 organizations from giving money to Alabama candidates. Marshall is required by law to return the money and has not. Even though campaign finance is the signature issue which swept them into super majority power in 2010, Montgomery Republicans are silent on the issue, perhaps they are too busy preparing alibis for their scofflaw colleague.

Montgomery Republicans are also silent about the Ethics Commission and Republican election officials who, in defiance of state ethics law, are putting candidates on ballots when the candidates have not first filed Statements of Economic Interests (SEI) with the state Ethics Commission. The SEI is an important element in government transparency, or at least it was.

Montgomery Republicans defied the origination clause of the Alabama Constitution when they enacted a Senate bill to create a tax on internet sales. The voluntary tax is taking \$50 million out of the Alabama economy this year and will take out much more next year when it becomes compulsory. Of course, Montgomery Republicans do not talk much about this when they are away from extra special, revenue hungry friends.

And in recent years, four Montgomery Republicans have been convicted of crimes – Speaker Mike Hubbard, his House allies Greg

Wren and Mickey Hammon, and Governor Bentley – no back benchers here. Meanwhile, three other Montgomery Republican are twisting in the wind of federal indictments.

What happened to the Republican ethic hawks we elected in 2010?

Montgomery Republicans are being blatantly disloyal to the Republican team.

In March, Governor Ivey passed over qualified Republicans to appoint a Democrat to the Madison County Commission. I am baffled that she did not use the opportunity to put a Republican into a traditionally Democrat district. I am disappointed by the silence of Montgomery Republicans.

In May during the week before the primary and while early voting was in progress, the Alabama Republican Party (ALGOP) decided to save PSC 1 candidate Jeremy Oden by censuring his opponent, James Bonner, and declaring that votes for Mr. Bonner would not be counted. Apparently, despite having been on Republican ballots five times since 2010, the sometimes indecorous ways of Mr. Bonner were noticed only when Oden's investors complained about their guy being in trouble despite a 70 to 1 funding advantage.

Also in this election cycle, ALGOP leaders have turned a blind eye to 60 Republicans, who in defiance of party rules to the contrary, have collectively taken over \$600,000 from the Alabama Education Association (the AEA, the parent company of the Alabama Democrat Party). Even House Speaker McCutcheon took AEA money. This is an affront to fair play and those who followed the rule. Of the 60, 55 won or placed in the primary. Meanwhile, Montgomery Republicans were telling the investing class to not contribute to primary candidates challenging GOP incumbents.

I am sad the Alabama GOP is becoming little more than an incumbent protection racket.

None of my concerns are mitigated by brilliance in Montgomery Republicans advancing an impressively Republican agenda. Besides some minor pruning of general government, passing the Alabama Accountability Act to enable the force of competition into government education, requiring voter photo ID, and implementing electronic campaign finance disclosures, in eight years our Montgomery Republicans have done little else I can crow about. They have not even started to reform Medicaid, pensions, earmarks, and the budget process. Alabama government remains the major player in the retail booze business.

What happened to the Republicans we elected in 2010? Today, I am more fearful of what Montgomery Republicans are planning to do to me in 2019, than I am about Alabama Democrats and Socialists.

We have enough Republican cheerleaders. We need leaders who will call out criminality and disloyalty within the party while they boldly advance a Republican agenda. Montgomery Republicans who do that will get my vote. Otherwise, I am going to do what U.S. Senator Shelby did in last year's special election for the U.S. Senate. I will write in the names of Republicans who please me more than the GOP nominees.

Thomas Scovill is a Republican activist and military veteran. He resides in Huntsville.

Morrow makes donation to TES Robotics

Brady Petree Franklin Free Press

When State House candidate Johnny Mack Morrow was approached about potentially making a donation to the Tharptown Elementary Schools robotics club, Morrows answer was a no-brainer.

However, all of Morrow's discretionary funding had run out for the fiscal year, which meant that if he were to make a donation, the money would have to come from a different source. Morrow and his wife Martha agreed that this was too important a cause to pass up.

On Thursday of last week, Morrow presented a check from he and his wife for \$1,000 out of their own pockets to Tharptown teacher Jake Ward and the TES robotics club.

According to Ward, who is a special education teacher at the elementary

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256.332.8181 HWY 43 • Littleville school and also heads up the robotics club, the donation will be used to purchase computers and other types of programming software that the students need in order to take part in competitions.

Ward said that the club is extremely grateful for the Morrows' donation and will make sure that it is put to good use.

"This summer we got into a program called Mission 100, and they provided robots to a lot of schools, but what they didn't provide was the technology to program the robots with," Ward said. "Now that Mr. Morrow has been so generous in giving us this donation, we are finally able to afford to get computers, software and other things we need to really make our students stand out and be up to the same level technology-wise as other schools."

In addition to purchasing the laptops and software, Ward said that the rest of the money will be used to pay registration fees that can often range anywhere from \$60 to \$150 for competitions.

For Morrow, the decision to help out a cause near and dear to his heart, out of his own pocket, was an easy one.

"I love public education, and I am going to support them anyway that I can," Morrow said. "The fact that these students at such a young age are wanting to do something like robotics tells me just how special they are. This is a small thing that I can do to help further these kids' education, and to be able to help them advance in something like science is something that we really need to push for.

"I was honored to help out."

One thing that Morrow said he has noticed is the lack of parity between county and city schools in terms of the technological advantages, and that is something he will seek to change if elected to the Alabama State Senate in November.

"When you come out to these county schools, you don't see a Walmart or anything like that so, there are little to no opportunities to generate tax revenue in these smaller communities," Morrow said. "County schools and county residents have often been treated like second-class citizens, and that's just not right. To send children home from county schools in the afternoon without access to high-speed internet or some other forms of technology that students at a city school might have just isn't right.

"I am the pro-education candidate [in the District 6 race], and I absolutely want to see our county schools have the same advantages as all the other students in our districts."

Not only was Morrow and his wife's contribution a huge boost to the club, Ward said that without the help of some fellow teachers, the club would not have been possible in the first place.

"I want to thank Kendra Ward, Amanda Odom, Tracy Elgin, Monica Elliot, Erin Masterson and our principal Kelby Daniel for their support of Tharptown robotics," Ward said. "We really couldn't do what we do without them and their support."



PHOTO BY BRADY PETREE

Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow donated \$1,000 to the TES Robotics Club. The donation will be used to purchase computers and other types of programming software that the students need in order to take part in competitions. Morrow (back row, fourth from left) is pictured above with some of the Robotics students and various Tharptown teachers and administrators.

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PAGE 12

OCTOBER 24, 2018 OCTOBER 24, 2018

'HOUSE,' from page 1

and I have one sister, Lisa Miller (husband Ron).

"I am seeking this position to help our schools receive more funding and to make them safer for our kids; to lower our citizens' insurance costs; to help our older citizens with health care and save our rural hospitals; to bring better jobs to our area and offer new technical apprenticeship programs at the high school level; to help increase funding for roads and bridge repair; to bring more money back home to our district; to help get rid of the corruption in Montgomery; to bring broadband internet to all of the district; and, above all, to be someone who listens to the people."

Kiel: "I am a graduate of Russellville High School and was Student Government Association president at Northwest Community College. I started my company, Kiel Equipment, while working toward my Management and Marketing degree at the University of North Alabama. What began as a local business 23 years ago now serves customers across Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee, selling and leasing mowers, tractors and other heavy-duty equipment.

"My wife Melissa and I have three daughters: Sarah Kate, Audrey and Lydia. Our children attend Tharptown School, where Melissa teaches. Melissa was named Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year for 2016. Our family is actively involved at Tharptown Baptist Church, where I served as music director for 20 years.

I believe government should work for the people. I feel that we need representatives in Montgomery who will work for our district to protect our tax dollars by cutting wasteful spending. I see jobs going to other areas of the state because they have a trained workforce. We should give our people the same training and opportunities to have good-paying jobs. I want to be sure that my children, like your kids and grandkids, get a great education and have an opportunity to work here."

FFP: What is the MOST pressing issue facing voters in House District 18, and why?

Kiel: "As I have traveled the district talking with voters, the lack of broadband high-speed internet is the most common concern. Without high-speed internet, many children go home to houses where they can not complete their homework like their classmates that do have internet.

Because we are a largely rural area, this puts our education system at a competitive disadvantage. When we recruit jobs to our area, the availability of reliable high-speed internet is at the top of their list.

We can not recruit high-tech, high-paying jobs without it. It is also an economic and quality-of-life issue. We deserve the same opportunities to work at home, create small businesses and enjoy entertainment via the internet like most Alabamians."

Britton: "The most pressing issue facing voters in HD 18 is whether they want to elect someone who will listen to the people or someone who will listen to the special interest groups. It is important that this position be filled by a person capable of using his experience to make good decisions for the citizens of District 18 without being controlled by outside groups."

FFP: Do you support a return to one House district representation for Franklin County and, if so, what will you do once elected to help that take place?

Britton: "Yes, I support a redistricting plan, which will be done by the legislators elected in this election, where all citizens of District 18 are represented by someone closer to their homes and not someone spread out over a large area as is now

Kiel: "Yes. We will have the opportunity to re-district after the 2020 census. Our county's representation will be stronger if we are unified. I have already requested to be a member of the Reapportionment Committee if elected."

FFP: Is the Alabama Accountability Act an effective piece of legislation? Why or why not? And what, if any, changes would you support relating to the AAA?

Kiel: "The original intent was to help students in failing schools to leave those schools. However, this is not the reality. Only 24 percent of the students who were given scholarships were zoned for failing schools. The AAA should be changed to cut out wasteful bureaucratic spending and send that money to the classroom, where it can be used to educate our children."

Britton: "The Alabama Accountability Act is a terrible piece of legislation and needs to be repealed. It takes millions of dollars from public education and gives it to private and charter schools for the prospect of improving test scores, and test results clearly show that no improvement in scores occurred when students transferred to a private school. We need to give that money back to the public schools."

FFP: What role, if any, should political party affiliation play in voters' choice in the House District 18 race? Please explain your answer.

Britton: "Voters should choose the best candidate based on the individual candidate's qualifications. Once the election is over, then everyone should work together for the best future for Alabama. We are at a crossroads with all of the partisan fighting back and forth. People are tired of all the fussing because of party loyalty with very few results being accomplished. I will work with anyone to get the things done that our citizens need."

Kiel: "In 2010, the Republican Party gained control of the House of Representatives. Since 2010, our district has been at a disadvantage. It is important that we have a representative that is part of the leadership team so that we are heard and that we get our fair share from Montgomery."

FFP: What is there about qualifications for office that separate you from the other candidate?

Kiel: "I have been a successful, private businessman for 23 years. As a small businessman, I have managed a budget, created jobs, made payroll, worked with the public and operated my business with integrity. I have a close working relationship with the mayors, councils and boards of education in each county and will work with them to promote job growth and the education of our children."

Britton: "While serving as principal of Belgreen High School, I was fortunate to also serve in leadership roles at the state level of the Principal's Association (AASSP). For ten years, I worked with the Alabama Legislature seeking to change laws that would benefit our students and teachers. I was publicly recognized for work in that area.

Kathy and I also own six small businesses, so I can relate to the concerns of other business owners. Additionally, I was raised on a farm. I know how to work. People know that I listen and I care, and that is a good reason to support me on November 6."

FFP: As it relates to public education, what will

Letters
to the
Editor

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be your ideology in Montgomery?

Britton: "Almost everyone knows education will be my number one priority. We need to make it Alabama's principal focus as well. Our children must be the top priority. The status of a teacher should be elevated. They need to be supported and given a decent raise. We test too much. We could be using some of that time for classroom instruction. The Retirement Systems of Alabama must be protected. Both retired state employees and education employees need a cost of living raise."

Kiel: "We have great schools when compared to other areas of the state. Our teachers are second to none. I will work to make sure that they have the tools to teach my children, and yours. Teachers deserve to make competitive wages, and I will keep the promise our state made to them: Protect RSA and their retirement. I will also make sure that our local educators and parents determine the needs of our children, not Washington bureaucrats who push Common Core."

FFP: What is the best advice you ever received from your parents, and how have you implemented it into your life?

Kiel: "My parents are both retired educators, so our home was always like a classroom away from school. We were always learning about history, government, agriculture and business. Because they were the first in their families to attend college, their advice to continue my education at UNA while starting my own business was the best advice they ever gave me.

"It was hard at the time working 60 hours per week and being a full-time student, but it gave me knowledge and a work ethic that I have implemented in my business and that I will be able to use in Montgomery."

Britton: "My parents taught me the value of hard work. They set a good example for me and my sister by always helping those in need. They made sure we were in church at every opportunity, teaching us to be faithful people of honesty and integrity. They encouraged us to get a good education and use our God-given abilities to help others. They taught us the importance of a good name and how easily it could be tarnished.

"I am not a rich man financially, but I am a rich man in blessings, and I owe it all to the upbringing given to me by my parents."

FFP: What role, if any, should a representative's faith have in his or her decisions, voting and representation?

Britton: "I believe my faith is an important consideration in all decisions. Kathy and I regularly attend Belgreen United Methodist Church. We are conservative in most respects.

"I know that many of this district's constituents may be of a different faith or belief, and as Americans they also deserve to be represented.

Our Declaration of Independence states that 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.'

"I agree with it and will faithfully support the Constitution of these United States of America."

Kiel: "My faith is not just what I do, it is who I am. I have a Christian world view and make all decisions based on my faith in God. I will never vote against my conscience and will always serve with integrity. I will never support a cause or a party that goes against my beliefs."

Polls will be open Tuesday, November 6, across Alabama from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

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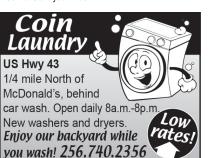
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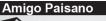
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Five local eateries receive satisfactory ratings

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

Five of the seven Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of October 8-12 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 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 99, given to Pollo Lo-Quillo, 115 Franklin St., Russellville.

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

•J&L Convenience and Bait, LLC, 23791 Hwy. 24 West, Russellville, 81. (Prescription medicine stored in reach in cooler with customer food, dishes not being sanitized and barbecue dated Sept. 22, 2018, exceeding seven day food limit).

•N&F No. 1, Inc., 12301 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, 83. (No soap at kitchen handsink, mold on fountain diffusers and no proof of foodservice employee reporting agreement).

•N&F No. 2, Inc., 9224 Hwy. 243, Phil Campbell, 85. (Mold in ice machine).

•McDonald's #23035, 606 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, 86. (Cleaner hanging on condiment rack and cracked food containers).

•Bay Mini Mart, 908 4th St., Red Bay, 90. (No soap or paper towels in restroom).

 Wicked Marinara, 502 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, 91. (Can opener blade grooved and dirty).

Of the 10 inspections done in Colbert County from October 8-12, no restaurant scored below the satisfactory range. The high score for the week in Colbert County was 99, including Yogurt Mountain, 3312 Woodward Ave., Muscle Shoals.

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

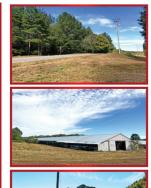




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'MORROW' from page 1

said.

Kiel recently was endorsed by ALFA, the National Rifle Association and Bama Carry/Franklin County. In response to that NRA endorsement, Britton had the following statement:

"Everyone in our community knows that I have been a hunter all my life. I have a lifetime hunting license," Britton said. "I am a long-time member of the NRA. My father, who passed in 1997, was a member of the NRA before me. We didn't join for any political gain.

Obviously, with Representative Morrow, who had a higher rating with the NRA than his opponent [Sen. Larry Stutts, who had an "A" rating with the NRA compared to Morrow's "A plus" rating] and still was passed over for their endorsement and financial support, this really has nothing to do with who stands up for gun owner rights. It has more to do with who do these large groups control. And it is plain to see they are not loyal to their supporters. So the issue before the voters is who best represents the values you hold dear."

"My endorsements span the entire political spectrum, which validates the kind of representative I have always been," Morrow said. "I have been endorsed by the largest gun organization of the state and most prestigious farmers organization. While none of these organizations control my vote, they know I will always listen to them when we discuss their issues."

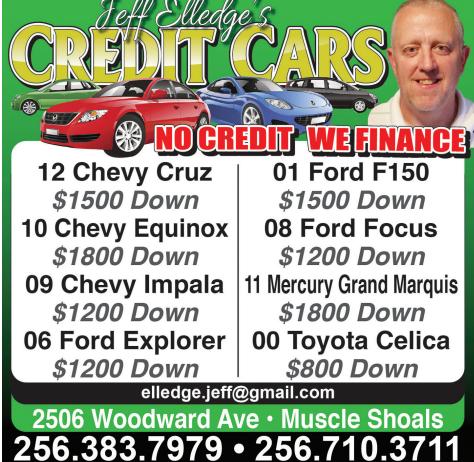
Morrow received his bachelor's degree in Economics from Mississippi State University and his MBA from Samford University. He taught business and economics for 28 years at Northwest Alabama Community College in Phil Campbell. He has also been an avid farmer and manager of 21 acres of reclaimed wetlands, which has been listed on the Alabama Bird Trail and is a certified Alabama TREASURE Forest.

"I am honored to have the support of the Alabama Farmers Federation. We share the same hard-working, conservative values and love for this district and our state," Morrow said. "I will represent them and all the people of this district well in the Alabama Senate.

Additional endorsements received by Morrow include: Alabama Education Association, Bama Carry, Police Benevolent Association, AFL-CIO, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Alabama Homebuilders Association, Alabama Optometric Association, the Teamsters and Carpenters Unions and International Electrical Workers, ADC, LaGrange Historical Association and Alabama Grocers Association.

"My endorsements span the entire political spectrum, which validates the kind of representative I have always been," Morrow said. "I have been endorsed by the largest gun organization of the state and most prestigious farmers organization.

"While none of these organizations control my vote, they know I will always listen to them when they discuss their issues with me."



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"My endorsements span the entire political spectrum which validates the kind of representative I have always been.

None of these organizations control my vote, but they know I will always listen to them when they discuss their issues with me." - Johnny Mack Morrow

Pd. Pol. by Morrow for Senate, 1895 Hwy. 28, Red Bay, 35582



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SPORTS

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Week 9 in the SEC

Last week's record: 3-1 Year to date: 21-11 Saturday, October 27 Florida versus Georgia

There's reason to believe that both Florida this week and Kentucky next week can compete with Georgia, and that reason—primarily—is a Bulldog defense that has struggled



Mike Self Sports Editor

some to stop the run and to make plays. Georgia currently ranks dead last in the SEC in both tackles for loss and sacks and a pedestrian eighth in the league in rushing defense. The Bulldogs surrendered 172 yards on the ground to Missouri, 138 to Vanderbilt and a whopping 275 to LSU. Florida isn't as physical or punishing with its run game as LSU, but the Gators have eclipsed the 200-yard mark on the ground four times during their current five-game win streak.

The run game gives Florida a chance, but Georgia is bound to come out angry, rested and refocused following the bye week (and the 20-point loss to LSU that preceded it).

The Pick: Georgia 27 Florida 20 Kentucky at Missouri

If Georgia wins in Jacksonville and Kentucky beats Missouri, then the SEC East title will be on the line next week when the Bulldogs visit Lexington.

First things first, though. Missouri can put up points, and Kentucky's offense has stagnated of late, failing to run a play in plus territory against Texas A&M until overtime and then amassing a grand total of 18 passing yards against Vanderbilt on Saturday. The Wildcats managed just 14 points in each of those games and currently rank next-to-last in the SEC in total offense.

The Kentucky D has been terrific, but they'll need more help from the other side of the ball to keep up with Drew Lock and company.

The Pick: Missouri 28 Kentucky 24 Texas A&M at Mississippi State

State had lots of success with the QB run in a win over Auburn on October 6; when that strategy failed against LSU on Saturday, there didn't appear to be a viable Plan B.

Now the Bulldogs come home to face an A&M defense that allows an SEC-best 81.6 rushing yards per game and completely shut down a strong Kentucky ground game three weeks ago. That's bad news for Mississippi State, which has stunningly been held to seven points or less in three of its four conference games thus far.

The Pick: Texas A&M 24 Miss. State 16 Tennessee at South Carolina

The Volunteers could sure use this one in their quest to reach six wins and bowl eligibility. South Carolina is at home, though, is coming off a bye week and is due for a W after alternating wins and losses through its first six games of the season.

The Pick: So. Carolina 23 Tennessee 20

King for a day

Behind a huge game from its junior tailback, Red Bay remained in the hunt for a region championship with its third consecutive win

Staff reports

Junior tailback Colbie King ran for a career-high 310 yards and five touchdowns on a whopping 39 carries last Friday night, helping Red Bay extend its win streak to three games with a 50-24 victory at Tanner.

King, whose previous career-high had been 170 rushing yards in a win over Sheffield two weeks prior, nearly doubled that total against the Rattlers, scoring on runs of 5, 3, 31, 17 and 4 yards. Through eight games, he has now rushed for 954 yards and nine touchdowns on 163 carries.

The Tigers (6-2, 4-1 in Class 2A, Region 7) ran for 402 yards as a team against Tanner on 65 attempts. They also threw for 76 yards on 4-for-6 passing, finishing with a season-high 478 total yards of offense and reaching the 50-point mark for the first time since a 53-7 win at Tharptown on September 1, 2017.

With last Friday's win, Red Bay remains in a virtual tie with Colbert County (5-1 in region play) and Addison (4-1 in region play) atop the Region 7 standings. The Indians wrapped up their region schedule last week with a 27-6 win over Sheffield. Addison closes region play at home this week against Hatton, while the Tigers will play their final region game this Friday at

See 'KING,' Page 21



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

CARRY ON - King averaged 7.9 yards on a whopping 39 attempts, rushing for a career-high 310 yards and five TDs in the Tigers' 50-24 win at Tanner.

Wildcats wrap up two-seed, prep for 'dynamic' Bobcats

Mike Self Franklin Free Press

After running the football 53 times in 56 total plays against Lexington the previous week, Colbert Heights head coach Taylor Leathers suspected that his team would have to be more balanced last Friday against visiting Clements. He said as much to sophomore quarterback Carson Shaw in the days leading up to the game.

"I told Carson going into the game that we were probably gonna have to throw the ball more," Leathers said.

Leathers, as it turns out, was right. And Shaw and the Wildcat passing attack delivered.

Shaw, a first-year starter at quarterback, set new career-highs for attempts, completions and passing yards last Friday, hitting 15-of-21 throws for 201 yards. He also rushed for a pair of fourth-

quarter touchdowns, helping Colbert Heights rally from a 21-14 deficit to beat the Colts 28-21 and clinch the No. 2 seed in Class 3A, Region 8.

The Wildcats (5-4, 4-1 in region play) will open the playoffs at home for the second straight season on November 9. This will mark just the third time in the program's 53-year history that Colbert Heights has hosted a playoff game in back-to-back seasons. [They also did it in 2006-07 and 2010-11.]

"We get to host another playoff game for the second year in a row," said Leathers, whose team has now won nine straight regular-season games at Amos Mitchell Stadium. "Leading into the season, there were not a lot of people in the greater Shoals area who felt like we would be a contender for the playoffs. With us losing what we lost—literally half the roster off last year's team—I feel like a lot of

See 'WILDCATS,' Page 20

Golden Tigers regroup, look to lock down home-field

Mike Self Franklin Free Press

Russellville headed to Jasper last Friday with an opportunity to bring home the program's first region championship since 2015. The Vikings dashed those dreams with an emphatic 42-13 win at Ki-Ro Gambrell Field, but the Golden Tigers can't afford the luxury of dwelling on what might have been.

Russellville still has plenty to play for, and that's the message first-year head coach John Ritter wants to make sure his players receive loud and clear.

"Yeah, I think they understand that. At the end of the day, it's one game," said Ritter, whose team can still clinch the No. 2 seed in Class 5A, Region 7 (and the right to host a first-round playoff game) with a win over Dora this week in the region finale. "We're 7-1. It's not like we're 2-5 and fighting for our lives to win three or four games. We've put ourselves in a great opportunity to host a playoff game, and now we have to finish strong.

"We talked about winning the region, but you have to go back to the realistic expectations for this team before we ever started. We talked about that after the game. Everything we thought we could accomplish is still right here in front of us."

The Vikings (7-1, 6-0) asserted themselves as the undisputed best team in Region 7 (and, according to Ritter, the best team in the north in Class 5A) with Friday's dominant performance, but by Sunday afternoon Ritter was focusing more on what the Golden Tigers *can* accomplish moving

forward and less on what they *didn't* get done in Jasper.

"Throw the record out the window; 7-0 was a phenomenal start, and we had a lot of things go our way that helped us achieve that," Ritter said. "We played hard, which really helped. But the realistic goals we set for ourselves were to qualify for the playoffs and to host a first-round game, so we can still accomplish the two goals we thought we could accomplish. If we had won the region in year one, with two new systems [on offense and defense], it would have been icing on the cake. You don't change the culture of the program or put your stamp on the program in eight games.

"Realistically, we're right where we want to be, with a great opportunity in front of us."

"At the end of the day, it's one game," Ritter said of the loss to Jasper. "We're 7-1. It's not like we're 2-5 and fighting for our lives to win three or four games. We've put ourselves in a great opportunity to host a playoff game, and now we have to finish strong....Everything we thought we could accomplish is still right here in front of us."

When he did look back at last Friday's lopsided loss (in which Russellville failed to complete a pass and got out-gained 466 total yards to 195), Ritter was very realistic about what he saw: A good team getting beat—and beat up—by a better team, a bigger team, a potentially *great* team.

"When you play in a championship game," Ritter said, "and you play a team the caliber of Jasper, who is really good, obviously [they were better than us at every position], you have to be mental-

ly prepared to play and physically prepared to play. I don't think we played as bad as it seemed; Jasper had a lot to do with it. They were better than us.

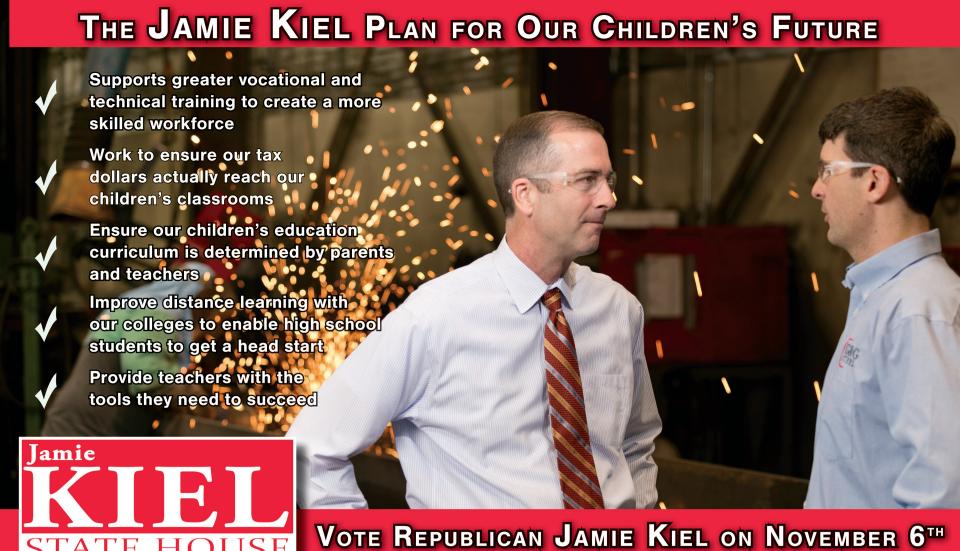
"They were bigger in person than they were on film—and they were big on film. Defensively, they lined up and whipped our tail, and offensively they did the same thing. I hope somebody took a picture of us standing next to them; they towered over us on both sides of the ball. They played extremely hard, they were extremely talented, and the result of the game was a result of how they played."

The Golden Tigers (7-1, 5-1) arrived in Jasper as the highest-scoring team in Class 5A, averaging 45.4 points and 416.4 total yards per game, but they couldn't sustain any offense against the Vikings. Russellville got a 73-yard touchdown run from senior quarterback Lucas McNutt on its second play from scrimmage and a 65-yard touchdown run from senior back Zaye Boyd late in the second half; in between, the Golden Tigers gained just 43 yards on 25 offensive snaps while being out-scored 42-0.

"Offensively, we didn't do a really good job of execution," Ritter said. "We executed about four plays of the forty-five we ran. We scored two touchdowns, and we had two other ten- to fifteen-yard plays. Other than that, they whipped us—up front and on the edge.

"Calling plays was frustrating, because every adjustment we made they counter-adjusted. They just whipped us."

See 'REGROUP,' page 19



Paid for by Jamie Kiel Campaign, 14696 Highway 43, Russellville, AL 35653

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'REGROUP,' from page 18

Despite trailing by a big margin for much of the night, Russellville only attempted two passes—both of which were incomplete.

"We called seven pass plays," Ritter said on Sunday. "We fell down twice, threw one incompletion and gave up four sacks. Running it, passing it—it really didn't matter what we did."

Jasper, by contrast, was balanced on offense, rushing for 269 yards and throwing for 197. Dual-threat quarterback Michael Crear completed 16-of-20 pass attempts with one touchdown and also rushed for 70 yards and two scores on 11 carries. Junior tailback Kaden Shelton rushed for 125 yards and two touchdowns on 27 attempts.

"They're the best team in the north," Ritter said of the Vikings, who have now won seven straight games since losing 28-27 to Cullman on a last-play touchdown in their season opener. "If they're not representing 5A north in the state championship game, something went wrong. They're the total package—offensively, defensively, they've got everything you need to win a state championship. They're extremely talented."

Despite the disappointing outcome, Ritter believes his team will benefit moving forward from having played in such a high-stakes game in a hostile environment.

"I think we'll handle it better," he said. "I ask the guys after the game, 'Raise your hand if you've been in a big game wearing a Russellville uniform before tonight?' Not one kid raised their hand. We put twenty-two guys on the field who had never played in that type of environment and had never played in a big game, because the last time Russellville played a big game like that they were too young to get on the field or they didn't play or various other reasons.

"Us going to Jasper and playing in that type of environment will benefit us this week. If we win, we're second, and we get to host a playoff game."

To do that, the Golden Tigers will have to put Friday's loss behind them quickly and recapture the momentum and swagger they had built during the 7-0 start.

"I hope we can. It starts with senior leadership," Ritter said. "At the end of the day, we're gonna prepare our guys to play to the best of their ability, but we can't tackle for them and we can't make plays for them. If the ball is in the middle of the field, I'm standing twenty-seven yards away on the sideline.

"We've gotta have great senior leadership to push us through this week and make sure we're ready to go come Friday night."

It's fitting that in a week in which senior leadership will be so critical, Russellville's senior class will be honored at Golden Tiger Stadium on Friday night during the final home game of the regular season.

"Senior Night should give us added motivation," Ritter said. "It should motivate our seniors to make sure we're leading the right way and pushing the guys in the right direction. As a senior, there are certain things you want to do. You want to beat your rivals; we beat Deshler, and we beat Lawrence County, so that's a checkmark in their favor. You want to win homecoming; we did that, so that's another checkmark. The other thing is, you want to win your Senior Night. Those are three big events that, as a senior, you'll remember the rest of your life.

"Qualifying for the playoffs is the fourth thing you want to do as a senior, and we've already done that. So these guys have accomplished three out of the four, and now we just have to go get that last checkmark."

In order to secure the No. 2 seed and home-field advantage in round one, the Golden Tigers will have to cool off a hot Dora team that has won four of its last five games since a 1-2 start. The Bulldogs (5-3, 4-2) beat Hayden 17-14 last Friday, rushing for 248 yards as a team and getting a game-winning 28-yard field goal from kicker Brady Spradlin late in the fourth quarter.

Jordan Foy led Dora with 97 yards rushing on 13 carries, and Marcell Davidson added 57 yards on just five carries. The Bulldogs gained 300 yards of total offense and held Hayden to just 199. For the season, Dora is averaging 23.8 points per game while giving up 19.5 per game.

"Dora is very athletic," Ritter said. "They've got two or three playmakers on the offensive side of the ball that we'll have to contain. We'll have to do a good job defensively, and we're modifying what we do a little bit, just because the injury bug has hit us here lately. We're thin on defense right now."

Russellville's run defense took a major hit at Jasper when 290-pound senior nose guard Andres Tomas left the game early in the first quarter with a leginjury. Ritter said on Sunday that Tomas has a Grade 2 sprain of his MCL and will be sidelined for two to three weeks.

"He's a guy we put at nose," Ritter said of Tomas, "and he does a great job of plugging up the middle."

The injury to Tomas further weakens a defensive line already impacted by an injury to senior tackle Gage Cook. Cook played through a shoulder injury last Friday night, but Ritter estimates that he's only operating at 60 percent.

"He gave us all he had, but unfortunately there wasn't a lot he could do," Ritter said. "You're limited with a shoulder injury on the defensive line. There are some positions you can play with a sprained AC joint, but D-line is not one of them."



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Despite last week's loss at Jasper, Russellville is still in position to secure a first-round home game. J.D. Bishop (20), Caden Watts (8), Gage Cook (5), Angel Moreno (51) and the Golden Tigers will host Dora on Friday night, with the winner claiming the No. 2 seed in Region 7.

Finally, Ritter said senior safety Donald Ramson "tweaked" his knee in the game at Jasper and did not play in the second half. Ramson is questionable for this week, according to Ritter.

Offensively, the Golden Tigers will try to get back on track after failing to put up at least 30 points for the first time since a 24-13 win at Corner in Week 2. Boyd's late touchdown run against Jasper gave him 109 yards on 14 carries.

For the season, Boyd has run for 1,461 yards on 141 carries, an average of 182.6 yards per game and 10.4 yards per carry. Among his 22 touchdown runs are six long gainers of at least 60 yards and six more of at least 30 yards.

McNutt finished with 59 yards rushing on nine carries against Jasper and has now run for 433 yards and six touchdowns on 53 carries this season. He has also thrown for 845 yards and 11 touchdowns on 48-for-88 passing. Of those 11 touchdown tosses, eight have gone to senior receiver Devin Buckhalter, who leads the team with 28 catches for 517 yards.

Heading into the final leg of a tough second-half region schedule, the Golden Tigers are still in position to earn a first-round playoff game at home for the fourth time in the last five years.

"We knew this four-game stretch with Lawrence County, Hamilton, Jasper and Dora was gonna tell us a lot about our team," Ritter said. "I don't think Friday night told us anything we didn't already know. We knew we were gonna struggle defensively, and we knew we were gonna struggle offensively against that caliber of team. But what I did see against Jasper that I liked was, our guys never quit fighting. Our guys never stooped to that low level of cheap-shotting, and there was a lot of that going on. Our guys stayed above that and played with class, and I'm proud of them for that."





'WILDCATS,' from page 17

people said, 'Colbert Heights is gonna have a rebuilding year.' And on paper, that looked to be the case. We only had two or three returners on offense and defense. All signs were pointing to us having a young, inexperienced team.

"Our goal was to try to make the most of what we had. At this point, we've made the most of it, and that's a tribute to our players and coaches. For these guys to continue building on that foundation the seniors left last year, I couldn't be more proud to be their coach. What they've accomplished up to this point, having an 0-3 start and then really rebounding and doing what we had to do in the region to get that second [playoff] spot, has been huge. We definitely are proud of that."

Since opening the season with losses on the road to Red Bay, Wilson and Westminster Christian (three teams with a combined record of 17-7 through Sunday), the Wildcats have righted the ship with five wins in a six-game stretch. [The only hiccup came on October 5 at Decatur Heritage, when a failed two-point conversion attempt late in the game doomed the 'Cats to a 23-22 loss.]

Even more encouraging to Leathers than his team's recent hot streak is the fact that they managed to pull it off while giving more and more significant snaps each week to a handful of young players—including several freshmen.

"It lets me know that the future is bright at Colbert Heights," said Leathers, whose 20-12 record in three seasons on The Mountain represents the second-best win percentage (.625) of any coach in Wildcat history, trailing only current Auburn offensive coordinator Chip Lindsey (.636). "I really believe that. When I came in, I really wanted to make it a standard for Colbert Heights football to be in the postseason year in and year out. Last year we were able to get it done, and we had a deep run [losing to Piedmont in the state quarterfinals]. This year we had a lot of question marks coming in, but I really believed in our players, and they really believed in the system. They believed in the work ethic in takes to achieve what we wanted to achieve.

"A lot of times, we played over our heads. I felt like the effort was there and the belief that they can win was there. A lot of that can be attributed to last year's success."

One of the many new faces in new places for the Wildcats this season is Shaw, who started all 13 games at corner last season before taking over at quarterback this year for his older brother Kevin, who graduated in May. After running for 84 yards on 19 carries in the win over Clements, Carson Shaw has now rushed for a team-leading 817 yards and 11 touchdowns this season on 174 attempts. He has also been productive as a passer, completing 60 percent (75-for-124) of his throws for 1,038 yards and six touchdowns with only two interceptions.

"Our goal was to try to make the most of what we had," Leathers said. "At this point, we've made the most of it, and that's a tribute to our players and coaches. For these guys to continue building on that foundation the seniors left last year, I couldn't be more proud to be their coach."

After attempting just three passes the week before in a 42-27 win at Lexington, Shaw eclipsed the 200-yard mark through the air for the first time against Clements. [His previous career-high had been 196 passing yards in the loss to Westminster Christian.]

"We like to keep people guessing," joked Leathers, whose team had relied heavily-pun intended—on a goal-line package featuring two tight ends and two extra blockers in the backfield to pound Lexington for 251 rushing yards the previous week. "Really, it's just about taking what the defense gives you. We came out [against Clements] and lined up in our heavy package, but they had some really big guys on the D-line. Those 315-pounders (especially Quez Reedus, their defensive tackle who has started for five years), they didn't really want us to run the heavy package."

The Wildcats moved the football on their opening drive, eventually reaching the Clements one-yard line, but they were undermined by back-to-back penalties and ultimately turned the ball over on downs. After the Colts (3-5, 1-4) jumped out to an early 8-0 lead, Leathers decided that a change in approach was in order.

"We wanted to be a lot more multiple on offense and get in a formation to throw the football more," he said. "We came back out in more of a spread look and started throwing the football."

Shaw was on target from the get-go, and the sophomore triggerman spread the ball around effectively. Senior tight end Evan Norton caught four passes for a career-high 77 yards, and senior slot back Braden McCaig had five catches for 40 yards (in addition to rushing for 93 yards and two touchdowns on 16 carries). Skyler Gault caught three passes for 21 yards, and J.J. Michael had two grabs for 27 yards. Freshman Andrew Tedford added a 36-yard reception.

"Evan Norton had his best game of the year offensively," Leathers said. "J.J. Michael had a couple of big catches for us, and Braden McCaig was phenomenal in the game, both running and receiving. Carson threw the ball very well. It's great to be able to throw the football when you

"The plan was to start out in our Meat package [the two-tight, goal-line set] and see where it takes us. I knew we had to get out of it. Fortunately, we were able to move the ball through the air."

Leading 14-8 at the half on touchdown runs of 25 and 12 yards by McCaig, the Wildcats fell behind 21-14 heading into the fourth quarter. Shaw tied the game early in the fourth with his first touchdown run, and then Colbert Heights recovered a short sky kick by sophomore kicker Daylan Stanford to get the ball right back. Shaw's second touchdown run, a one-yarder, put the Wildcats in front to stay and ultimately ensured that Amos Mitchell Stadium will see postseason football for the second straight year.

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'WILDCATS,' from page 20

Colbert Heights will host a first-round game against the No. 3 seed out of Region 6, which will either be Saks, Randolph County or Piedmont. [All three teams are currently tied atop the region standings at 5-1 with one region game remaining.]

Saks had been 7-0 this season before falling to Randolph County 41-21 last Friday. Randolph County's only loss this season came to Piedmont, 27-22 in mid-September. Combined, those three Region 6 powers have a record of

20-4 on the year

"We don't know who we'll play right now," Leathers said on Sunday, "but that's the best 3A region in the state. It'll be tough, but we're glad to have it at home. We haven't lost a regular-season home game the last two years, and that's great. That's a tribute to our players and the work ethic they give."

Before the playoffs begin, the Wildcats will first close their regular season with a trip to Phil Campbell on Friday. The Bobcats are just 2-6 overall (and 1-4 in region play) on the season, but first-year head coach Kevin Barnwell's team could easily be 4-4. Two weeks ago, Phil Campbell lost 52-47 to Lauderdale County on a last-second touchdown, and last Friday the Bobcats fell 32-26 at East Lawrence when the Eagles scored with less than a minute remaining.

"The season is not over for us by any means," Leathers said. "We celebrated Friday night because we earned our right into the playoffs and we earned our right into that second seed, but now we have to make sure we take care of business and focus all our attention on Phil Campbell this week. We don't want this game to be a letdown for us.

"Phil Campbell is very dynamic. When Coach Barnwell took the job, I knew they would field a very competitive football team. We've watched four or five of their games, and they've been very competitive in all of them."

Leathers was especially impressed with the Bobcats' play-making potential on offense. Sophomore quarterback Luke Barnwell threw for 295 yards and three touchdowns on 17-for-29 passing in the loss to Lauderdale County two weeks ago. Speedy sophomore Trey Leindecker has exploded the past two weeks, rushing for 260 yards and six touchdowns on 33 carries. Ridge Raper, another sophomore, caught a touchdown pass against Lauderdale County and then ran for two scores last week against East Lawrence.

"Coach Barnwell's son, Luke, is dynamic at quarterback," Leathers said. "He throws the football well, and he scrambles well. The Raper kid is a very talented athlete who runs the football well. And the kid who stuck out more than anybody the first time I watched them was Leindecker. He can flat-out fly.

"Coach Barnwell's got some kids out who are really good athletes. They're playing well. I know they scored a lot of points against Lauderdale County. We're definitely gonna have our hands full in this one."

'KING,' from page 17

home versus Tharptown.

If Addison loses to Hatton on Friday, Red Bay would clinch the region championship with a win over Tharptown. If both Addison and Red Bay win, they'll finish in a three-way tie with Colbert County atop the region, and tie-breakers would determine the top three seeds. [Head coach Michael Jackson said the Tigers would likely end up as the No. 2 seed in that scenario.]

Tanner (1-7, 1-4) grabbed an early 6-0 lead less than five minutes into last Friday's game, but Red Bay answered with a four-yard touchdown run from senior quarterback Kolby Bragwell to tie the game with 3:06 left in the first quarter.

King's first touchdown run, a five-yarder at the 8:17 mark of the second quarter, gave the Tigers their first lead, and his two-point conversion run made it 14-6. Tanner trimmed the lead to 14-12 with 4:14 left in the first half, but the two-point try was no good. King's three-yard touchdown run with 1:39 left in the half sent Red Bay into the break with a 20-12 lead.

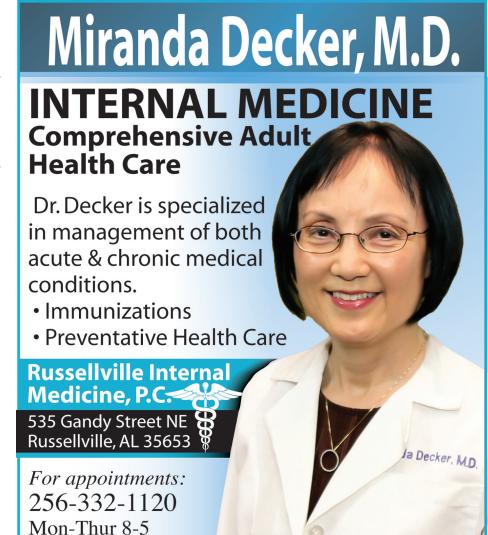
King ran for two more scores in the third quarter, a 31-yarder at the 9:21 mark and a 17-yarder at the 2:19 mark, stretching the Tigers' lead to 34-12. Tanner scored on a five-yard touchdown pass with 1:22 left in the third, cutting the lead to 34-18.

King's final touchdown run of the night came from four yards out with 7:49 left in the game, and Bragwell found Mason Holt for the two-point conversion to make it 42-18. Colyn Humphres capped off Red Bay's big night with a 12-yard touchdown run at the 3:36 mark, and Bragwell added the two-point conversion to make it 50-18. Tanner scored on a 28-yard touchdown pass with less than a minute remaining to finish off the scoring.

Humphres had nine carries for 53 yards on the night and also caught two passes for 49 yards, putting up 102 yards from scrimmage. Holt caught two passes for 27 yards, and Hunter King ran eight times for 24 yards.

Red Bay went 6-for-12 on third down and 2-for-2 on fourth down, gaining 18 first downs to Tanner's seven. The Tigers also broke loose for 14 plays of 10-plus yards

Red Bay's defense held Tanner to 202 total yards (116 passing and 86 rushing) and one third-down conversion in ten tries. Logan Scott and Cam McKinney led the Tiger defense with seven tackles apiece.





Colbie King

Junior RB, Red Bay

King carried the Tigers to their third straight win last Friday, rushing for a career-high 310 yards and five touchdowns on 39 carries in a 50-24 victory over Tanner.

King, whose previous career-high on the ground had been 170 yards two weeks earlier in a win over Sheffield, nearly doubled that total at Tanner, scoring on runs of 5, 3, 31, 17 and 4 yards. He also added a pair of two-point conversion runs.

For the season, King has rushed for 954 yards and nine touchdowns on 163 carries.





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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 9 must be postmarked by Friday, October 26, and picks submitted by email for

Week 9 must be postmarked by Friday, October 26, and picks submitted by email for Week 9 must be received by Saturday, October 27 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 8 winner TERRY BOLTON, who correctly picked all 10 games and also picked LSU to beat Mississippi State 24-14!





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