

Hallow-Win
To see pictures of more winners from the *Free Press* Pet Costume Contest, check out Page 8 in today's edition!

Red Wave Rising
In a county where their party was once an afterthought, Republicans continued to gain momentum (and elected officials) among their ranks after last Tuesday's election. See story, Page 7.



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11.14.18

Marion County crucial again as Stutts wins second term

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

It was business as usual last Wednesday for Sen. Larry Stutts (R-Tuscumbia) one day after he successfully defended his Senate District Six seat against Democratic challenger Johnny Mack Morrow.

Stutts attended a Republican caucus meeting in Montgomery, following a late night that saw the hotly contested Senate race undecided until around 10 p.m., when returns from a few remaining precincts came in.

"I've spent a lot of time in Marion County," Stutts said last week. "I've tried to be very responsive to the people I represent."

Stutts won by a margin of 899 votes. Stutts carried his home county of Colbert 11,113 to 9,527. Morrow won his home Franklin County by an advantage of 4,744 to 3,931. Morrow also won Lawrence County (1,352 to 337) and Lauderdale County (4,123 to 2,983).

In the end though, just as it was in 2014 when Stutts upset Democratic incumbent Roger Bedford Jr., Marion County was the bell cow in Stutts' victory. Stutts won Marion County by more than a two-to-one margin, 4,267 votes to 1,986 for Morrow. Stutts won Marion by a similar margin four years ago.

"I've spent a lot of time in Marion County," Stutts said. "I've tried to really help the people in Marion County with things like grant applications. Kenneth Boswell, the state ADECA director, made a personal visit to Marion County to look at some of their projects at my request. I've tried to be very responsive to the people I represent."

Fittingly, it was the Marion County precinct of Brilliant that was the last one to come in at Stutts' election night event at the Tuscumbia Roundhouse.

"We had the other numbers in, and we had someone

See 'STUTTS,' Page 11



Sen.
Larry Stutts

We're All Ears!
Have an opinion? **256.332.0255**
Story idea?
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Franklin voters overwhelmingly approve 30-year tax extension

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Franklin County voters won't have to decide on the one-cent school tax for a long time.

That's because more than 70 percent of the voting public approved a 30-year extension of the tax in last Tuesday's election. The local amendment received 5,134 yes votes to 2,131 no votes, representing a 70.67/29.33 percent split.

Franklin County voters approved the one-cent sales tax for a two-year period last June, but school officials and the Franklin County Commission wanted to see the tax extended for a longer period of time in order for the schools to use the anticipated revenue as leverage for capital improvement projects.

"We appreciate the citizens of Franklin County for the vote they gave on the amendment. It's much appreciated on behalf of the county, and the city and county school systems," Moore said. "These funds will support our school systems, and this is the result of the county and the schools working together. This is a win-win for all of Franklin County."

Originally approved in 2010, 100 percent of the tax went to the county's two school systems, Franklin County Schools and Russellville City Schools. That changed in 2012, when commissioners asked for 25 percent of the tax to be earmarked for matching funds for the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program, which brought more than \$12 million into

See 'TAX,' Page 10

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"On behalf of Franklin County Schools, we want to thank the people of Franklin County for again supporting the 30-year extension of the one-cent school tax.

These funds are critical to our school system. You have my pledge that we will remain good stewards of your tax dollars and they will be used to improve the quality of education here in Franklin County."

Greg Hamilton
Franklin County
Superintendent of
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Delma "Ruth" Benson, Muscle Shoals, age 86
Died Sunday, November 11, 2018. Graveside service held at Franklin Memory Gardens in Russellville. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

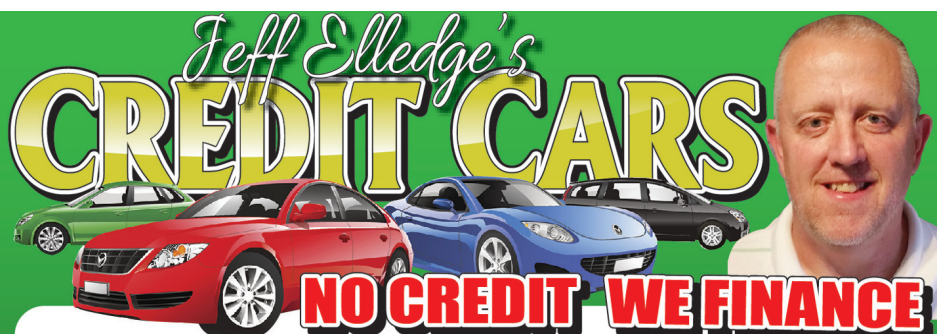
Nina Lou Nix Frederick, Hackleburg, age 74
Died Sunday, November 4, 2018. Funeral held at Hackleburg First Baptist Church. Interment in Cedar Tree Cemetery.

Justice Ethan Mann, Russellville, age 85
Died Friday, November 9, 2018. Graveside service held at Blue Springs Cemetery.

Cindy K. Mitchell, Russellville, age 41
Died Monday, November 5, 2018. Funeral held at Launch Point Church in Tuscumbia. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.

Steve Leon Motes, Sr., Phil Campbell, age 70
Died Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Blue Springs Cemetery.

Audrey Malone Robison, Russellville, age 103
Died Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.



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Kiel pledges loyalty to District 18 residents

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When the vote tally finally showed Jamie Kiel would be the next representative of House District 18, it was the culmination of more than 18 months of work.

It was April of 2017 when Kiel and his wife Melissa sat down and decided together that he would take the leap into politics. They told their three daughters, and that's when the work began. All 18 months of it.

"It's truly been a family affair. If you do a campaign right, you better buy a comfortable pair of shoes," Kiel said last Tuesday night.

Kiel received almost 72 percent of the vote in House District 18, which includes portions of Franklin, Colbert and Lauderdale counties. Kiel received 9,824 votes while his opponent, Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee chairman Eddie Britton, received 3,876.

Kiel took office immediately and will attend his first Legislative session next spring.

As a freshman Republican, you might think Kiel will be tempted to fall into 'party lines,' when it comes to his voting, but his ideology will be to best represent the voters, not a political party.

"My loyalty is to District 18. The people elected me to go to Montgomery to work, but you've got to come back home," Kiel said. "Everything I do

in Montgomery, I'll keep in mind I'm coming back home and facing the people who sent me there."

Kiel, who owns Kiel Equipment & Rental in Russellville, will still run the day-to-day operations of his small business, though he will rely on his staff to take care of things while he's in Montgomery.

"We have a great staff, and we've been doing what we do for a long time," Kiel said. "There won't be any change in operation."

As a small business owner for 23 years, Kiel believes he'll carry a genuine perspective to Montgomery when it comes to what's best for business and the economy.

"My loyalty is to District 18. The people elected me to go to Montgomery to work, but you've got to come back home," Kiel said. "Everything I do in Montgomery, I'll keep in mind I'm coming home and facing the people who sent me there."

"I think owning my own business gives me a unique insight into what makes business work," Kiel said. "While the state needs to do all it can to help businesses in Alabama, the most important thing it can do is get out of the way and let business thrive and keep job growth going."

In Franklin County, Kiel carried 19 of the 20



Rep.
Jamie Kiel

boxes in HD 18. Britton won the Chucky Mullins Center 212-79.

"We knocked on doors all across the district, but Franklin County really came through, and I'll forever be appreciative," Kiel said. "I grew up here, went to school here and have been in business here for 23 years. Those relationships paid off, I think, and I certainly appreciate them."

Colbert County voters went with Kiel by almost a three-to-one margin, 3,656 to 1,297. In Lauderdale County, the margin was almost the same, with Kiel winning 1,230 to 473 for Britton.

Britton called Kiel Tuesday evening to congratulate him on his victory and on running a clean campaign.

Obviously disappointed with the loss, what Britton found particularly frustrating was his belief that many voters never went beyond party affiliation to learn more about each of the candidates.

"If you look at the straight party voting, it went three-to-one Republican. But I'll say nothing negative about Jamie. He's a great guy," Britton said. "When it comes to experience in education, though, I've been an educator my entire life, and I've worked with the Legislature on educational issues."

"People really never looked beyond the party. That was the bottom line of this election. Statewide, that just happens to be the situation we're currently in right now."

Robertson to work as 'team builder' for HD 7

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As he addressed a room full of supporters moments before he was sworn in as the new state representative for House District Seven, Poncey Robertson reflected on some words of advice he received from his grandparents many years ago.

"There are two statements I've carried with me all my life," Robertson said. "When we got out of line as kids, my granddaddy would tell us 'Remember who you are.' My grandmother, she was an encourager. Any time you'd do something good she would whisper in your ear 'You're smarter than most others and you can be anything you want to be.'"

"When things have been hard in my life, I remember to work hard like my granddaddy did and remember who I am and remember to believe we can be anything we want to be and it can happen for you, like my grandmother said. Those two things continue to be my guidepost in life."

Robertson was officially sworn into office in a brief ceremony held in Lawrence County circuit judge Mark Craig's courtroom last Wednesday afternoon. Robertson, a Republican, defeated Democrat Ken Brackins on November 6 and follows Rep. Ken Johnson, who did not run for re-election this year.

Robertson recently retired from the Decatur Police Department, where he worked for more than 24 years. He most recently served as the department's Public Information Officer, and he supervised the School Resource Officer Program for Decatur City Schools.

Robertson and his wife Kristi have two adult sons, Jacob and Daniel. They live in the Mt. Hope community.

When it comes to his political ideology in Montgomery, Robertson said he believes what's

best for the residents of House District Seven and Republican values are not in conflict.

"I don't see a contrast there," Robertson said. "Our district is becoming redder, so that tells me with the message I put out there of being your conservative representative, that matches with people want in Montgomery. That tells me their values match those of the Republican Party."

"Any issue we have down in Montgomery, I'll always be very concerned with local people's opinions, and I will always seek to apply that accordingly. I hope that also drives the party's agenda."

When it comes to public education, Robertson believes successful school systems are tied to a successful economy.

"Some of the greatest barriers locally result from lack of communication. I want to be a team builder," Robertson said. "I want to bring people to the table who each have the pieces we need to work together and benefit us all. My main purpose is that of a team builder..."

"Public education and the economy and the private sector are not enemies," he said. "I think we need a better line of communication, and I hope on the economic side we get to the point where we can better fund public schools. When our tax base grows, we are better able to fund teacher raises, provide more classroom resources and address the needs of our school systems."

"To do that, I realize we need to build the tax base, and a growing economy allows that."

Robertson, whose district includes eastern Franklin County, Lawrence County and portions of Morgan and Winston counties, carried Franklin



Rep. Poncey
Robertson

County by more than a two-to-one margin: 1,214 votes to Brackins' 497.

In his home Lawrence County, Robertson outpaced Brackins 7,415 to 2,662, with similar ratios in Morgan and Winston.

Robertson will be in Montgomery this week for the first Republican majority caucus meeting.

"We'll be doing some organizational things there," he said. "But our Republican leadership has done a great job the last eight or nine months supporting us as candidates and orienting and preparing us for the legislature."

Drawing upon his law enforcement experience and the success seen when various agencies work together, Robertson hopes to be a representative who brings together the people and organizations of his House District Seven.

"Some of the greatest barriers locally result from lack of communication. I want to be a team builder," Robertson said. "I want to bring people to the table who each have the pieces we need to work together and benefit us all."

"My main purpose is that of a team builder, to unite communities across jurisdictional lines and build partnerships. Then my job will be to see what resources we need from Montgomery to fill the gaps."

In a social media post, Brackins expressed his appreciation to those who supported his campaign, and he congratulated Robertson.

"I would like to thank all of my family, friends and supporters for a good run," Brackins said. "I had hoped to be the voice of District Seven in the legislature. Nevertheless, I will continue to work on the platform of economic development, job promotions, access to affordable health care and quality education. I congratulate my opponent, Mr. Poncey Robertson, and wish him success as he works to meet the needs of the citizens of House District Seven."

Honey Do: Just a taste

Ol' Man Winter is slipping in a little early this year. Though we had a night or two of sub-freezing temps, there was really no hard freeze. (You know, the kind that causes water lines to break.) Maybe this was his way of teasing us a little and saying that he is on his way.

Here are a few last-minute things to check before he really shows up. Look at all exterior water faucets and disconnect any water hoses that may be there. If you have "frost-free" faucets in the foundation walls of your house, they will freeze if they have a water hose connected.

Don't forget the pets. Make provision for them to have heat and shelter.

Insulate and cover any exposed faucets or hydrants, even "frost-free" ones. This will block the wind and the wind chill. Use plastic or styrofoam covers to prevent your insulation from getting soaked in rain showers. Plastic buckets are great protectors, and they keep animals from chewing on the insulation.

Water hoses should be drained, rolled up and stored away. This job is easier if the hose is warm. Stretch

the hose out in the sun for a bit, and it should roll up easier.

Close all foundation vents to keep out the cold wind. Automatic vents should be looked at to be sure they have closed. Any foundation cracks should be caulked or covered.

Underpinning around mobile homes should be solid. Screw down loose pieces and cover any gaps.

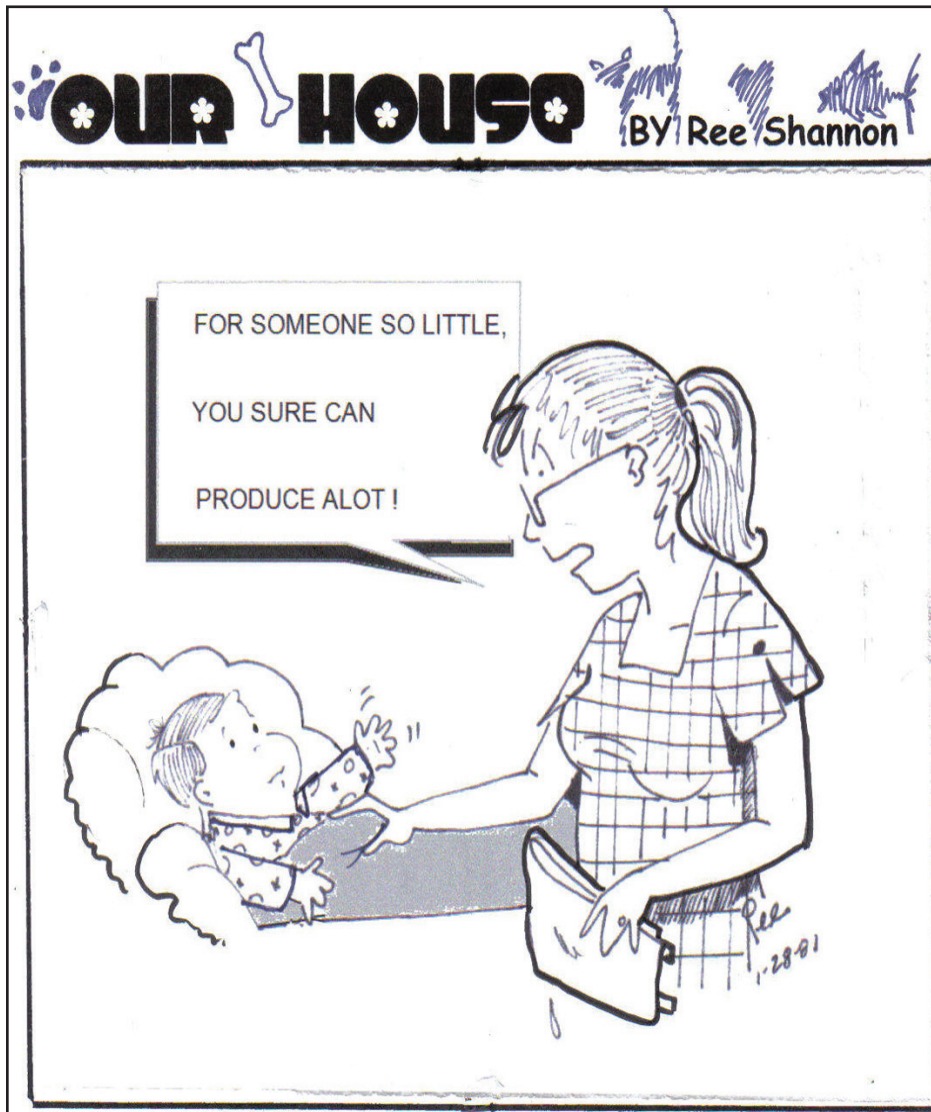
Of course, all water pipes in any area that is not heated should be insulated. Do a quick inspection to see if any damage to the insulation has occurred over the summer.

Don't forget the pets. Make provision for them to have heat and shelter. Heat lamps are great, but be very careful to keep them out of reach of the animals. Cords can be a very dangerous chew toy, so keep them secured and out of reach. Read the labels on light holders to see if they are rated for the bulbs you are using.

Safety, security and prevention are all very important this time of year. Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green



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Become an everyday millionaire

I have something important to tell you: Stop saying "I can't." Yes, you can!

Why am I on this rant? I came across a study that says 64 percent of millennials don't think they'll ever reach \$1 million in retirement savings. Really? Why not? I say you can! Here's how.

•Start Early

Of all the age groups, millennials have the best chance of reaching the magic million mark because they have time on their side. And some millennials are off to a great start. Almost 60 percent of them have already started saving for retirement. Great! You've got a head start. If you start investing just \$300 a month at age 25, you'll hit the \$1 million mark by age 60!

I know what some of you are thinking: I didn't start when I was 25. I can't hit \$1 million. Yes, you can! How? You get on a budget, pay off any debt and put as much as you can toward your retirement. If you're already doing that, sit down with your spouse or a friend, look at your budget and decide how you can trim your expenses to put more money in your investment accounts.

Then, stick to your plan!

•Increase Every Year

Not everyone can put away loads of money when they're first starting out. I get that. But that doesn't mean you're doomed to a miserly retirement. Start with a percentage you can manage (and get the max of any employer match), and increase the percentage every year so your investing grows as your career (and paycheck) grows. If you get a bonus, throw that in your investment account, too.

If you want concrete financial numbers to show where you stand right now, you can use my new Net Worth Calculator. It takes less than five min-

utes to do, and you'll get tailored advice for your unique situation.

•Think Long-Term

Saving for retirement is a marathon, not a sprint. That mentality isn't popular in our instant download culture. Building wealth doesn't work that way. It takes time and patience. Remember the fable about the tortoise and the hare? Slow and steady wins the race, every time.

But winning the marathon only happens when you stay in the race. That means you keep plugging away, putting money in your retirement accounts no matter what the markets do. If your portfolio balance drops (and it will), don't panic and pull your money. Keep your eye on the prize. The market will correct itself, and your investments will earn a return over time.

•What It Takes

There's nothing fancy about building wealth. The question is whether you're willing to do the work to get there. It's about avoiding debt, living on a budget, staying on guard against stupid decisions, and investing your money wisely.

So, start saying "Yes, I can!"

*Chris Hogan is a #1 national best-selling author, dynamic speaker and financial expert. For more than a decade, Hogan has served at Ramsey Solutions, equipping people to reach their financial goals. His second book, *Everyday Millionaires: How Ordinary People Built Extraordinary Wealth—And How You Can, Too*, releases in January 2019. Follow Chris Hogan on Twitter and Instagram at @ChrisHogan360 and online at chrishogan360.com or facebook.com/chrishogan360.



Chris Hogan



Wait on the honeymoon?

Dear Dave,
My fiancé and I are getting married in three weeks, but he lost his job as an experienced HVAC technician at a hospital a few days ago.

Do you think we should still go on a honeymoon or wait until things are more stable? I'm on Baby Step 3 of your plan, and I make \$56,000 a year. I also have \$7,000 in an emergency fund. He was making \$64,000 a year, and he's on Baby Step 2 with about \$10,000 in car debt remaining.

We have \$3,000 already set aside for the trip, plus another \$2,000 we were planning to put toward fixing up his place.

Corina

Dear Corina,
First, congratulations on your upcoming wedding! I hope you two will have long and happy lives together.

Usually, I'm not a big fan of spending when someone loses a job. But I think your situation is a little different than most. You're both serious about dumping debt and getting control of your finances. Plus, you're working together, and you've already got a nice chunk of cash parked in the bank. That tells me you're both wise enough to know the importance of saving.

Your guy can find another job in a couple of weeks, considering his field and experience. Companies everywhere are hiring people right now, and the economy is booming! If he gets out there and really busts it looking for another position lead-

ing up to the wedding, I think you two will be fine. He might even be able to work it out to start right after the honeymoon.

You two have some financial padding, his job is an easy one to replace, and his income will be restored soon if he'll just get out there and make it happen. Go on the honeymoon, and have a wonderful time.

God bless you both!

Dave

Dental insurance for the kids?

Dear Dave,
Should I keep buying dental insurance for my kids, or is it just a gimmick?

Brenda,

Dear Brenda,
Dental insurance is one of those things where it's easy to see that the payout is greater than the return. We've had dental insurance proposed to us at my company several times as an employee benefit, but when you add up what you pay for it you'll find you rarely spend that much on dentistry. In many cases, I advise self-insuring for dental care.

Now, there is a dental discount company I highly recommend called 1Dental.com. This kind of thing is worth it. As a member, you get discounted rates on dental work when you visit an in-network provider. I've gotten to know the folks behind this organization, too, and they're great people.

Hope this helps, Brenda!

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.*

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


 The Russellville Police Department will again be participating with the Russellville Fire Department in the SANTA ASSISTANCE Program. Applications can be picked up at Russellville Police Department from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The deadline to turn in applications for this year's assistance program will be November 23, 2018. Pick-up dates for this year will be December 20-22.


 Russellville 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.


 The Pebble Community Center (100 County Road 3423, Haleyville, AL 35565) will host a gospel singing featuring Primitive Quartet and Heaven's Mountain Band this Friday, November 16 at 7 p.m. Master of Ceremony will be Jerry Edgil of WBTG Radio. Tickets will cost \$10 at the door. (Children under 12 get in free.) Concessions available to benefit the Community Center. For more information, please call 205-486-3026 or 256-436-0015, or go online to PebbleCommunityCenter.com.


 Heritage Fellowship Church will hold a medical benefit singing featuring the Woodalls for Pastor Tim Smith this Saturday, November 17 at 7 p.m. Church is located at 11691 Hwy. 43 South in Russellville. Admission is free, but a love offering will be received for Pastor Tim. For more information, call 256-366-1146.


 New Hope Methodist Church (Hwy. 81 in Russellville) will host an Arts & Crafts Bazaar this Saturday, November 17 from 8 a.m.-until. Everyone is welcome to attend! For more information, call 256-324-5086.


 The Frankfort Community Center will host a chicken stew fundraiser (Riley Taylor recipe) this Saturday, November 17. Serving will begin around 10 a.m. Buy a gallon for \$20 with container, or buy a bowl with trimmings for \$5. All proceeds go toward the upkeep of the Frankfort Community Center!


 This Saturday, November 17, a birthday party for Travis Wammack & The Snakeman Band will be held at Mountain Valley Hee Haw from 7 p.m.-until. No alcoholic beverages or drugs allowed. Admission is free. Directions: From Russellville, follow 243 to Hwy. 79, turn right, go 1/4 mile, third building on left. From Haleyville, follow Hwy. 195 to Hwy. 243, turn left, follow to Hwy. 79, turn left, go 1/4 mile, third building on left. For more information, call 256-332-5479 or 256-810-4840. Sponsored by Welch Roofing & Home Repair.


 The Russellville Civitan Club will hold one of its two annual chicken stew fundraisers this Saturday, November 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Burns Nursing Home in Russellville. Burns Nursing Home is located at 701 Monroe Street NW, off Waterloo Road. You may pre-order chicken stew by calling Civitan president Eric Fike at 256-412-0752. Quarts are \$10 each, two quarts are \$16, three quarts are \$20, and gallon jars are \$24. Proceeds from the sale will benefit local scholarships provided by the Russellville Civitan Club. The club also holds a spring fund raiser that benefits the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.


 This Saturday, November 17, beginning at 11 a.m., the Town of Cherokee will honor one of its sons of the community, Lt. Frankie Lee Wallace, recipient of the U.S. Army Silver Star, the nation's second-highest award to the Congressional Medal of Honor. The town's recognition of Lt. Wallace's devotion to duty and dedication of 18 miles of Hwy. 72 beginning at the Alabama/Mississippi border will officially be dedicated as the "Lt. Frankie Lee Wallace Memorial Highway." All patriots are invited to attend this ceremony in downtown Cherokee, where the program will promptly begin at 11 a.m. If weather prevents the program taking place at the Cherokee Town Stage as scheduled, the event will be redirected to First Baptist Church (305 College Street) in Cherokee.


 This Sunday, November 18, Reedtown Back to Basics Life Skills Center welcomes the community to attend their annual Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner. Free to the public. Come and enjoy! Dinners will be served from 2-4 p.m. For more information, contact Irean Meade at 256-324-0515.

 Antioch C.M.E. Church's Outreach Community Ministry will host a FREE chicken stew meal for the community on Saturday, November 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Canteen in downtown Russellville. Please come enjoy a bowl and be blessed! Call 256-874-4105 for more information.

 Holly Day will be December 1 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the A.W. Todd Centre. Admission is \$5.00 and includes a slice of pizza and canned drink, cookie decorating, games, entertainment and a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus!

 Franklin 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.

 The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre in Russellville on Saturday, December 8 at 7 p.m. General admission seating. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. Call 256-335-4356. The KGB will be the featured act at a show sponsored by the Franklin County Arts Council at the Roxy on the second Saturday of each month.

 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 to attend!

Republican ‘tsunami’ reaches northwest AL

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

While predictions were for a blue wave across the country on Election Day, Franklin County, along with most of Alabama, was hit with a red tsunami.

In a county where their party was once an afterthought, Republicans continued to gain momentum (and elected officials) among their ranks after last Tuesday’s election.

Other than unopposed candidates, no Democrat was elected in Franklin County, where voters overwhelmingly supported Republicans Poncey Robertson (House District Seven), Jamie Kiel (House District 18) and Charles Adcox (Franklin County Coroner).

Though he lost the overall election by 899 votes, Democrat Johnny Mack Morrow carried Franklin County 4,511 to Sen. Larry Stutts’ 3,754 votes. Stutts won six Franklin County boxes, though, compared to only one when he defeated Democrat Roger Bedford, Jr., in 2014. Stutts won the following precincts: Union Community, Vina, Mountain Star, Quinn’s Garage, Hodges and Morrow’s home box of Red Bay.

Ralph Winchester, the Democratic nominee for Franklin County Board of Education District Five, didn’t have a Republican opponent but he still lost, as independent candidate Kacey Hester Johnston defeated Winchester 804-454.

Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee chairman Eddie Britton felt the sting of the Republican wave in two ways. Britton saw his party’s candidates defeated, and he lost his bid for House District 18 to Kiel.

Among Franklin County voters, 2,432 cast straight party Republican ballots, compared to

only 1,060 straight party Democratic votes.

“It obviously went along party lines,” Britton said. “It was almost a three-to-one vote of straight Republican to Democrat. People really never looked beyond the party—that was the bottom line to this election. Statewide, it just happens to be the situation we’re currently in right now.”

Of the 18 offices voted on exclusively by Franklin County voters, eight were elected as Democrats (Shannon Oliver, Sheriff; Terry Dempsey, Circuit Judge; Paula McDowell, District Judge; Anita Morgan Scott, Circuit Clerk; Ralton Baker, Shannon Oliver and Pat Cochran, Franklin County Board of Education and Joey Rushing, District Attorney), eight as Republicans (Veronica Stancil, Revenue Commissioner; Barry Moore, Probate Judge; Chris Wallace, Jason Miller, Rayburn Massey and David Hester, Franklin County Commission; Terry Welborn, Franklin County Board of Education and Charles Adcox, Coroner) and two as independents (Greg Hamilton, Franklin County Superintendent of Education, and Kacey Hester Johnston, Franklin County Board of Education).

Six of the eight Democrats won their most recent election with no Republican opposition.

“We took a hammering. Give the Republicans credit,” Britton said. “They just beat us hands down. I lost my home box two-to-one. That’s disappointing. Johnny Mack [Morrow] lost Red Bay. People tell you they want a clean race. Jamie [Kiel] and I tried to run a clean race, but look at Johnny Mack and Stutts. Stutts lambasted him with lies, a Pinocchio nose mailer, and he did the same thing to Steve Lolley in the Republican Primary.

“People say they’re tired of all that, but in reality they don’t vote that way. Johnny Mack could have

pushed a lot of things on Stutts, but he chose not to because he wanted to run a clean race. We all tried to do that, but unfortunately it didn’t work out. The only thing that mattered in this election is the ‘R.’

“The national Democratic Party is hurting Southern Democrats, both on the state and local level.”

With Republican officials elected to every state office, Alabama is one of, if not the most, Republican state in the nation.

Already holding a Supermajority, Republicans gained another Senate seat to stretch the margin to 28 Republicans and seven Democrats. While Democrats nationally regained control of the House of Representatives, the Republican majority in the United States Senate also grew after last Tuesday’s election.

With the recent resignation of Jeff Sessions as Attorney General, speculation is rampant that Sessions will run in 2020 for his former United States Senate seat currently held by Democrat Doug Jones.

While Republicans hold six of the state’s seven United States House of Representatives seats, Democrat Terri Sewell remains a mainstay in her Democrat-dominated Birmingham area district.

And the news gets no better for Democrats as they eye the 2020 elections in Alabama. That’s because the most popular Republican to Alabamians, President Donald Trump, will again be on the ballot, boosting Republican turnout. Trump garnered more than 62 percent of the vote in Alabama two years ago, and his popularity remains high.

A 2018 Morning Consult poll showed 63 percent of Alabamians giving Trump a favorable rating.

Adcox unseats Malone as Franklin County coroner

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As part of sweeping Republican victories across northwest Alabama, political newcomer Charles Adcox unseated three-term incumbent Elzie Malone as Franklin County coroner.

Adcox received 4,416 votes to Malone’s 4,022, representing a percentage of 52-48.

Malone was first elected in 2006 and won reelection in 2010 and 2014.

Adcox, 32, works as a corrections officer at the Tennessee Valley Juvenile Detention Center. He has served as a volunteer firefighter and has been certified as an emergency medical technician (EMT) since 2012 for the Tharptown Fire

Department. His experience also includes working with an ambulance service for five years. Adcox has served as a reserve deputy for the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office.

The Franklin County Coroner receives an annual salary of \$300, plus an additional \$4,200 annual expense allowance.

During Malone’s tenure, he chose not to utilize deputy coroners, as had been done previously. Adcox has said he plans to use deputy coroners to help reduce the coroner’s response times to death scenes.

Adcox received the majority of votes in 18 of the county’s 26 precincts, including strong showings in Republican hotbeds such as Union (204-97), East Franklin (248-128) and Phil Campbell (341-

172). Malone won Red Bay, 530-493, and was the only Democratic candidate to receive a majority in that box.

Although he did not have an opponent in the Republican Primary, Adcox attended most local political events and was active during the primary season.

“I would like to thank all my supporters during this election,” Adcox said on a social media post last Tuesday. “You all showed up today and voted to put the right person in office. I love each and everyone of y’all. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am pleased to be your new Franklin County Coroner.

“I am blessed to have y’all and this county’s support beside me.”

City council receives update on collapsed building

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council received an update on the structural integrity of the building that partially collapsed last month in downtown Russellville. The property is located at 127 North Jackson Avenue.

After the front of the building collapsed, the previous owner, Pastor Wayne Miller and New Beginnings Worship Center, deeded title to the property to the City of Russellville rather than incur the costs of cleaning up the site and/or repairing

the building.

Richard Edmonds, an engineer from Florence, inspected the building along with Russellville building inspector Bill Fuller last week. Edmonds gave council members an update on his findings at their November 5 meeting.

“From all appearances, it does not appear the rest of the building was adversely affected by the front wall collapse,” Edmonds said. “The foundation looks good. It’s not been compromised. If the city wants to salvage the building, I think it can be.

“I recommend, if you do that, to have a structural engineer and architect work together for plans

for the renovation.”

Edmonds told the council they would need to decide how much work they want to have done on the building, or whether they want to have it demolished.

“Do you just want to put the walls back and fix the floors or renovate the entire building and bring it up to code? The building is secure, but something needs to be done at some point soon if it collapses so nothing falls and injures someone,” Edmonds said.

Councilman William Nale said he believes the

See ‘BUILDING,’ page 11



Gertie, owned by Jadonna Bowen.



Kona, owned by Ryan Lerman.

**Pictured on this page
are more winners
of this year's *Franklin
Free Press* Hallo-Win
Pet Costume Contest!
Each winner (and their
owner) received a gift
basket courtesy of the
Free Press. Congrats to
all who participated!**



Sophie, owned by
Judy & HC Hatmaker.



Skipper, owned by Ty
Hamilton.



Puffy Higgins, owned by
Tracy Higgins.



Jett, owned by the Moss Family
of Russellville.



Petey (left) and Abraham, owned by Darren
and Margie Woodruff of Russellville.



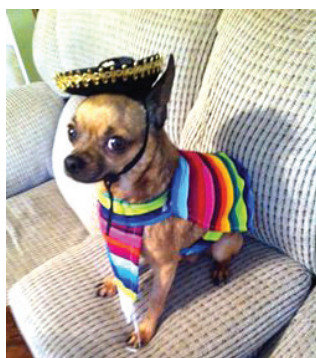
Slugger, owned by Linda Graham.



Zander, owned by Lauren Terry.



Pictured
at
Left:
Tide
the
Bulldog,
owned
by
Kathy
Smith.



Pictured
at
Left:
Prince,
owned
by
Donna
Rogers
of
Vina.



Pictured
at
Left:
Gracie
Hope,
owned by
Jimmie
Faye
Pritchett
of
Russellville.

**For updates on news and
sports throughout the
week, visit us on the web at
www.franklinfreepress.net!**

**Send your creative
submissions to
[franklinfreepress@
yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).**

Letters to the Editor

To the editor:
Johnny Mack Morrow has served people his whole life. This past week the voters of Senate District Six voted against someone who has given his whole life to serving the public. Johnny Mack Morrow has been an educator all his life, and when I went door-to-door or attended events in support of Morrow, I couldn't count how many people said they had him for class at Northwest-Shoals, and how great of a teacher he was. He has been a State Representative for 28 years and he went above and beyond what the average elected official does. He would get phone calls from people he didn't know asking him to find them a job, a dog will not leave my yard, and the countless other calls he got. The first day being down in Red Bay, I was at Morrow's house and a doorbell rang. He answered it and invited the people in. He did not know them, but the only thing he knew is that these people were his constituents and that they had a problem. The problem was that the woman had called countless offices looking for her birth certificate and no one could tell her what to do. Johnny Mack said he would work on it, gave them some jars of honey from his farm and started making phone calls to try to help this woman. He has given his whole life to Franklin County. He has opened his 300-acre farm to the public, and it welcomes thousands of people each year. He hosts countless events on his farm to help the public. He does this out of the kindness of his heart, and the only thing he gains from doing it is the satisfaction of someone learning and enjoying themselves on his property. Johnny Mack Morrow truly wakes up off the pillow in the morning and asks how he can help someone today. Franklin County is lucky to have Johnny Mack and should be incredibly thankful for his dedication to the community. I'm grateful to know him.

Sincerely,
Tucker Marckum

To the editor:
The Blessings from God are so numerous no one could count them. Ninety-Nine percent of them, we take for granted or we are completely unaware of them. I have Multiple Sclerosis, and this has caused me to become acutely aware of how much I need God everyday. On October 10, 2018, I was made aware of just how much God daily walks with me. That day my best friend and I went to Curves, as we try to do at least three times a week. While exercising, my legs quit working and I started experiencing sharp pain in my chest. This is one of many ways that MS attacks. As I started falling, God had placed Tina Seay at my side. She gently lowered me to the floor against the wall. Tina is a wonderful person, and she also works at Curves. During this, 911 was called, along with my wonderful husband Roger and Carrie Fell Maddox (owner of Curves and a nurse). I was later told that all the other ladies at Curves gathered around and began asking God, the Great Physician, for his intervention into my dilemma. Russellville's Fire Department arrived very quickly. Brandon, a fireman/paramedic, began checking my vital signs and soon injected an IV. He kept talking to me and just trying to keep me alert. He was just awesome in his profession. Soon, the ambulance arrived and transported me to Helen Keller Hospital. God had created a great medical team to be there helping me and working together. With my MS, I know there will be other attacks. I thank God for all the great people that He brought to my side and for blessing me so greatly this time. I know God knows exactly when and where future attacks will occur. My God will help me through it, just as he did on October 10, 2018. I am so blessed to have a caring and wonderful husband, family and friends. So please pray for all of our firemen, paramedics, ambulance services, nurses and doctors. Thank you again to everyone involved.

Barbara Kendrick

To the editor:
On Saturday, October 27, GFWC Book Lovers Study Club held their first annual "Walking the Road to Wellness" Breast Cancer Awareness and Fundraising event. We are absolutely thrilled with the response and support we received from the community. Because of this support, we can donate to the Walking the road to Wellness organization and help many women in our area on their journey to recovery and wellness. Thank you to sponsors Alabama Central Credit Union, Bank Independent,

CB&S Bank, Community Spirit Bank, Family Pharmacy Group, First Metro Bank, Grissom Cleaners, Lanny Norris/State Farm Insurance, Perception Bags, Pilgrim's Pride, Roger Bedford & Associates, Sunshine Mills and Valley State Bank for their donations, and to Russellville Hospital for donating water to the event. Thank you to Martha and Johnny Mack Morrow for their personal support to the Walking the Road to Wellness program, and a special thank you to Maudie Bedford for partnering with us and helping to make this event possible.

To the many participants, those that walked and those who pledged, it was only through your active participation that we can continue to help our community in these special ways. We look forward to watching this event grow next year and giving us the opportunity to touch those fighting this disease.

To the members of GFWC Book Lovers and "Walking the Road to Wellness co-chairs Shelia Upchurch and Rebecca Reeves, this could not have been done without the gift of your time and commitment.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the "Walking the Road to Wellness" event next year!

Patricia Cox
President,
GFWC Book Lovers Study Club

(The following is a letter written by a Quincy, Florida resident to Russellville Electric Board Manager Charlie Canida. It is reprinted with permission of the writer:)

To the editor:
My name is Freida Bass, and I am a resident of Quincy, Florida. On October 10 our small city was devastated by Hurricane Michael. After viewing the destruction all around me, I was certain it would take weeks, if not months, to get our power restored. The day after the storm, utility crews from our neighbors to the north and south came pouring into town, and my power was restored in just eight days. I want to take this time to personally thank the Russellville crew that came to our rescue. I know [that] without their help, I would still be sitting in the dark. I saw them working many long, hot hours under less ideal circumstances to help bring some normalcy to our lives. While my city is far from recovered, it is the dedication and professionalism of your team that helped move us closer to regaining our old lives back. When tragedies such as this occur, it is not the destruction you remember, but those who offered help and assistance in your time of need. With this, please know I will always be grateful to all the crew from Russellville that came to help.

Sincerely,
Freida Bass

To the editor:
What an amazing day we had visiting Russellville City students as they graduated from the Super Citizen Program! Our biggest takeaway: They exceeded our expectations academically AND emotionally. Yes, they learned crucial civics, character, finance and career lessons in the classroom. But today they showed us so much more: They brought local "Torch Team Heroes" up on the stage and shared the reasons they chose to honor them. They are already transforming your community by acting on the lessons they learned! See why we got all choked up? See it for yourself: Who did they honor? Who was in attendance? See the recap by heading to this link: [450 Russellville 2nd and 3rd Graders Become Super Citizens, Honor Heroes!](#) HUGE thanks to Alabama Association of RC&D Councils, Alabama Bicentennial, Alabama.gov, AlaTrade Foods Inc., Alfa, Bank Independent, CB&S Bank, Franklin County Community Development Commission, G&G Steel Inc, Russellville City Council, ScreenTech, The Malone Family Foundation and Walmart for giving this opportunity to these wonderful students!

Whether you were able to attend the event or not, please share our students' success! Share the story (and the Liberty Learning mission) with your friends, on your sites and on social media.

We can not thank you enough for helping us improve child, community and country.

Sincerely,
The Liberty Learning Foundation Team



Classifieds

256.332.0255

BUSINESS • LOST & FOUND • GARAGE SALES • PETS • APPLIANCES • HELP WANTED • SERVICES • APPLIANCES • CLOTHING • FURNITURE

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GRAVE For Sale in Franklin Memorial Garden

In the round section. Oldest Garden of Devotion. Call Lois Pounders 205.993.4155

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4.35/12.50 Nitto Mud

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weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Pets For Sale only \$10 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Free of Charge: Lost & Found, Giveaways, and Items Under \$100 (Private Parties Only). 15-word limit; Commercial Classified Rates: \$25 for Businesses, 15 words or less for six weeks. Ads exceeding word limit add \$10 per additional 15 words. The number in parentheses represents the number of times the ad has appeared. Call us at 256-332-0255 to place, cancel or renew your ad. Payment is

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Nine local eateries receive satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Only nine of the 11 Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of October 29-November 2 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. Those scoring below 60 will be immediately closed.

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

Two businesses had ratings below the satisfactory grade. They included Monchi's, 121 North

Washington Ave., Russellville, 75. (No drying device available at restroom sink, no food probe thermometer available, no dates on sliced cabbage or corn soup mixture and no proof of food-service employee reporting agreement, no proof of approved course), and Stockyard Cafe, 14330 Hwy. 243, Russellville, 78. (No food probe thermometer, unapproved source, using sausage that was stamped "Not for Sale," and no proof of food-service employee reporting agreement).

The remaining nine Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 90 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

The highest score was 98, received by Subway 37464, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville.

Inspections of Franklin County businesses, with critical item violations noted, were as follows:

- Captain D's #3737, 15434 Hwy. 43, 90. (Disposition—slaw exceeding date limit).
- Waffle House #2186, 15434 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 90. (Spray bottle of bleach not labeled, grits being held at 130 degrees).
- Sonic Drive-In of Russellville, 15376 Hwy. 43 N., Russellville, 91. (Cracked patty pan).
- Daily Bread BBQ, 305 South Jackson Ave.,

Russellville, 94. (Cooked food in cooler not marked).

•Dollar General #785, 15485 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 95. (No paper towels in restroom).

•Dollar Tree #4179, 15485 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 95. (Freezer condensate dripping and freezing on boxes of food).

•Taco Bell, 15500 Hwy. 43 N, Russellville, 96.

•Subway 24292, 15300 Hwy. 43 N, Russellville, 97.

Of the 17 inspections done in Colbert County from October 29-November 2, two businesses scored below the satisfactory range.

Little Mart/Vedika, Inc, 1495 George Wallace Hwy., Littleville, scored an 81. (No paper towels at hand sink, no backflow preventer on outside hose and chicken wings out of temp in warmer). Yogi's Food Mart, 700 George Wallace Hwy., Littleville, scored an 83. (Mold in ice machine, pizza meat out of temp and chicken out of temp in warmer).

The high score for the week in Colbert County was 100, scored by Dollar General, 819 Hwy. 72 W, Tuscumbia.

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

'TAX,' from page 1

Franklin County for road and bridge improvements.

Now that ATRIP funding is no longer being received by the county, commissioners changed the language on this year's amendment to include 25 percent for road and bridge improvements. The amendment specifically states the funds may not be used for salaries or other expenses not related to roads and bridges.

Franklin County probate judge Barry Moore was pleased not only that the amendment passed, but that it passed by such a convincing margin.

"We appreciate the citizens of Franklin County for the vote they gave on the amendment. It's much appreciated on behalf of the county, and the city and county school systems," Moore said. "These funds will support our school systems, and this is the result of the county and the schools working together. This is a win-win for all of Franklin County."

Franklin County superintendent of education Greg Hamilton said it was important for citizens to know that the tax revenue will be well managed by school officials.

"I want to thank the voters of Franklin County for their overwhelming support of the one-cent sales tax extension," Hamilton said. "This revenue stream will be extremely beneficial to our school system. I pledge to be a good steward of the citizens' tax dollars and use the revenue to provide the resources needed for the education of the children of Franklin County."

The one-cent sales tax has averaged revenue of more than \$2 million annually since it originally passed in 2010. With a 30-year extension, if sales tax remains the same, the tax will generate more than \$60 million over the next 30 years, with \$15 million going to the Franklin County Commission for road and bridge improvements.

Of the \$45 million earmarked for the schools, the anticipated split between the two systems is 58.7-41.3 percent, with Franklin County Schools receiving the larger sum. This split is based on student enrollment in both systems and is divided proportionately. Projected revenue this year is \$1,089,634.40 for Franklin County Schools and \$767,482.23 for Russellville City Schools.

Hamilton and Russellville City Schools superintendent Heath Grimes said the funding stream will allow their systems to move forward with capital improvement projects now that they have a guaranteed source of revenue.

"This overwhelming support of the one-cent sales tax says a great deal about the citizens in our city and county," said Russellville City Schools superintendent Heath Grimes. "While other communities have rejected similar measures, our community continues to recognize the importance of strong financial support for their schools and students."

"Our students and our community will greatly benefit from this investment into the future. The vision and expectations of our schools is truly a mark of excellence. What an amazing community in which to live and work."

'STUTTS' from page 1

calling us from all polling stations," Stutts said. "It was all in by 10 p.m. but the Brilliant box, and we knew we had a large enough lead where that one box wouldn't overcome the difference." [Stutts ended up winning Brilliant.]

A central focus of Morrow's campaign in Marion County was the protection and preservation of Beville State Community College. Morrow formed a Legislative Task Force that filed a lawsuit seeking information from Beville State president Dr. Kim Ennis as to why she announced the closing of several federal workforce programs earlier this year.

Ennis later rescinded her plans after public backlash.

According to the task force members, they reached out to Stutts for assistance in their quest to protect the federal workforce programs, but they said he never responded to their requests.

"I sent out a mailer last week in Marion County outlining what I have done to help Beville State," Stutts said. "The Legislative oversight task force was a publicity stunt to try and sway the voters. Nothing was further from the truth than what they claim."

"I've talked to the people in the community college system to try and work with them, but I didn't hold a press conference to announce that. I just talked to the people in charge about why Beville State was important to the community and how we need to look at some of the statistics about Beville State, like graduation rates, differently and explain them beyond just their face value."

Stutts explained one reason for Beville State's lower than normal graduation rate was they had students dropping out of programs before graduation to take jobs in the industry in which they were trained.

"In the tool and dye program," Stutts said, "there's such demand for those students that they were getting hired before they finished and graduated because they got a good job offer, and the manufacturers said, 'You have enough training through the program, and you can finish up with on-the-job training.' So they put all that on hold and went back to reassess what their programs are doing. I didn't have a press conference though. We just worked out the problem. I didn't file a lawsuit. I talked to the people in charge and said, 'Let's take another look at this.'"

The Stutts-Morrow campaign was contentious, to say the least, with Stutts taking some criticism on social media for what were described as 'attack ads.' But Stutts sees his campaign strategy differently and says all he did was compare and contrast the voting records of the two candidates.

"The difference was I did not attack him personally," Stutts said. "I attacked his record. Everything we did, if you read the fine print, we footnoted the source of the information. Did he give money to Hillary Clinton? Absolutely, and we referenced the Federal Election Commission website. That's a recorded fact."

"All I did was contrast our voting records. I did not attack him personally, and he did attack me personally, as well as attacking my professional credibility. When you run a political race and there's a stark difference in the voting record of the two candidates, it's not negative campaigning to point out the differences. It's simply a contrast. And we documented the source of every bit of that. I didn't make any of it up."

Stutts' margin of victory was two percent, 51-49, as the race lived up to forecasts that it would be one of Alabama's closest legislative battles. Stutts received a boost in the campaign's final week when Rep. Robert Aderholt publicly endorsed Stutts and held a rally in Russellville on November 1.

"I have a lot of respect for Congressman Aderholt, and that meant a tremendous amount to me," Stutts said. "I was very honored to receive his support. I didn't ask him—he called me and asked if he could host an event in the district to help my campaign. I appreciated that very much."

Stutts said he hopes to take a few days off around Thanksgiving to spend with his family after what has been a ten-month campaign.

Stutts' wife Jackie has dealt with the strain of the campaign along with her mother being hospitalized in Helen Keller Hospital's Intensive Care Unit last week.

"Jackie spent nights sleeping in a chair in the ICU with her mother," Stutts said. "It was a rough few weeks. But her mother is doing better and is staying with us a few weeks, so we'll spend some time focusing on family."

'BUILDING' from page 7

city needs to act quickly as to what course of action will be taken.

"We need to get started on it right away," Nale said.

The building was constructed in 1904. Edmonds said it might be more costly to demolish the building because it has a party wall that is shared with the adjoining building, and there are additional costs associated with that.

Although the council took no official action at last Monday's meeting, the options available include selling the property, renovating it or demolishing it.

In other action, the council:

- Authorized Mayor David Grissom to sign and submit a letter to the Alabama Department of Transportation to request additional funding for the

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--Larry Stutts



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RCS Board okays personnel moves, facility use requests

John Pilati

Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education accepted the resignation of long-time educator James Bostick at a short meeting held on October 17.

Bostick resigned his position as a part-time teacher at Russellville Middle School, effective September 28, 2018.

In other moves, the board:

- Voted board member Judy Pounders as delegate and Greg Batchelor as alternate delegate to the Alabama Association of School Boards.

- Approved the ASSIST Continuous Improvement Plan (ACIPS) for all four schools in the system.

- Approved facility use requests including: June 21, 2019, for Northwest Alabama 4-H to host the 2019 Regional Congress; October 27, 2018, for the Book Lovers Study Club to host the first annual "Walking the Road to Wellness" at the RHS Touchdown Club and athletic facility; December 13, 2018, for the Alabama Rural Water Association to conduct a training session at the RCS Board Room.

- Approved a contract between Stuart Mills and the RHS Band Parent Program for stadium clean-up for the 2018-19 school year.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Schools Board of Education will be Thursday, November 16 at 4 p.m., with work session at 3 p.m.

TAP sidewalk project on Madison, Lauderdale and Coffee. The additional amount, if approved, would bring the project to a base bid of \$391,000, with the city's match to be \$64,000.

- Approved an agreement with ALDOT to make improvements on the Walnut Gate Road railroad crossing in the amount of \$330,000. The city's match will be 10 percent of the project cost. Work is estimated to begin in six to 12 months.

- Approved the hiring of two police officers, Steven Bullion and Drake Seal.

- Approved the request to waive the rental fee at the Todd Centre for use by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce on December 1 for Holly Day.

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Week 12 in the SEC

Last week's record: 4-0
Year-to-date: 29-15

Saturday, November 17
Arkansas at Mississippi St.

Saturday's shutout in Tuscaloosa marked the fourth time this season that Mississippi State has been held to seven points or less in an SEC game. [That had only happened to the Bulldogs four times in the previous five seasons under Dan Mullen.] State is now averaging a paltry 11.2 points per game in conference play, the worst mark in the league by more than a touchdown.

On the bright side, the Bulldog defense certainly did its part against Alabama, roughing up Tua Tagovailoa and holding the Tide to season lows in points (24) and total yards (305). State is holding opponents to a league-low 4.3 yards per play while ranking top-four in the SEC in sacks and tackles for loss.

Next up is an Arkansas offense that has yielded 21 sacks and committed an SEC-worst 21 turnovers this season while averaging just 22.0 points per game in conference play. The Bulldogs should bounce back.

The Pick: Mississippi St. 20 Arkansas 14 Missouri at Tennessee

Last week's upset of Kentucky has Tennessee one win away from bowl eligibility, which would be something for Jeremy Pruitt to hang his hat on in year number one. With this home game against Missouri and a trip to Nashville still on the schedule, a bowl bid is certainly within reach.

It may have to wait a week, though. Tennessee caught an offense-starved Kentucky team at exactly the right time and took advantage; Missouri is a different animal. UT has an equal-opportunity defense (16 touchdowns allowed through the air, 15 on the ground), and the Tigers possess the balance (277 passing yards per game, 195 rushing) to exploit that D.

The Pick: Missouri 31 Tennessee 24 Ole Miss at Vanderbilt

Vandy must win its final two games to get bowl-eligible, but if the Commodores end up home for the holidays they'll certainly regret not being able to hold onto double-digit leads against Florida and Missouri. Vandy was up 21-10 on Mizzou last week in the second quarter but couldn't close the deal.

Scoring is down almost across the board in the SEC this year, but Ole Miss has been the cure for what ails the common offense. All but one of the Rebels' conference games thus far have produced a total of at least 60 points.

With two pretty good quarterbacks trading punches [Kyle Shurmur has six touchdown passes and no picks in his last three games and a 17:5 TD/INT ratio on the season that is identical to that of Jordan Ta'amu], Saturday's game should follow suit.

The Pick: Vanderbilt 34 Ole Miss 31



Mike Self
Sports Editor

Time for tip-off

Three local teams set to take part in Red Bay Shootout

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

With virtually every key contributor returning for Red Bay on the heels of an 18-win season that ended in Hanceville, there's little doubt that the Tigers are going to be good this year.

The trick for head coach John Torisky is to convince his players that *good* isn't good enough.

"It's no secret that we're gonna be really competitive this year, with all the guys we've got coming back," said Torisky, who in his third season led Red Bay to an 18-13 record and its first regional appearance since 1995. "Our main goal is to make sure our guys stay focused. We have a good

See 'SHOOTOUT,' Page 14



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

After a breakout junior season in which he averaged 16.5 points per game, Weatherford (15) is back to lead a loaded Tiger team.

Red Bay advances with OT win Tigers travel to take on unbeaten Ohatchee in round two

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Mistakes made in a regular season game—no matter how many—can be corrected the following week. The postseason, however, is different. Make too many mistakes in a playoff game, and the opportunity to correct them might not come until the following season.

That's why the vibe among the Red Bay coaching staff following last Friday's 16-14 overtime win over Winston County was less fist-pump and more wiping of the brow. The collective *whew* emanating from the home sideline at Fred Bostick Memorial Stadium could be heard clear across Franklin County.

"Our kids were real excited," said fifth-year head coach Michael Jackson, whose team punched its ticket to the second round when senior quarterback Kolby Bragwell converted the try for two following Colbie King's game-tying 10-yard touchdown run in the first overtime period.

See 'RED BAY,' Page 16



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Three-year starters Bragwell (4) and Ingle (66), the two most experienced Tigers, will lead Red Bay against an undefeated Ohatchee team in the second round of the Class 2A playoffs this Friday. The Tigers, winners of their last six games, haven't advanced to the state quarterfinals since 2007.

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Cam McKinney

Sophomore LB, Red Bay

McKinney led an outstanding effort by the Tiger defense last Friday night, recording a season-high 17 tackles in a 16-14 OT win over Winston County in the first round of the Class 2A playoffs. The 6'0, 241-pound sophomore made a critical stop in overtime, denying a two-point conversion attempt by the Yellow Jackets after they had scored to take a 14-8 lead. Red Bay answered with a touchdown and successful two-point try to secure the win.

On the season, McKinney leads the Tigers with 94 total tackles.



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'SHOOTOUT,' from page 13

team. But we're not gonna be satisfied with just being good."

With that in mind, Torisky has beefed up a schedule that was already challenging, adding games against Deshler (last year's Class 4A Northwest Regional runner-up) and Mars Hill (which beat Red Bay 62-58 in the Class 2A Northwest Regional semifinals this past February). The Tigers are also scheduled to face reigning Class 2A Northwest Regional champion Tanner at a tournament in Hanceville, and Torisky's team will open the season this Saturday night at 8 p.m. against a very good Decatur Heritage team in the final game of the day at the inaugural Red Bay Shootout.

Decatur Heritage fell just short of the Class 1A Final Four last year, falling 60-54 to powerhouse Sacred Heart in the Northeast Regional final. The Eagles are led by 6'8 senior Noah Boler, who has received offers to play at Alabama A&M, David Lipscomb, UT-Martin and Lee University.

"We always try to play a good schedule, and we've added some tough teams this year," Torisky said. "Decatur Heritage is really good, and they'll be playing their fourth or fifth game of the year when we see them. It'll be our first game, and we've talked about that with our guys. It's gonna be a good test for us to see where we are."

"It's no secret that we're gonna be really competitive this year, with all the guys we've got coming back," said Torisky, who in his third season led Red Bay to an 18-13 record and its first regional appearance since 1995. "Our main goal is to make sure our guys stay focused. We have a good team. But we're not gonna be satisfied with just being good."

Red Bay/DHCA will be the fifth and final game of Saturday's Shootout, which tips off with Phil Campbell's boys against Oakman at 2 p.m. and also features Tanner's girls against Oakman at 3:30, Hatton's boys against Covenant Christian at 5:00 and Belgreen's girls against Haleyville at 6:30.

The nightcap between the Tigers and the Eagles is certainly the headliner, given the returning talent on both sides. Boler is the top attraction, but Red Bay has a roster loaded with size, shooting and experience.

Leading the way is 6'3 senior forward Gath Weatherford, who averaged a career-high 16.5 points per game last year. Weatherford topped the 20-point mark 11 times in his breakout junior season and was remarkably efficient, shooting 53.3 percent from two-point range, 40.3 percent from beyond the arc and 78.8 percent from the foul line.

Weatherford, who also averaged a team-best 7.4 rebounds per game, is joined by fellow returning starters Clay Allison, Colton Corum and Hunter Bays, with 6'3 sophomore Braden Ray poised to break out after averaging 9.0 points per game off the bench as a freshman last season.

"Last year was kind of Gath's year to break out," Torisky said. "He really stepped up. He's still gonna be great for us, but teams are gonna make him their main focus now. The good thing is that all those guys around him have improved. You can't really focus on one guy, because we have other guys who can hurt you."

"We've got five or six guys who can get 20 points on a given night. It might not be consistent, because you don't know where it's gonna come from, but that just makes us harder to defend."

Allison, the team's lightning-quick point guard, averaged 9.1 points per game as a sophomore last season after transferring in from Vina. He led the team in assists (68), steals (53) and deflections (48) while also ranking second in threes made (37). He'll be joined on the perimeter by seniors Corum (6.6 points and 3.7 rebounds per game, with 33 threes) and Bays (3.1 points and 2.1 assists per game, with 34 steals).

"The good thing about all those guys is that they can all spot up and hit a three," said Torisky, whose team made 172 three-pointers last season while shooting a very solid 67 percent from the foul line.

The key to Red Bay taking the next step could rest with Ray, who is another inside-outside threat in the same mold as Weatherford. Ray hit 22 threes as a freshman last year and also used his length and athleticism to block a team-high 22 shots. He shot 53 percent from two-point range, 36 percent from three and 71 percent from the foul line while also averaging 5.0 rebounds per game.

Ray scored in double-figures 12 times as a freshman, a number Torisky expects to rise significantly this season.

"He's every bit of 6'3, and he plays bigger than that because his arms are so long," Torisky said of Ray, who scored 16 points last December in a win over Russellville at the Bracy Invitational. "He had a great summer. He played some AAU ball. He's gonna be more aggressive this year. I expect him to look for his shot a little more. He could make a big jump this year, in terms of scoring."

The Tigers have solid depth as well, with seniors Noah Brewer and Kylan Joseph coming off the bench along with juniors Tanner Hamilton and Arden Hamilton and 6'5 sophomore Lane Shewbart. The rotation will get even deeper when sophomores Jalen Vinson and Alex Kennedy join the fray after

See 'SHOOTOUT,' page 15

New-look Bobcats open Shootout with Oakman

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Throughout his first four seasons as head boys basketball coach at his alma mater, Phil Campbell's Brett Thomas always had the luxury of running his offense through a productive low-post presence.

That won't be the case for Thomas in year number five.

"This is a different team," said Thomas, whose Bobcats were scheduled to tip off the new season Tuesday night at Tharptown and will face Oakman at 2 p.m. on Saturday in the opening game of the inaugural Red Bay Shootout. "We're young, and we're small. This is really the first time we haven't had a guy we could play through in the post. Whether it was Hayden Bell or Noah Williams or Hayden Copeland or Peyton [Thomas, who graduated in May after scoring 1,345 career points], we've always had a guy we could throw the ball to and make the defense honor the paint.

"I prefer to play inside-out on offense, but this team will have to play a different style. We'll have to spread the floor, play a little more up-tempo, pass and cut, and shoot the three. We may take more threes than we do two's. I just hope they go in."

Fittingly, Phil Campbell's most prolific perimeter shooter from a year ago, Nate Owens, figures to log major minutes this season at the five.

"He'll be more of a stretch-five," Thomas said of the 6'0 Owens, who made 34 threes last season as a junior and averaged 8.5 points per game, tops among returning players. "Nate's an excellent three-point shooter. Hopefully he can pull the [opposing] big man to the perimeter and open things up for us a little. Defensively, though, he'll have to play in the paint and guard some big guys."

Owens is by no means the only three-point threat the Bobcats have. Sophomore guards Luke Garrison and Brett Saint, both of whom were forced into action at the varsity level last season due to injuries, are expected to play pivotal roles on the perimeter this year. Saint will serve as the team's primary ball-handler, and Garrison—who flashed big-time scoring potential early last season with games of 16 points at Hackleburg and 18 points at Lamar County—will be counted on to knock down shots on a consistent basis.

"Those guys are young, but we're expecting big things out of both of them," Thomas said. "Brett got to play some last year because of the injuries we had, and he's worked really hard. Luke is just a gym rat. He'd sleep in the gym if his mom and dad would let him. He's what I call a pure shooter. He's

See 'BOBCATS,' Page 19

'SHOOTOUT', from page 14

football season ends.

In the game immediately preceding Red Bay and Decatur Heritage on Saturday, Belgreen's girls will open their season against Haleyville at 6:30 p.m. The Lady Bulldogs must replace guard Jasmine Martin (a first-team All-County selection last season by the *Free Press*), but every other key contributor—with the possible exception of senior post player Camie Terrell, who is dealing with a knee injury—is back from last year's 20-win team that lost to Holy Spirit in the regional semifinals.

Head coach Chad Green's team is led in the low post by 6'1 sophomore Emma Dempsey, who averaged 9.8 points per game last season and has already surpassed the 600-point mark for her varsity career. Dempsey led Belgreen with 87 offensive rebounds last year and averaged 5.7 total boards per game to go along with 1.7 blocks.

Joining Dempsey in the post will be junior Ansley Tate (7.2 points and 4.6 rebounds per game last season), Terrell (provided her knee injury isn't serious) and Megan Smith (who is coming off a knee injury of her own). There is also athletic junior Katie Dempsey, who averaged 6.3 points and 4.6 rebounds per game last season while shooting a solid 64 percent from the foul line on 119 attempts.

Senior guard Gabbie Moore (9.2 points per game last season) is back to lead an experienced perimeter rotation. Moore led the Lady Bulldogs with 3.1 assists per game as a junior and ranked second with 54 steals (2.1 per game). She also knocked down 31 threes last season and is just eight points shy of 700 for her varsity career.

Guards Gracie Dempsey (6.5 points per game last season, plus 24 threes made and 43 steals) and Emma Willingham (3.0 points per game, 37 steals) are both standouts on the defensive end, and junior guard Autumn Bragwell is the team's leading returning three-point shooter after drilling 42 a year ago. Bragwell averaged 5.6 points per game as a sophomore and also shot a team-best 75 percent from the foul line.

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'RED BAY,' from page 13

"There was a lot of relief from all of our coaches. We shot ourselves in the foot a few times. Winston County played a good, solid game, and we made some mistakes early in the game that kept us from getting out in front."

"But sometimes in the playoffs, when you don't play your best, you have to find a way to win, and that's exactly what our kids did. They found a way to win."

Red Bay's opening drive ended with a turnover, one of three by the Tigers (9-2) in the first half. Winston County (6-5) took advantage of the early miscue, jumping out to a 6-0 lead when quarterback Brooks Bonds hooked up with fellow sophomore Austin Owens for a 31-yard touchdown pass on fourth-and-seven with 2:55 left in the first quarter. Bonds ran in the two-point conversion, and the Yellow Jackets led 8-0.

In addition to the turnovers, Red Bay also committed a costly penalty that nullified a big play, but the Tigers got on the board late in the first half when Bragwell rambled for 30 yards on a quarterback sweep to set up his own one-yard touchdown run. King converted the try for two, tying the game 8-8 with 2:16 left before the break.

In the locker room at halftime, Jackson addressed the missed opportunities but also urged his team to stay the course.

"The main thing we told them was, 'Keep your composure.' We knew we had made some mistakes that cost us some points," Jackson said. "Our defense plays well, so our goal is to try to get out in front, and usually our defense takes care of the rest. We moved the ball well at times in the first half, but we turned it over inside their twenty-yard

line. Plus, we had a long run down to about their forty that got called back on a penalty.

"They were doing some things up front [defensively] that were giving us some difficulty, but we thought we could adjust to it in the second half. We made a few minor adjustments to help us out in the run game, but Winston County kept the ball away from us. They did a good job of running the clock and taking away our opportunities. The second half went by fast, because they were holding the football and we weren't converting the drives we had."

The Yellow Jackets threatened to win the game late in regulation, driving down to the Red Bay 15-yard line before the Tigers stopped them short of the line to gain on a fourth-and-six play in the final seconds. Winston County got the ball first in overtime and found the end zone on fourth down, taking a 14-8 lead on a two-yard touchdown run by Owens.

Head coach Mark Mitchell elected to go for two, but Red Bay sophomore linebacker Cam McKinney—who made a team-high 17 tackles on the night—came up with a big stop to deny the conversion attempt.

"I know their coach pretty well," Jackson said late on Friday night. "They usually kick extra points. Earlier in the game, after their first touchdown, they kicked the extra point and missed it, but we got called for roughing the kicker. Then they went for two and got it. When they scored in overtime, [Mitchell] knew he had to go for two, because he knew that if we scored, we would go for two. That's what he told me after the game."

The Tigers wasted no time on their first overtime

possession, scoring on the first play when King found the end zone from 10 yards out on a play. Red Bay hadn't run all season prior to last Friday night.

"This was the first game we'd run it," Jackson said. "They were taking away one of our power plays all night with their big defensive front. They had a 260-pound defensive end who we had a hard time dealing with. The play Colbie scored on in overtime was Power, but we split the defender. We didn't block him the way we usually would block him. We influenced him with one guy and blocked him with another one. We hadn't run it like that until this week, but we ended up needing it."

With the score tied 14-14, there was no doubt the Tigers—as they've done all season—would be going for two. And Jackson knew exactly the play he wanted to run with the game on the line.

"Quarterback sweep. I knew we needed to run something wide, and we had hurt them on that play earlier in the game a time or two," Jackson said. "I knew they would get all their guys inside, so we elected to go with Kolby on the sweep. He's so big, and he was able to find a lane and get it in there."

The 6'2, 215-pound Bragwell converted the try for two, giving the Tigers their sixth straight win and sending them to the second round of the Class 2A playoffs for the first time since 2015. Afterward, Jackson praised his team's defense for delivering a clutch performance on a night when a normally potent offense struggled to put points on the board.

"It was one of those games where we really

See 'RED BAY,' page 17

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Good AIM: Local trapshooters right on target at competition

Submitted to the FFP

Local youth teams from the Shoals area participated in the 2018 Amateur Trapshooting Association AIM Events.

Shooters were eligible for a team and individual awards. The AIM events are held in Sparta, IL.

Shooters compete in single, handicap and doubles competitions. Individual singles winners were: Pre- Sub Class B Champion Nathan Richardson; Sub-Junior Class AA Champion Kolton Robinson; Junior Gold Class C Runner-Up Jonathan Lynch.

Individual Handicap winner was Junior Tenth Turner Collum. Individual Doubles winners were: Pre-Sub Class C Champion Nathan Richardson; Sub-Junior Class A Champion Kolton Robinson.

High-All-Around winners were: Pre-Sub Class B Champion Nathan Richardson; Sub-Junior Class A Champion Walsh Nelson.

Team Winners were: Junior Class A Champion Waterfall Valley Claybusters (including members Jake James, Turner Collum, Andrew Wood, Noah McNinnis and Tyler Biddle); Junior Class C Champion Cedar Hill Smokin' Guns (including members Rylee Rogers, Cody Richardson,

Reagan Lindsey, Jackson Mitchell and Kolton Robinson).

Trapshooting is a growing youth sport in north Alabama, according to Alabama AIM director Greg Robinson. Robinson noted that youth shooting sports are one of the safest participation sports. It is safer than soccer, football, basketball and baseball.

AIM stands for Academic, Integrity and Marksmanship. Robinson explained that youth shooters from across the state and north Alabama compete in sponsored ATA/AIM events to win individuals awards, and several youth shooters compete in other surrounding state competitions known as the Southern Zone and placed very well.

Shooters gain points for placing in these events, and the Amateur Trapshooting Association recognizes the top 25 shooters for the Sub-Junior category. One local shooter, Kolton Robinson from Cherokee, recently made the Amateur Trapshooting Association All-American team.

Kolton is the first ever youth shooter in Alabama to be ranked in the top 25 All-American.

If you would like to get involved and learn the sport of trapshooting Mr. Robinson can be reached at alabamaim@gmail.com.

'RED BAY,' from page 16

couldn't throw the ball well because of the elements. There was no rain, but the field was soaked, and it was extremely cold," said Jackson, whose team did not complete a pass in six attempts and finished with exactly 200 rushing yards on 44 carries. "We just kind of had to gut it out, and our defense played outstanding. They were excellent. Coach [Jamie] Purser and Coach [Richard] Maggerise did a great job with scheming what they do. [Winston County] has a 1,500-yard rusher [Owens], and he gained some yards on us. He's a quick kid, and he's hard to tackle in space. But we kept them bottled up for the most part.

"Of the seven first downs they had, four of them came on the first drive. Our defense only gave up three first downs after the first drive. We played really well the rest of the game."

Winston County finished the night with 215 total yards, including 170 rushing yards on 46 carries. McKinney's 17 tackles were a season-high, and linemen Elijah Ingle (a senior) and Levi Blanton (a freshman) each recorded 12 tackles for Red Bay. End Logan Scott and linebacker Gavin Edgmon made nine stops apiece.

King, the Tigers' junior tailback who rushed for 1,233 yards during the regular season, added 115 more (and a touchdown) on 30 carries Friday night. Bragwell ran seven times for 65 yards and a score, and Colyn Humphres rushed for 20 yards on seven attempts.

Red Bay will hit the road in round two this Friday to take on No. 2 Ohatchee, which improved to 10-

0 with a 47-12 rout of Cedar Bluff in round one. If the Tigers are to earn their first quarterfinal berth since 2007, Jackson knows they'll have to play a much more efficient, complete game against an Ohatchee team that has out-scored its opponents by an average margin of 44-13 this year.

"We'll have to play a little more disciplined and take care of the football," said Jackson, who is now 42-13 overall and 2-3 in the playoffs at Red Bay. "They're extremely quick and extremely disciplined, and they play with a lot of confidence because they've dropped down from 3A last year to 2A this year, and they were a good 3A team. They were 8-3 in 3A, and I knew they would have some confidence coming down to 2A.

"I think it'll be a fast game. They don't throw the ball very much. They probably only throw two to four passes a game, just to keep people off guard."

Jackson traveled to Ohatchee in Week 10 to watch the Indians beat Pleasant Valley 26-6 in their regular season finale. He came away impressed not only with the team he saw but also the atmosphere he experienced.

"They have a huge following," he said last Friday night. "It'll be a sellout there. We're going to play in a big-time atmosphere. It'll be a big-time environment. None of our guys have ever played in an environment like the one we're gonna see next week.

"It'll be the most exciting atmosphere we've played a game in over the last five years."

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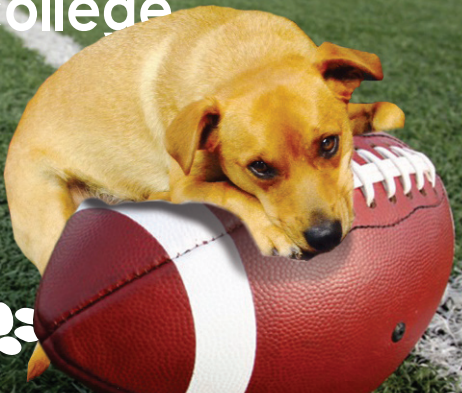
Scouting the Indians

Red Bay coach Michael Jackson sizes up the Tigers' second-round opponent, Ohatchee

"Ohatchee is averaging 43 points a game and giving up 13. They're coming off their first-ever undefeated regular season, so they are playing with a lot of confidence. We must make them drive the ball and stay away from them making big plays. They are a ball-control power team, so we'll have to play good on the offensive and defensive lines. The strength of their team is at the line of scrimmage, with their front six on defense and their point-of-attack blocking on offense. We'll have to convert our third- and fourth-down plays to be successful Friday night."



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Ole Miss at Vanderbilt	Vanderbilt	
Cincinnati at Central Florida	Central Florida	
Michigan St. at Nebraska	Nebraska	
Wisconsin at Purdue	Purdue	
West Virginia at Oklahoma St.	West Virginia	
Syracuse at Notre Dame	Notre Dame	
Iowa State at Texas	Texas	
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'BOBCATS' from page 15

got a great stroke. He's a nephew to Jonathan [Odom, the former Phil Campbell star who went on to play at Northwest-Shoals], and he reminds me of him. He can really shoot it."

Saint and Garrison will be joined in the guard rotation by junior Ben Williams, who logged more varsity minutes last season than any returning player other than Owens. Rugged sophomore Ridge Raper—who is still dealing with issues from the bruised ribs he suffered during football season—will shuffle between the three and four spots and will be counted on to provide toughness and a physical presence in the paint.

"Ridge is a good-sized kid, and he's tough," Thomas said. "He's nowhere near a hundred percent right now, but his pain threshold is pretty high. He's been battling through it."

Fellow sophomores Luke Barnwell and Austen Baker, junior Easton Cummings and senior Isaac Riddle also figure prominently into the mix.

"We go nine or ten guys deep," Thomas said. "We've probably got ten or eleven guys who could give us significant minutes this year. Isaac Riddle is a guy who was with us when he was younger and then transferred out. He's back here now as a

senior, and we're glad to have him back. He's a good athlete. He's got a good vertical, he can shoot it and he's been a good teammate."

Nearly everyone on the Bobcats' varsity roster also played football, so a transition period is certainly to be expected.

"Seven of these guys, I believe, just got out of football, so we'll have to shake off the rust pretty quick," Thomas said on Sunday afternoon. "We've only had four or five practices with everybody out."

One obvious concern with the lack of size is rebounding, which Thomas said will have to be a total team effort.

"Everybody has to go to the boards, one through five," he said. "Our guys know we can't out-jump people. We figured that out real quick this summer. We have to be fundamentally sound. We'll have to put a butt on people and box out, because if we don't, it's gonna be a long night."

If in fact the Bobcats are to be a little more run-and-gun and a little less ground-and-pound this season, Thomas said he's more than willing to adapt.

"I don't mind playing this way at all," he said. "We definitely have the personnel to do it."

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