

PRSR STD US POSTAGE  
 PAID Franklin Free Press  
 113 Washington Ave. NW  
 Russellville, AL 35663

FranklinFreePress.net 11.21.18

# VFW honors award winners at annual Veterans Day reception

Brady Petree  
 Franklin Free Press

On Veterans Day each year we thank and honor those who have served in our nation's military in some form. In addition to honoring our nation's soldiers and military personnel, this Veterans Day local VFW post #5184 honored others that have helped both protect and serve their community. Post 5184 hands out a few different awards for positions such as Teacher of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, as well as an award for the best Veterans Day speeches from two students with Russellville City Schools.

This year's winners were presented with their awards during a Veterans Day ceremony held at the A.W. Todd Centre following the parade in downtown Russellville on Sunday, November 11. The ceremony was attended by numerous local veterans, as well as first responders and others.

Bill Jackson is president of the local VFW Post, which takes in submissions from local fire departments, police departments, and the city and county school systems in Franklin County. Jackson says that the VFW post has received an outpouring of support from the community and the sponsors that made the event possible.

**"We had great support this year from the community, and we had a lot of great help from all of our sponsors,"** Jackson said. **"We are very proud of the community and of the winners of each of our awards as well. They each showed their true patriotism through different acts, and we thought they really did a great job."**

**"We had great support this year from the community, and we had a lot of great help from all of our sponsors,"** Jackson said. **"We are very proud of the community and of the winners of each of our awards as well. They each showed their true patriotism through different acts, and we thought they really did a great job."**

See 'AWARD,' Page 8



**We're All Ears!**  
 Have an opinion? **256.332.0255**  
 Story idea?  
 Let us know!  
**FFP 256.332.0255**

# Johnston brings parental point of view to Franklin County BOE

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

For Kacey Hester Johnston, last Tuesday's election results both surprised and humbled her.

Johnston, who ran as an independent candidate, defeated former Franklin County Board of Education District Five member and Democratic nominee Ralph Winchester 804 votes to 454. There was no Republican candidate in the race.

Johnston won four of the five boxes that comprise District Five, with victories in Red Bay, Pleasant Site, Halltown and in absentee voting. Winchester carried the Frankfort box 24-12.

"I was very honored and humbled that we could get that kind of number," Johnston said. "It was a surprise. Mr. Winchester worked really hard, and we did too. But it was definitely a surprise. Those were some good numbers."

See 'JOHNSTON,' Page 3



Kacey Hester Johnston

**Taking care of your family's dental needs**  
 Brett M. Bowen, DDS  
**Bowen Family Dentistry**  
 243 Underwood Road • Russellville **256.332.4000**

**FRANKLIN FREE PRESS**  
 YOUR HOMETOWN, "GOOD NEWS" NEWSPAPER!  
 Follow me!  
 No WiFi then...  
 No WiFi now!  
 Take us anywhere!  
**FRANKLIN FREE PRESS**  
 YOUR HOMETOWN, "GOOD NEWS" NEWSPAPER!

**Residential Commercial**  
**SOUTHERN COMFORT SERVICES**  
 HEATING COOLING  
 We Service All Brands!  
**(256) 394-4662**

**Always online...**  
 franklinfreepress.net  
 FRANKLIN FREE PRESS  
 YOUR HOMETOWN, "GOOD NEWS" NEWSPAPER!

**DOE'S EAT PLACE**  
 Russellville  
**Not a restaurant, but an eating place...**  
**256-277-5014**  
 114 N. Jackson Avenue  
**Mon.-Sat. 5-9**

**Russell Bien, CRNP**  
 Nurse Practitioner  
**SHOALS PRIMARY CARE**  
 Offering general medical care services for the entire family  
 340 Cox Blvd • Sheffield, AL  
**256.383.4473**  
 Ext. 2021

**FAMILY Pharmacy GROUP**  
 BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama  
**Hometown Pharmacy**  
 Accepting Tricare and BCBS  
 609 Gandy St  
**256.332.7400**  
 familypharmacygroup.com



Where Everybody  
Knows Your Name...



**FREE Local Delivery**  
**FREE Curbside Assistance**  
**Mail Order Delivery\***

We are a  **Blue Cross-Blue Shield Preferred Pharmacy!**

\*Within the state of Alabama

**(256)331-1919**  
14001 Hwy 43,  
Suite 13  
Franklin Shopping Ctr

**RUSSELLVILLE DRUGS**  
FREE Local Delivery!

**FRANKLIN MEMORY GARDENS**



We offer ground burial, mausoleum and cremation spaces. All may be purchased at need or pre-need to include the burial vault and bronze memorial.

*Providing a peaceful, beautiful and serene cemetery for the people of Franklin County.*

**Carolyn Atkins Porter** *Since 1960*  
2710 Waterloo Road • 256.332.2115

"In Memory of our loved ones..."

brought to you by Atkins Marble and Granite Works and Franklin Memory Gardens

**Thelma Hightower Dobbs**, Tuscumbia, age 82

Died Thursday, November 15, 2018. Funeral held at Fulton Bridge Baptist Church in Hamilton. Interment in Fulton Bridge Church Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

**Collins Rae Howard**, Russellville, age 5 months

Died Wednesday, November 14, 2018. She was the daughter of Nicholas and Kendra Clement Howard of Russellville. A private graveside service was held at Franklin Memory Gardens. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.



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

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

\*Sale good November 14 through November 20\*



**MARTY'S MEAT MARKET**

This Week's **Specials**

*Fresh Lean*  
**Ground Beef**  
\$2.19 lb.  
fam. pack

*Boston Butt*  
**Pork Roast**  
\$1.39 lb.  
2/pk.

*Fieldstone*  
**Whole Smoked Hams**  
\$1.59 lb.

*New York*  
**Strip Steaks**  
\$5.99 lb.

*Boneless*  
**Sirloin Tip Roast**  
\$3.59 lb.

*Smoked*  
**Sliced Bacon**  
\$3.99 lb.  
fam. pk.

**Country Style Pork Ribs** \$1.99 lb.

**Pillsbury Biscuits**  
\$4.99 / 20-ct.

**Value Chicken Fingers**  
\$12.99 / 5-lb. bag

**Zeigler Whole Smoked Hams** \$3.69 lb.

**Cut Fresh Daily!**

Register to Win a FREE 18-20 lb. Ham for Thanksgiving!  
To Be Given Away Nov. 21st!



256-331-9285 • 85 Scotty Moore Dr  
Mon.-Sat. 8 to 6 and Sunday 10-6

**EyeCare Professionals**

Buy a pair of lenses, get the frames for FREE!

Select Frames Only.



Dr. Wayne Stevens

Dr. Martha Morrow

Dr. David Britton

"Where healthy eyes are our focus"

[eyecareprofessionalspc.com](http://eyecareprofessionalspc.com)  
15255 Hwy 43 • Russellville • 256.332.5440

**Kevin G. Kelly, M.D.**

Serving your family for over 30 years

FAMILY PRACTICE  
Pediatrics  
Newborn Care  
256-331-25901

**Urgent Care**

Walk-in Clinic

**We are still here!**

- Entrance located on right side closest to Fred's
- Please excuse our growing pains.

No Appointment Needed

13150 Hwy. 43 Suite 10  
Russellville, AL  
(intersection of Hwy. 24 and Hwy. 43)

**256-331-2092**





# NAMC prepares to move facility in just one day

Submitted to the FFP

Construction is finishing up at North Alabama Medical Center (NAMC), and the new facility is almost ready for patients to move in.

The one-day moving plan is in place to transport operations from existing location, Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital (ECM) at South Marengo Street, to NAMC's location on Veterans Drive. Hospital leaders have been planning the move for about a year, creating a detailed process to ensure the move is seamless.

Move manuals have been created for managers and directors at NAMC to follow, informing everyone of their specific roles and responsibilities on the day of the move. Simulated moves will take place before December 6 to identify areas in the plan that may need improvement. Table-top drills have already begun to assist managers and directors in preparation for the operations of the move.

On December 6, 30 ambulances will assist in

transporting patients, starting at 8 a.m.

"Along with patients, we'll also be transporting some equipment on move day," said Mike Howard, Chief Operating Officer at North Alabama Medical Center. "Over the past five years, we've made capital investments of \$5-\$6 million each year. Most all of the equipment we purchased is on wheels, like beds and IV poles, because we knew we were going to make the move to NAMC."

**North Alabama Medical Center looks forward to a smooth process and an exciting opening day, when world-class care will be available to the Shoals in the most technologically advanced facility the area has ever had.**

"Each item will be tagged at ECM Hospital with the exact location it will be taken to at North Alabama Medical Center. This entire process is carefully orchestrated and dictated."

Prior to the move, each manager is responsible for training their staff on the general layout of the

new hospital, as well as entrances, parking, where to clock in, and where supplies will be located. Individual training on all new equipment will also begin prior to the move.

"On December 6, ECM Hospital will be fully staffed, and small teams will be staffed at NAMC," Howard said. "As a nurse's patients are loaded into an ambulance at ECM Hospital, the nurse will drive to NAMC and be prepared to receive their patients."

On move day, managers will be manning a command center at each facility in order to keep track of every patient and employee. Once everyone is out of the building, hospital administration will do a final walkthrough, then lock the doors to Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital.

North Alabama Medical Center looks forward to a smooth process and an exciting opening day, when world-class care will be available to the Shoals in the most technologically advanced facility the area has ever had.

## 'JOHNSTON,' from page 1

Johnston will be part of the board at its next meeting, set for November 27. She and her husband Hugh have three boys, two who attend Red Bay School and a baby. She joins Shannon Oliver as the two board members who have children currently enrolled in Franklin County Schools.

"I'm living the school calendar. We're living the school handbooks. As parents, we live by that school calendar and abide by the rules of the handbook," Johnston said. "When you're already actively involved in those things, it allows you a different perspective in making decisions as a board member."

Johnston works as a clinical dietitian nutritionist. She is a Red Bay native and the daughter of Alton and Donna Hester.

Johnston filed paperwork to run as an independent candidate because she wanted as many people of District Five as possible to have a say in who represents them on the Franklin County Board of Education.

When Winchester defeated board member Mike Shewbart in the June 2018 Democratic Primary, he won with only 176 votes, as most Red Bay residents chose to vote in the Republican Primary.

"Only a small handful of citizens of District Five chose the board member nominee in June, and I believed we needed another option," Johnston said. "The qualifying deadline to run in the party primaries had passed, so I chose to run as an independent."

Johnston served as Red Bay Parent Teacher Organization president last year. She built positive working relationships with Red Bay administrators, something she hopes will benefit her as a board member.

"I want to be approachable and available to parents as a board member. I love it when people bring new ideas and ways for improvement," Johnston said. "I like when people bring positive ideas of things we can do rather than just negative things about our schools."

"As PTO president, I built relationships with our administrators, who I think

do a great job, so serving as a board member is sort of a continuation of that. We worked last school year on projects and brought ideas to the principals, so I already had a good relationship with them. Being PTO president opened that up for me to feel comfortable to pursue those ideas."

Johnston believes the passage of the 30-year one-cent sales tax will open up opportunities to improve physical facilities in Franklin County Schools.

"I want to make decisions as a board member that benefit the entire county but at the same time make sure District Five in Red Bay is well taken care of," Johnston said. "Red Bay School is old. The buildings are old, and the classrooms are small, so I know some people feel like there's room for improvement there."

"The passing of that tax was necessary to get any kind of capital improvements accomplished at Red Bay."

Months before November 6 Election Day, Johnston was already familiarizing herself with the duties of board members.

"In July, I met with Mr. [Greg] Hamilton. He gave me a copy of the rules and responsibilities of school board members and the superintendent," Johnston said. "I asked for that information because I want to make sure I'm doing my job as a board member properly. Mr. Hamilton said our job is to make sure he's doing his job. I want to support our superintendent and our administrators. I love the principals we have here at Red Bay and want to support them."

Hamilton called Johnston after the Election Day results were in to offer his congratulations.

"She brings the viewpoint of not only a board member, but a parent with children in our district, so she's invested two ways," Hamilton said. "I look forward to a continued positive working relationship with our board of education and Mrs. Johnston."



## Grand Opening

Chase Sparks, new owner of Russellville Florist and Gifts, recently hosted a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting as part of his Christmas Open House. Sparks purchased the business earlier this year. Russellville Florist and Gifts is located in the Franklin Shopping Center on Highway 43 in Russellville and is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon. For telephone orders, call 256-332-7771, or visit them on Facebook. At Russellville Florist & Gifts, you'll find live and silk floral arrangements, gifts and holiday items, including a large Christmas inventory.

**No WiFi then...**

**No WiFi now!**

**Take us anywhere!**  
FRANKLIN FREE PRESS  
YOUR HOMETOWN, "GOOD NEWS" NEWSPAPER!

**Always online...**  
franklinfreepress.net

**#fegoodnews**  
FRANKLIN FREE PRESS  
YOUR HOMETOWN, "GOOD NEWS" NEWSPAPER!



# Honey Do: Trim that tree

Thanksgiving is here, and then... Christmas decorations...and that must include that all-important centerpiece, the Christmas tree. Whether your tree comes out of a field or a box, be sure to keep safety in mind.

Natural trees should be kept alive and fresh. A living tree stays green longer and makes it less likely to act as dry kindling that can easily catch fire. If you will be buying a pre-cut tree, make sure it is freshly cut. Touch the needles and branches to see if a significant amount comes off in your hand. Lightly bang the base of the tree on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree is not fresh. If the tree is fresh, you should be able to smell the tree's fragrance easily.

Also, test the limbs to see if you think they are sturdy enough to hold the weight of ornaments. The tree should be a dark green color all over with no areas of brown needles. Check to be sure that the bottom of the tree trunk is sticky with resin. Needles should also not break when bent between your fingers.

Before erecting your tree, cut about two inches off the bottom of the trunk. This will allow it to absorb

water and stay fresh longer. Make sure there is water in the pan at all times.

Of course, many folks have opted for artificial trees. This is a much neater option with no needle-shedding, no daily watering and no disposal issues. Your tree should be rated as fire-resistant and be tagged accordingly.

Artificial trees have really evolved in appearance, safety and functionality. Current models may even be controlled by an app on your phone to play music and provide amazing light shows.

Pre-lit trees provide evenly spaced lights already placed in the tree. Choose LED lights for brightness, safety and durability.

Tree placement is another important decision. Keep your tree in an area where it won't be knocked over or ornaments knocked off and broken or stepped on. Very large trees should be anchored to the wall with wire and a small eyebolt. Keep electrical cords tucked away to prevent tripping or danger to children and pets.

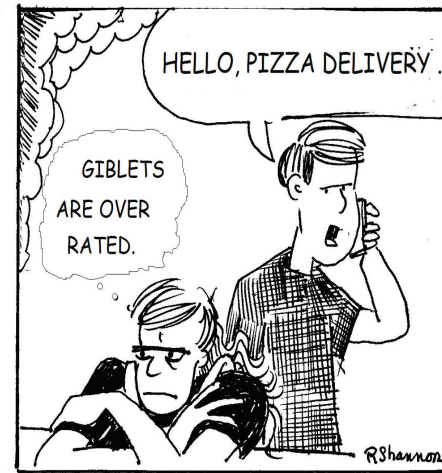
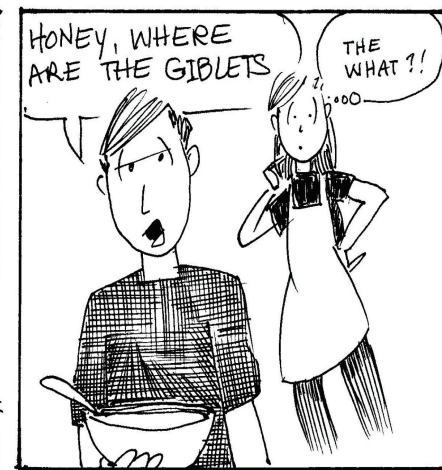
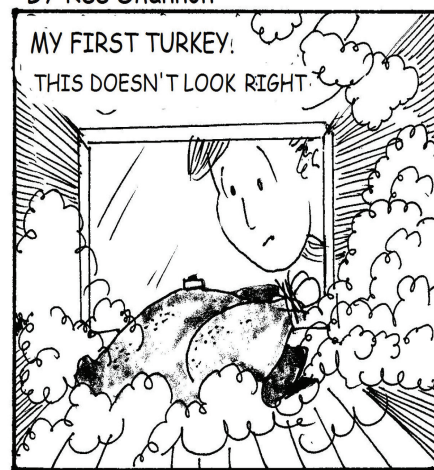


Doug Green

See 'TREE,' Page 5

## OUR HOUSE

BY Ree Shannon



## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

113 WASHINGTON AVE. NW  
RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35653  
256-332-0255

The Franklin Free Press is published weekly by Pilati Investments, Inc. Our publication is mailed to our readers at no charge.

### Publisher

John Pilati

### Executive Editor

Mike Self

E-mail: franklinfreepress@yahoo.com

### Sales Representatives

John Pilati

### Content Contributors

Mike Self, John Pilati, Ree Shannon, Doug Green, Rebecca Thomason, Sheryl Hamilton, Ashley Cummins, Gail Motes

### Graphic Design

Jason Hill

### Correction Policy

The Franklin Free Press strives for excellence and accuracy, and we will be pleased to correct any error in our newspaper. To request a correction or clarification, call or e-mail our office.

### Letters to the editor

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

### Copyright Information

Published by Pilati Investments, Inc. Copyright 2018. All materials and content are copyrighted by the Publisher. This publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any method, without the express written permission of the Publisher.

# Don't be stressed this Christmas!

It's the most wonderful time of the year, which means holiday shopping is underway! If you're a spender like me, your head is spinning with all the upcoming festivities. The holidays are such a magical time of year, but I think we can all agree they're not so magical for our wallets.

It's easy to lose sight of what matters during this special season and feel pressured to overspend. But it is possible to enjoy the holidays and not let them turn into a debt hangover in January. Here are a few ways you can save this holiday season and still enjoy your time:

•Make a Christmas budget.

Overspending is easy to do when you don't make a plan for your money. We know Christmas is on December 25 every year. Your Christmas will be less stressful—and more festive—if you create a budget ahead of time and plan for your purchases. I like using the EveryDollar app. You can list out all your Christmas expenses, including the gifts you want to buy for people, and track your budget on the go!

**Overspending is easy to do when you don't make a plan for your money. Your Christmas will be less stressful—and more festive—if you create a budget ahead of time and plan for your purchases.**

•Set expectations early with your kids.

Discontentment happens when kids expect the whole toy store under the tree and only receive three or four gifts. Make sure their expectations are realistic long before Christmas morning. If a new bike's not in the budget, let them know.

•Make a list and check it twice.

Who doesn't love giving gifts to their loved ones? It's so much fun, but those expenses can add up. Make a list of everyone you want to buy

for and assign a dollar amount to each person. And stick to it! If you can't afford to buy a gift for someone, there are lots of free holiday activities to enjoy together. Spend some quality time with them instead. I promise you, they will appreciate that just as much, if not more!

•Remember what the holidays are about.

There is a lot of pressure around the holidays. But don't lose sight of what really matters this season, and that is spending time with the people you love. Ten years from now it won't matter who got what gift or what party you went to. What will matter most are the memories you create with the people closest to you.

I promise you, the holiday season will be much less stressful if you figure out how much you have to spend and set some boundaries! Come spring, when you start planning that family vacation, you'll be thankful you aren't still paying off Christmas debt. And if you want your holidays to be truly merry, focus on spending time with family and less on stuff!

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



Rachel Cruze





**DAVE  
SAYS**

Financial Straight-Talk

[www.davesays.org](http://www.davesays.org)

by Dave Ramsey

### Home warranties?

Dear Dave,  
Are home warranties a waste of money if I've been following your plan and already have six months of expenses set aside in an emergency fund, plus home insurance?

Andrea

Dear Andrea,  
Home warranties are a waste of money even if you don't have quite that much set aside in an emergency fund. I recommend an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses to cover the unexpected things that life will throw at you. This amount of cash, sitting in a good money market account with check-writing privileges, will give you easy access in the event of a financial emergency.

I don't recommend extended warranties of any kind. They're just not a good deal. You're better off self-insuring against things breaking down and putting what would have been profit and marketing dollars for the extended warranty company in your own pocket!

Dave

### Put retirement on hold temporarily

Dear Dave,  
Should I stop making contributions

## 'TREE' from page 4

Keep all trees away from sources of heat. A floor vent that blows heated air onto a real tree will dry it out in no time, and, of course, open flames of any kind are dangerous around a real tree.

Nothing says "welcome home" like a beautiful Christmas tree as you greet family and guests. Have a happy and safe one, and remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.

to my 401(k) account for a year in order to save up an emergency fund? Thanks to you, I'm 33 and debt-free.

Blake

Dear Blake,  
Congratulations on being debt-free at such a young age! I appreciate the credit, but the truth is I just pointed you in the right direction. You made the sacrifices and did all the hard work. I'm proud of you!

Yes, my advice is to temporarily stop making contributions to your 401(k) until you save up an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses. It shouldn't take a year, though, to set aside an emergency fund if you're debt-free and making decent money at your job. Just make it part of your monthly budget plan and get that emergency fund set up in a few months.

Here's the way I look at it. If you don't have an emergency fund, but you're contributing to a 401(k), there's a good chance you'll end up cashing out your 401(k) if something happens that leaves you with a large, unexpected bill. When you cash out a 401(k) early, you get hit with a penalty plus your tax rate. That's not a good plan!

And that's just *one* of the reasons I tell people to have an emergency fund in place before they start investing.

Dave

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

**NEW NOW LEASING**  
**Village at Oliver Place**  
**NEW 2 & 3 Bedroom**  
Apartments & Townhomes  
Water included starting at:  
**2 BR \$425 • 3 BR: \$498**  
Now Offering Move-In Specials  
205.993.5005 • Pike Avenue • Phil Campbell  
TDD (Hearing impaired) 800.548.2546

Fall into savings...



Find out how you can save money with Auto-Owners Insurance multi-policy discounts.

## Wood-Thompson Insurance

130 N Jackson Ave. Russellville  
**256-332-1381**

Mon-Tues-Thur-Fri 8am-5pm  
Wed 8am-noon • Sat 9am-noon

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

**Auto-Owners**  
INSURANCE

## Miranda Decker, M.D.

### INTERNAL MEDICINE Comprehensive Adult Health Care

Dr. Decker is specialized in management of both acute & chronic medical conditions.

- Immunizations
- Preventative Health Care

Russellville Internal  
Medicine, P.C.

535 Gandy Street NE  
Russellville, AL 35653

For appointments:  
256-332-1120  
Mon-Thur 8-5



Dr. Miranda Decker, M.D.



**Find your way to savings.**  
**Save an average of \$526\***  
 Stop here for great rates with  
 America's #1 car insurance company\*\*.  
 Give me a call today.

Lee Nickels, Agent  
 13760 Highway 43 Ste 6  
 Russellville, AL 35653  
 Bus: 256-332-0052  
 lee.nickels.wmy5@statefarm.com



\*Average annual per household savings based on a 2016 national survey of new policyholders who reported savings by switching to State Farm.  
 \*\*Based on A.M. Best written premium. 1005000.1  
 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company - Bloomington, IL

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®



# Home Renovation? New Construction? Remodeling?



**Windows, Doors, Lumber,  
 Remodel/Build... A&L Building  
 Materials is Your One-Stop!**



**256.332.8181**

**HWY 43 • Littleville**

# What's Happening

256.332.0255

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

**T**he 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.

**R**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.

**A**ntioch C.M.E. Church's Outreach Community Ministry will host a FREE chicken stew meal for the community this 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.

**R**ussellville FUMC hosts a men's and a women's Step Study on Sundays from 3-5 p.m. A step study guides you through a process of discovery and recovery over your hurts, hang-ups and habits. Everyone is welcome!

**F**or anyone with the courage to be honest about life's hurts, habits and hang-ups, First United Methodist Church of Russellville will host *Celebrate Recovery!* on Tuesday nights with supper at 6 p.m., large group at 6:30 and small groups at 7:30. Free childcare provided. Church is located at 311 North Jackson Avenue. Come and join us!

**H**olly 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!

**F**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.

**I**f you are interested in the study of the Civil War and have an ancestor who was in the Confederate Army, join the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month (except January and July) at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center. Next meeting will be December 6. The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, VA in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the period from 1861-1865 is preserved. Membership in the SCV is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate Armed Forces. Membership can be obtained through either direct or collateral family lines, and kinship to a veteran must be documented genealogically. Join us for the celebration of our heritage! The minimum age for membership is 12. Call 1-800-MYDIXIE or 256-324-2317.

**T**he 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.

**T**he next meeting for American Legion Post 64 will be Thursday, December 13 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

**T**he NACOLG SenioRx Medication Assistance Program supplies free and low-cost medications for anyone in Alabama with a disability or a chronic illness, regardless of age, that requires daily medication. Medicare recipients may also be eligible. For more information, contact NACOLG SenioRx today. There is no charge for this service. Call 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463) or 256-389-0530. This program is in partnership with the state of Alabama and Alabama Department of Senior Services.

**M**ountain Valley Hee Haw features live music every Saturday night. Show time is 6 p.m. Free admission. No alcohol or drugs. From Russellville, take 243 to Hwy. 79, turn right, go 1/4 mile, third building on left. For more information, please call 256-332-5479 or 256-810-4840.

**N**ew Life Ministries invites you to join them for Sunday School at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings and for worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. On the first Sunday of each month, there will be a fellowship lunch after morning services. You and your family are invited to come worship and fellowship with the Lord of Hosts and his children. New Life Ministries is located on Hwy. 24 west toward Red Bay, behind Tompkins Feed.

**T**OPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) weight loss support group meets each Monday evening at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Recreation Center. Weigh-ins begin at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to drop in for a free meeting visit. Call 256-446-5962 or 256-412-2855 for more information.

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

**Don't forget to visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!**



# BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Advertise with us! Call 256.668.2708 or 256.332.0255

franklinfreepress.net

## MOWING



**Salvador's  
LAWN SERVICE**  
(256) 810-2351  
Free Estimates  
Licensed

MOWING • TRIMMING  
MULCHING • CLEANING LEAVES  
HEDGING & SHRUBS • EDGING

## MASSAGE

REWARD YOURSELF OR  
SOMEONE YOU  
LOVE



256.332.4220  
**Angel Harris**  
Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495  
Reiki Practitioner II

Gift Cards Available  
Creative Image Salon  
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

## LANDSCAPING

**K&S TREE SERVICE**  
253 Laurelwood Dr. Russellville, Alabama



Trimming  
Topping • Removal  
Bucket Work  
Stump Grinding

**KARL RAGAN 256.332.9064**

## ADVERTISING



**GET  
NOTICED!**  
IN THE BUSINESS &  
SERVICE DIRECTORY  
**256.332.0214**

## HOUSING

256-332-1561  
73 Flippen St

**UNITS NOW AVAILABLE**

"The standard for fixed-income  
living in Russellville."



Russellville  
Housing Authority  
Incorporated

## CHURCH

**Come Worship with Us!**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
Sunday: 11:00 - 12:00  
Adult Sunday School: 10:00 - 11:00  
Everyone is invited to join us for  
this special time of worship.

201 N. Green Street, Russellville

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**JOEY RUSHING**  
Franklin County District Attorney  
256.332.8870 • 256.710.4713  
(daytime) (after hours)



## EXCAVATING & SEPTIC

**Educated Excavating  
& Septic Service**  
Septic Installation & Repair  
All Types of Dirt Work  
15+ Years Experience  
Free Estimates  
Blake Herring • Licensed & Bonded  
**256.668.4573**



## PUBLIC SERVICE

**BUCKLE UP! It Could Save Your Life!**

franklinsheriff.org  
(256) 332-8811

Compliments of **Shannon  
Oliver**  
SHERIFF



**THERE ARE  
OTHER WAYS...**

**TO GET  
OUR INK!**



MAILBOX • SMARTPHONE • TABLET • COMPUTER • RADIO

FRANKLINFREEPRESS.NET





# CASH FOR CLUNKERS

We'll pay you **CASH** for your old equipment!

Wow!

## Your Trade-In Values

- Furnace..... \$250
- Air Conditioner..... \$250
- Water Heater..... \$150

**0% FINANCING**  
with Low Monthly Payments



# 256.774.9019

AL HVAC 91114 • AL PLUMBING MPG-3489 • AL ELECTRICAL 01889

## 'AWARD' from page 1

This year's winner of the Firefighter of the Year award was Justin Shane Mansell, a firefighter with the Russellville Fire Department. Mansell started his career with the Russellville Fire Department in 2001. He and his wife Elisha and have three children.

During his time with the Russellville Fire Department, Mansell has received numerous training and certifications. Some of the certifications include becoming a fire inspector, fire investigator, hazardous material tech, and rescue technician, among others.

In addition to serving with the Russellville Fire Department, Mansell has also served as a volunteer firefighter with the East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department for 24 years. In addition to his tremendous work as a firefighter, Mansell also serves as an official for many local fishing tournaments and is an active member helping out with the Wounded Warriors program.

One of the defining reasons that Mansell was nominated for this award was partially due to his actions during a fishing tournament. On March 11, 2017, Mansell performed CPR on a participant at one of the fishing tournaments and very likely saved the participant's life due to his actions.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year was awarded to state trooper Jeremy K. Baker of Sheffield. Before beginning his career in Law Enforcement as a state trooper, Baker served in the United States Marine Corps for four years from 1996-2000. Baker served overseas in Bosnia, South Korea, Ukraine and around the Mediterranean Sea.

After Baker finished his service in the Marine Corps, he became an Alabama State Trooper in 2002, and he obtained his business degree from Athens State University in 2006. In addition to serving as a state trooper, Baker also has been a member of the Lauderdale County Children's council since 2014 and is a Sunday School teacher at Killen United Methodist Church.

Baker also has a long list of accomplishments during his time as a state trooper, some of which include becoming a traffic homicide investigator (2003), traffic crash reconstructionist (2005), North Alabama Major Accident Investigation Team (2011), and APOSTC Crash Investigation Instructor (2015).

The VFW Teacher of the Year award winner was Kyle Taylor from Russellville High School. Taylor has been a teacher and a coach for 13 years



COURTESY PHOTO

VFW Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Jeremy Baker of Sheffield is pictured above (front row, second from left) with a few of his fellow state troopers.

and currently teaches U.S. government to high school students. He has taught about the principles of government and civics to more than 1,800 students to date.

Taylor's grandfather served in World War II and was a part of the storming of the beaches of Normandy. Not only does Taylor teach about the basics of government, but he also prompts each student to register to vote. Taylor also teaches a Sunday School class at a local church and currently assists the Russellville junior varsity and varsity football programs.

The Veterans Day Speech winners were judged by two retired army Colonels, and there were two separate winners. One winner participated in a ninth-grade-and-under group, and the other participated in a ninth-grade-and-up group. One group had to do a CD on a predetermined topic given to them, along with an essay, while the other group was tasked with writing a 300-word essay.

In addition to receiving their award, the recipients of the Police Officer and Firefighter of the Year each received an engraved pocket knife, as well as a check to use at their discretion. The Teacher of the Year winner also received a check for \$100 to use however they see fit.

# Fifty & Fabulous

## YOULANDER ELLIOTT

November 19, 1968



Happy 50th birthday to one of the greatest creations of this century!  
We love you mom!

- Latosha, Britnee, AJ and Amber



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





## Passing the Gavel



### COURTESY PHOTOS

The Grand Master's Traveling Gavel is an award passed among Blue Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the State of Alabama. The lodge that currently holds the GMTG will present the gavel to the Lodge with the most visitors at their next meeting, and so forth. The goal is to circulate this gavel to as many lodges as possible, then present it as a parting gift to the Grand Master at the following year's Grand Lodge Annual Communication. After that event, a new gavel will be placed into circulation and will ultimately be presented to the next Grand Master at the end of his year as Most Worshipful Grand Master. Burleson Lodge #143 had the traveling gavel and passed it onto Russellville Lodge #371 on October 22 (see photo below). Burleson Lodge members present included Neil "Gator" Canida (Worshipful Master), Lee Gober (Secretary) and Bill Lindsey (Chaplain). Russellville Lodge members present included Scotty Hovater (Worshipful Master), Scott Adcock (Secretary), Milford "Mousey" Brown (Chaplain), Jeff "Lewis" Allen, Wiley Beam, JO Taylor, Randy Mansell, Andrew "Drew" Mansell, Doug Reed, Bill Fuller, O'Neal King, Don Epperson, Heath Isom, Rodney Allen and Aaron Pennington.

Congratulations to the Brothers from Washington Lodge #36 on obtaining the Grand Masters Traveling Gavel recently from Russellville Lodge #371. Pictured at left are Scotty Hovater from Lodge 371 (wearing hat) and Rick Bjosh, Joel Edwurtg, Bobby Stults, Tom Morgan and Len Brown from Lodge 36.



## 'Trees of Christmas' exhibition returns Nov. 30th

Submitted to the FFP

From Rogersville to Russellville, local groups will be decorating Christmas trees at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art.

Their trees—nine in total—will be displayed at the "Trees of Christmas 2018," which opens at 9 a.m. on Friday, November 30 and runs through Christmas Eve. The exhibit is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, December 8 and December 22; and 1-3 p.m. on Sundays. Christmas Eve hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and free on Sundays. Group rates are available for groups of 15 or more.

The "Trees of Christmas" is an annual exhibition featuring a display of nine 12-foot-tall live fir trees decorated by area civic clubs, groups, schools, businesses or individuals, pulling from a variety of styles, ideas and the cultural history of the Shoals. Each tree is special, with unique decorations and out-of-the-ordinary ornaments.

The line-up of decorators this year includes Shoals Christian School, Natchez Trace Parkway Association, Franklin County and City of Russellville Bicentennial Committee, The Roy Herston Family, Tennessee Valley Educational Talent Search at Northwest-Shoals Community College, Kathy Gamble, Colbert & Franklin Co. 4-H Program, Martha Couch and the Russellville Elementary fifth-grade class.

Buffie Ozbirn, who will be decorating for the Franklin County and City of Russellville Bicentennial Committee, said this will be her third time decorating a tree, going back to her first time decorating one when she was in high school.

"I like that you get to represent your theme, and I try to make ours educational, too," she said. "You have to gather everything and have it all suit a theme. I really enjoy that process, and, of course, we love to share our work. We're so excited about our bicentennial, and can't wait to share it."

Shoals Christian's theme is "One Holy Night," and their tree will focus on the story of the nativity.

Natchez Trace Parkway Association are calling their tree "Tracing the Journey of Southern Discovery," which will reflect the history, culture, nature and fitness opportunities provided by the Trace. The Roy Herston Family of Rogersville will have the theme of "Cooking Up a Merry Christmas," reflecting their Christmas traditions.

Tennessee Valley Educational Talent Search at Northwest-Shoals Community College's tree will be called "College Bound" and represent the trips and opportunities their students have had this past year. Kathy Gamble will be decorating her tree in memory of Mrs. Virginia Gamble and will call it "She is Far More Precious Than Jewels."

Colbert & Franklin Co. 4-H Program's tree will be called "200 Years of Alabama 4-H" and will reflect the history and traditions of their program.

RES fifth-grade students will be making recycled decorations for their tree called "From Trash to Treasure." And Martha Couch will be decorating a tree called "Wish You Were Here" using her collection of vintage postcards and Christmas cards.



# Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

**LAND FOR SALE**

Land for Sale. 5 acres +/- pasture land in Littleville. Ideal for horses. Large barn and inside/outside corral. Fenced. Access to Twin Pines Golf Course. Located on Osborn Hill Road. Asking \$50,000. Call 256-332-9045. (3)

**AUTO**

2004 Thunderbird. Red in color w/both tops. New tires. Runs great. 5-speed automatic. Only 22,800 miles. \$25,000 firm. Call 423-213-2939. (Russellville, AL). (5)

1923 T-Bucket. 290 miles

on new crate engine. New 308 gear. New carpet & gauges. 4-wheel disc brakes. Beautiful car. R-400 transmission. \$21,500. Call 423-213-2939. (Russellville, AL). (5)

**FURNITURE**

Plush Full-length Sofa with recliners on each end for sale. Multi-colored. Asking \$90 OBO. Please call 256-332-4037.

Oval oak clawfoot coffee

table for sale. \$60. Call 256-332-0205 or 256-710-8604. (3)

Three end tables for sale. Painted and distressed. \$40 each. Call 256-332-0205 or 256-710-8604. (3)

**MISC. FOR SALE**

My Lock 334 Serger sewing machine for sale. Includes instruction book. Lightly used. \$175. Call 256-332-9587. (1)

Five Barbie Dolls for

sale. Boxes never opened. Call for selection. \$15 each. Call 256-332-9587. (1)

**GRAVE For Sale in Franklin Memorial Garden**

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

Tubular Jeep front & rear Bumpers in wrinkle finish for sale. Black for a T.J. \$150 each. Excellent condition. Call 256-668-9550. (1)

4.35/12.50 Nitto Mud Grapplers Extreme Terrain Tires with 20" Chrome Wheels. \$200 each. Call 256-668-9550. (1)

Mechanic tools and other items for sale. Call 256-324-4021. (3)

*Franklin Free Press Classified Rates*  
Yard Sale Rates: **FREE**, Deadline Monday at Noon; Real Estate-Homes, acreage, lots for sale or rent: \$25 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 40 words per ad; Vehicles, Boats, RVs, Motorcycles for sale. \$15 for six consecutive 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 required in advance of publication for ads.

**ALASCAN**

**FOR SALE**

**ACORN STAIRLIFTS.** The affordable solution to your stairs! Limited time - \$250 off your Stairlift purchase! Buy direct & save. Please call 1-800-471-4651 for your free DVD and brochure.

**MEDICAL**

**OXYGEN - ANYTIME.** Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The all-new Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! Free info kit: Call 1-844-264-9500.

**GOT KNEE pain?** Back pain? Shoulder pain? Pain-relieving brace at little or no cost to you. Medicare patients call health hotline now! Call 1-800-672-9326.

**DIGITAL HEARING aids** - Now offering a 45-day risk free offer! Free batteries for life! Call to start your free trial! 1-866-960-5928.

**SAWMILLS FROM** only \$4397.00. Make & save money with your own bandmill - cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! Free info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com. Call 1-800-578-1363.

**HELP WANTED**

**DRIVER TRAINEES** needed! Learn to drive for Stevens Transport! No experience needed! New drivers can earn

\$900+ per week! Paid CDL training! Stevens covers all costs! Call 1-888-528-8864. Or go online to drive4stevens.com.

**SERVICES**

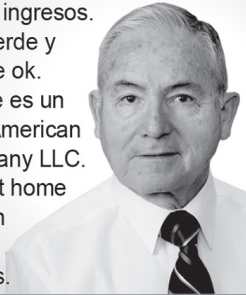
**SOCIAL SECURITY** Disability benefits. You may qualify for disability if you have a health condition that prevents you from working for a year or more. 1-844-245-3299 (M-F).

**INSTRUCTION**

**MEDICAL BILLING** and Coding career training at Sullivan and Cogliano Training Centers. Call 1-888-535-9909 or click learn.sctrain.edu. Financial Aid available. Go online to Sctrain.edu/disclosures.

**Amigo Paisano**

Compre su casa hoy. Haga una cita con Don Enrique. No credito no hay problema, solo demustre ingresos. Seguro Verde y pasaporte ok. Don Enrique es un Realtor con American Realty Company LLC. Buy your first home with no down payment, with no closing costs. Call Enrique Aguilar at 256.740.2356



**Coin Laundry**  
US Hwy 43  
1/4 mile North of McDonald's, behind car wash. Open daily 8a.m.-8p.m. New washers and dryers. *Enjoy our backyard while you wash!* 256.740.2356

**Low rates!**

For daily updates on news and sports, visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!

## Kreme come true



COURTESY PHOTO

The RHS chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America and their advisors, Dr. AnnaKay Holland and Mrs. Deedra Moore, would like to thank all the members of the community who helped make this year's Krispy Kreme doughnut sale a success. FBLA members sold more than 600 dozen doughnuts, which allowed the club to raise more than \$1,900 for the FBLA scholarship fund, state competition and field trip. Pictured above (from left) are the FBLA officers who unloaded the Krispy Kreme truck at 5:30 a.m. on October 17: Historian Emma Claire Bragwell, parliamentarian Anna Woods, vice president Kaydee Don Holland, president Peyton Reynolds and secretary Ellyse Strickland.

## REWARD YOURSELF...

**GIFT CARDS Available**  
**OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE**

**Angel Harris**  
Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495  
Reiki Practitioner II

256.332.4220  
Creative Image Salon  
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

# TIMMONS

**TREE SERVICE & SAW MILL**

**Tree Trimming / Removal**  
**Lot Clearing • Select Cutting**  
**Custom Cut Lumber**  
**Small Tract Logging**  
**Gravel Hauling**  
**Dirt Work**

**FREE ESTIMATES**

Call **JOSH (256) 627-7703**

**LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED**





# ORANGE FRIDAY, HUSQVARNA ORANGE THAT IS

## ALL ZERO TURN MOWERS

Nov 21 - 27, 2018

20%  
OFF



YTH18K46  
LIMITED QUANTITY  
18 HP KAWASAKI  
46" CUT

**\$1599** Reg. \$1999

**\$439**  
Reg. \$549.95



580BTS

HANDHELD BLOWER W/VACUUM  
28 cc handheld blower with vac kit,  
1.1 hp., 425 cfm/170 mph



120i

**\$199** Reg. \$259

BATTERY CHAINSAW KIT  
14", 3/8 pitch, .043 gauge  
BATTERY AND CHARGER INCLUDED!!!



125BVX

**\$169** Reg. \$199.95

HANDHELD BLOWER W/VACUUM  
28 cc handheld blower with vac kit,  
1.1 hp., 425 cfm/170 mph



**\$179** Reg. \$229

40V Li-Ion HANDHELD BLOWER  
412cfm/103mph  
BATTERY AND CHARGER INCLUDED

## GREEN'S DEPENDABLE HARDWARE

15220A Hwy 43 • Russellville | Behind McDonald's • 256.331.0123





# Happy Days

Beverage & Tobacco

Every  
Tuesday All  
Wines 10%  
OFF!

OPEN ALL DAY  
THANKSGIVING  
& CHRISTMAS  
8am to  
Midnight



256-332-1662

Big Star Shopping Center • Open 8AM to Midnight Mon-Sat



## Week 13 in the SEC

Last week's record: 3-0  
Year to date: 32-15  
Saturday, November 24  
Auburn at Alabama



Mike Self  
Sports Editor

Look past the fact that Alabama was tied with the Citadel at halftime last week (as preposterous as that is). The most significant news from that game was the health of Tua Tagovailoa, who played brace-free and looked as spry as he has since early in the season. That's bad news for an Auburn secondary that will have its hands full trying to cover Jerry Jeudy and the rest of Alabama's dynamic pass-catching corps.

Just as concerning for Auburn is the deterioration of a run defense that has allowed 300-plus rushing yards to Mississippi State and Georgia (and 200-plus to Texas A&M) in recent weeks. Overshadowed by Tua's brilliance and the best passing attack in program history, Alabama's ground game is tied for first in the SEC with 27 rushing touchdowns and ranks third in yards per carry. The Tide's balance on offense spells major trouble for Auburn's streak of 44 consecutive games without allowing 40-plus points.

On the flip side, an Alabama pass rush that leads the SEC with 37 sacks is likely to cause all sorts of problems for an Auburn O-line that has struggled all year. It's hard to imagine the Tigers having much success at all on offense.

ESPN's Football Power Index gives Auburn less than a nine percent chance to win on Saturday. Might be a tad generous.

**The Pick: Alabama 41 Auburn 10**  
**Tennessee at Vanderbilt**

Both teams are 5-6, so the winner goes bowling and the loser goes home. Kyle Shurmur stayed hot last week in an overtime win over Ole Miss and eviscerated Tennessee last year in Knoxville, throwing for 283 yards and four scores in a 42-24 win. Let's go with the 'Dores at home.

**The Pick: Vanderbilt 31 Tennessee 27**  
**Kentucky at Louisville**

November losses to Georgia and (especially) Tennessee took the wind out of Kentucky's sails, but how many UK fans wouldn't have signed up for 9-3 back in August, when Vegas placed the Wildcats' over/under win total at 5.5? They should pound a Louisville team wrapping up a miserable season and already in the midst of a coaching search.

In its last five games versus Power 5 competition, Kentucky has scored a total of 67 points. On November 3 against Clemson, Louisville gave up 77 points.

**The Pick: Kentucky 34 Louisville 14**  
**LSU at Texas A&M**

Perhaps Jimbo Fisher will succeed where Kevin Sumlin failed and finally get the Aggies their first win over LSU since joining the SEC in 2012.

**The Pick: Texas A&M 20 LSU 17**

# TRUE GRIT

## Before she heads down to West Florida, Megan Warhurst is determined to help the RHS softball program take care of some unfinished business

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

Look behind the eyes of Megan Warhurst, and you'll see it. Listen closely, and you'll hear it in her voice, too.

A sense of pure determination—solid as steel and every bit as unshakable.

"State is our goal," said Warhurst, a senior softball player at Russellville High School. "It's going to happen, no matter what. That's the mentality we have: 'Get to state this year.' If all nine of us on the field work hard and get together and want to do it, then we're going to. I don't care if I have to drag all eight of them behind me. We're going to go."

Warhurst spoke with such certainty, such conviction, such force of will, that one feels compelled to go ahead and write the Lady Golden Tigers into the Class 5A state tournament

See 'WARHURST,' Page 16



COURTESY PHOTO

Russellville senior pitcher Megan Warhurst signed last week to play softball at the University of West Florida. She is pictured above with her parents Chad and Jennifer Warhurst (seated). Standing in back is RHS softball coach Kathryn Montgomery.

# Tigers turn heads with late rally against loaded Eagles

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

RED BAY - Prior to his team's season opener against Decatur Heritage last Saturday night, Red Bay coach John Torisky had watched the Eagles play three games.

Well, *almost* three games.

With Decatur Heritage leading East Lawrence by 40-plus points last Thursday, Torisky headed for the exits at the end of the third quarter. He had seen enough of the Eagles—who lost to powerhouse Sacred Heart by just six in the Class 1A Northeast Regional finals in February and then opened this season with three straight blowout wins by an average margin of nearly 44 points—to know exactly what his team was in for.

"I don't know how 2A, 3A, 4A is, but I think they

could play all the way up through 5A—especially with the kid they just brought in," Torisky said of the Eagles, who added 6'3 junior wing GianCarlo Valdez (a transfer from the Dominican Republic) to a mix that already included 6'8 senior stud Noah Boler. "In my opinion, I thought this team could beat us by thirty or forty if we didn't get a handle on it."

By the end of the third quarter, it looked as though Saturday's game might be headed in that direction. Valdez had scored eight straight points to quell a Red Bay run, and Decatur Heritage had turned what was a nine-point game at the 2:30 mark into a 53-32 lead at the end of three.

On the verge of being run out of their own gym, the Tigers—who return virtually every key contributor from the team that won 18 games and

See 'TIGERS,' Page 16



# Lady Bulldogs open with win over Haleyville

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

RED BAY - Even as they were winning 20 games and earning a trip to Hanceville for the Class 1A Northwest Regional last season, Belgreen's girls were still a relatively young team, with four sophomores playing key roles and the same number of freshmen in the starting lineup as seniors (one of each).

All of that returning talent is a year older now, and head coach Chad Green has high expectations for the Lady Bulldogs.

"I think the sky is the limit," said Green, whose team opened the season with a 56-45 win over Class 4A Haleyville last Saturday night at the Red Bay Shootout. "I think we're definitely one of the top teams in northwest Alabama, if not in the state. We lost Jasmine [Martin, last year's lone senior], and she was a good player for us. But we've got a lot of experience coming back from last year.

"I've got a veteran team. We can't say we're young anymore. Even my tenth-grader, Emma Dempsey, this is her third year starting on the varsity. We're definitely a veteran group."

Chief among those veterans is senior point guard Gabbie Moore, who scored nine of her game-high 20 points in the fourth quarter on Saturday to help Belgreen (1-0) put away the Lady Lions. Moore and junior guards Gracie Dempsey and Autumn Bragwell combined for 42 points, carrying the load offensively on a night when the Lady Bulldogs' post players worked the glass well but didn't make a big impact in the scoring column.

"My post players got after it with their offensive rebounding," Green said, "but I do expect more out of my post players as far as scoring the basketball. I think they've got a high ceiling. I thought we had good point guard play. I thought my wings scored well. In the first half, we moved the basketball well.

"Of course, it always helps when you make shots."

Gracie Dempsey took care of that in the first quarter, nailing three threes from essentially the same spot on the left wing to help Belgreen open up an early eight-point lead.

"She shot the ball well in that first quarter. She's definitely capable of doing that," Green said of Dempsey, who finished the night with 12 points, five rebounds and a team-high four assists. "Plus, after she gets hot, she's got enough speed to drive around somebody and get to the basket."

Moore also knocked down a three-ball in the first quarter and converted a steal into a pull-up jumper, giving the Lady Bulldogs their first double-digit lead of the night at 21-11. Belgreen led by eight at the end of one despite 11 first-quarter points from Haleyville junior forward Ali Temple.

Temple, who was a focal point of the Lady Bulldogs' defensive game plan, managed just one field goal over the final three quarters and finished the night with 14 points on 6-for-16 shooting from the field.

"We talked about [Temple] a couple of days in advance, and we went over it again in pre-game," said Green, whose team forced 20 turnovers on the night and held Haleyville to 32 percent shooting (19-for-59) overall. "She's a good athlete. She gets to the rim, and she shoots the outside shot. She's strong, too, and she's got good size.

"There were spurts out there when we did play good defensively. Overall, though, we've gotta clean some things up. We're allowing the other team to get in the paint too much, and we're allowing them to get too many offensive rebounds. So it's great to get a good win to begin the season, but there's a lot of things we need to clean up and get better on."

Bragwell (who finished with 10 points, five rebounds and three steals) knocked down a three midway through the second quarter to push Belgreen's lead to 32-20. The Lady Bulldogs stretched the lead to 39-24 by the break but then stagnated on offense in the third quarter, missing 10 of their 13 shot attempts and watching their

lead shrink to eight.

"Rebounding is always a big emphasis for us. We didn't do a great job of that tonight, but that's a big emphasis," said Green, whose team held a 40-33 edge over Haleyville on the boards. "But the number one thing we need to improve on this year on the offensive end is ball movement. We've got good post players. We've got good shooters. I've got a good point guard. The thing about it is, last year, sometimes we just held the ball too much."

"I feel like ball movement is gonna be a big key to our success."

Both teams struggled offensively in the fourth quarter, combining for twice as many turnovers (14) as made baskets (seven). Haleyville went scoreless for the first five-and-a-half minutes of the quarter, and two buckets by Moore extended Belgreen's lead to 49-37. The Lady Bulldogs went 5-for-6 from the foul line over the final two minutes to seal the deal.

"We slowed the ball down [in the fourth quarter] because we had a lead," Green said. "We pulled it out. We didn't do a very good job of finishing, though. We took some ill-advised shots on that."

Overall, Green saw plenty of things for his team to build on heading into this Tuesday's road game at Tharptown.

"Our transition game in the first half was good," he said. "Our guards did a good job of getting the ball to the hot hand. There were definitely some positives there. We've just gotta clean it up in some areas. We were a little bit sloppy defensively, and we took some ill-advised shots."

After hitting four threes in the first quarter, Belgreen made just one the rest of the night. The Lady Bulldogs shot 31 percent (19-for-61) from the field and 13-for-24 from the foul line.

Emma Dempsey finished the night with five points, seven rebounds and four blocked shots. Junior post player Ansley Tate also scored five points and pulled down a team-high 11 rebounds. Katie Dempsey, another junior post player, had three points and seven boards.

## Bobcats fall to Oakman

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

RED BAY - On the heels of a season-opening overtime win at Tharptown, Phil Campbell coach Brett Thomas thought his team actually played better in many respects against Oakman this past Saturday afternoon at the Red Bay Shootout.

A breakdown in one particular area, however, doomed the Bobcats, who led by as many as eight in the second quarter and were still up by one midway through the third before watching the Wildcats pull away for a 69-50 win.

"Turnovers, of course, were the difference in that game," said Thomas, whose team committed 20 turnovers in the first half alone and finished with 32 on the night. "I'm not really sure how many points they scored off turnovers, but I would guess it was at least half of them. I thought we rebounded better today than we did at Tharptown. I thought our defense was better. I thought we ran our offense better. We scored a lot better. It was just the turnovers.

"With a team as good and athletic as Oakman, you can't give up turnovers. Not only are you taking points away from yourself, you're giving them points. They were good in transition. If they turned you over, they made you pay for it. They very rarely didn't score off it when they got a steal."

Phil Campbell (1-1 through Sunday) came out relatively hot, getting a pair of early three-pointers from sophomore guards Brett Saint and Luke Garrison and another from senior forward Isaac Riddle. Garrison and Riddle each scored seven points in the first quarter, helping the Bobcats jump out to an 18-13 lead.

Sophomore reserve Austen Baker scored five quick points for Phil

See 'BOBCATS,' page 18

Jeff Elledge's  
**CREDIT CARS**



**NO CREDIT - WE FINANCE**

06 Chrysler PT Cruiser \$700 Down	00 Ford Focus \$700 Down
90 Honda Accord \$700 Down	05 Chevy Malibu \$800 Down
03 Chrysler 300M \$700 Down	06 Saturn Vue \$800 Down
04 Cadillac SLS \$700 Down	95 Nissan King Cab \$800 Down

elledge.jeff@gmail.com

2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals  
256.383.7979 • 256.710.3711



# Fast start sends PC girls past Tharptown

## Lady Bobcats ride 34-point first quarter to big opening night win

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

THARPTOWN - Craig Thomas believes his Phil Campbell girls can be better offensively this season than they were a year ago, when they went 26-6 and reached the Final Four for the first time since 1987.

If last Tuesday night's first quarter at Tharptown is any indication, Thomas could be on to something.

The Lady Bobcats came out blazing in their season opener, shooting a solid 10-for-21 from the floor and a stellar 12-for-15 from the foul line in the game's first eight minutes. They shared the ball and took care of it, handing out seven assists and committing just one turnover.

Behind 12 early points from sophomore guard Caitlyn Mills and eight from senior post player Abby Davis, Phil Campbell raced out to a 34-6 lead at the end of one and led by as many as 46 points on their way to a 71-33 victory—their 17th win in 18 games dating back to last season.

"It was a good opener for us," said Thomas, whose team finished the night shooting 41 percent (24-for-58) from the field and 72 percent (18-for-25) from the line. "We played real well. We can be better offensively this year than we were last year. We seem to shoot the ball better. Caitlyn is a big part of that. She'll step up and hit the three, and she shoots it with confidence."

Mills, who averaged 4.7 points per game as a freshman reserve a year ago, matched her career-high with 16 points on Tuesday night, shooting 6-for-12 from the floor and 2-for-2 from the line. She hit a pair of threes in the huge first quarter and also finished the night with a team-high eight rebounds and three steals.

Defense, of course, is still the fuel that fires Phil Campbell's engines. The Lady Bobcats (1-0 through Sunday) used their trademark full-court pressure to come up with 11 steals and force 15 Tharptown turnovers in the first quarter alone. During a three-and-a-half minute stretch early in the game, the Lady Wildcats (1-1) turned the ball over on ten straight possessions, fueling a 23-0 run by Phil Campbell that turned an early 3-0 deficit into a 23-3 lead with 4:02 left in the opening quarter.

"We're still gonna love to press," said Thomas, whose team finished with 15 steals and forced 28 turnovers on the night while holding Tharptown to 32 percent (13-for-41) from the field. "We're a little slower this year, but we're tankier. We've got more length. We just have to put people in the right places and get everything going the right way."

"Defensively, we had a few breakdowns that we'll have to correct. We played three tenth-graders [Mills and forwards Olivia Taylor and Katie Thomas] a lot tonight. Tenth-graders tend to make a few mistakes just due to a lack of experience, and that showed a little bit tonight. There were a few times where we didn't cover the middle like we were supposed to or we didn't get back on a layup. Our tenth-graders will have to mature as far as that stuff goes."

Offensively, there was little for Thomas to critique last Tuesday night. By the end of the third quarter, the Lady Bobcats had already scored more points (69) than they did in all but seven games last season.

"We shot the ball real well," Thomas said. "We got up and down the floor like we're supposed to. We did a good job of running and pushing the ball. Our senior and junior both stepped up and did what they had to do."

**"It was a good opener for us," said Thomas, whose team finished the night shooting 41 percent (24-for-58) from the field and 72 percent (18-for-25) from the line. "We played real well. We can be better offensively this year than we were last year. We seem to shoot the ball better. Caitlyn is a big part of that. She'll step up and hit the three, and she shoots it with confidence."**

Thomas was referring to Davis (who drilled a pair of threes on back-to-back third-quarter possessions and finished the night with 21 points on 8-for-16 shooting) and junior guard Kallie Allen (who converted a four-point play in the third quarter to finish with 12 points on just seven shot attempts and also handed out a team-high five assists).

"Abby passed the ball well the first two quarters," Thomas said. "She did a good job of distributing the ball where it was supposed to go, and she shot the ball well. She did what a senior is supposed to do—step up and be the leader."



### Caitlyn Mills

Sophomore Guard, Phil Campbell

Mills opened her sophomore season with a bang last Tuesday at Tharptown, matching her career-high with 16 points as the Lady Bobcats cruised to a 71-33 win. Mills hit a pair of early threes on her way to scoring 12 first-quarter points, helping Phil Campbell race out to a 34-6 lead. She finished the game with a team-high eight rebounds and three steals, shooting 6-for-12 from the field and 2-for-2 from the foul line.

A starter now, Mills averaged 4.7 points off the bench last season for a Lady Bobcat team that went 26-6 and advanced to the Final Four.



Hwy 43 • Russellville, across from Wal-Mart • 398-8448

## The Largest and Freshest Salad Bar in Franklin County!

"Kallie was really unselfish tonight. She made sure we ran our offense and did a good job of being a team leader and getting everybody else involved. And she's the best defensive player I've ever coached—even with Darby [Elliott, a 2018 graduate] thrown in the mix. Kallie can defend anybody."

Allen and Davis each finished with three steals last Tuesday night, and Allen was 3-for-3 from the foul line. Taylor, making her first varsity start, scored 10 points on 4-for-9 shooting and also pulled down seven rebounds. Kenner Scott went 5-for-6 from the line and scored seven points, and Katie Thomas chipped in with four points, six boards and two steals.

**Offensively, there was little for Thomas to critique last Tuesday night. By the end of the third quarter, the Lady Bobcats had already scored more points (69) than they did in all but seven games last season.**

**"We shot the ball real well," Thomas said. "We got up and down the floor like we're supposed to. We did a good job of running and pushing the ball. Our senior and junior both stepped up and did what they had to do."**

"Teams are gonna double-team Allen and Davis a lot," Craig Thomas said, "so our tenth-graders have gotta step up. Mills is already there, and we're gonna need Katie and Olivia to step up and score, too. Olivia shot the ball well tonight."

Gracie Montgomery led Tharptown with 15 points on 6-for-13 shooting, including three threes. Adriana Borden added seven points and also grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds. Aly Vandiver and Autumn Montgomery each scored four points, and Brooke Daily had three.

Phil Campbell's girls were set to return to action Monday night at home against Wilson.

In previous action:

#### Tharptown 55 Shoals Christian 21

Brooke Daily scored 21 points to lead four players in double-figures as the Lady Wildcats opened their season last Monday night with a big road win.

Aly Vandiver knocked down three threes and finished with 11 points for Tharptown. Gracie Montgomery hit two threes and scored 10 points, and Adriana Borden also had 10 points.

Daily, who finished the night 5-for-6 from the foul line, scored seven points in the first quarter, helping the Lady Wildcats jump out to a 16-1 lead. They led 30-10 at the half and then got seven points from Vandiver in the third quarter, stretching the lead to 48-19.

Tharptown was scheduled to host Belgreen on Tuesday.



## 'WARHURST,' from page 13

bracket now—even though May is still six months away. Count head coach Kathryn Montgomery among the believers; she knows how much weight Warhurst's words can carry.

"We'll be looking for her to lead us," Montgomery said. "She doesn't just lead with physical actions, but with words as well. She pushes her teammates to be the best they can be. She's very excited about this year. She's expressed that to all of us. She's looking to do big things this year as a group, not just as an individual, and we're definitely gonna lean on her."

Determination has long been a strength for Warhurst, but the seeds of this particular obsession were planted this past spring at the North Regional Tournament. Warhurst, a lefty pitcher, had already earned her keep in the postseason, tossing a complete game in a 9-4 win over East Limestone that punched Russellville's ticket to Huntsville and then going the distance again in a 6-1 win over Scottsboro in the regional opener.

Warhurst worked in two of the next three games as well and then found herself in the circle yet again against Alexandria in the loser's bracket final. Leading 8-6, the Lady Golden Tigers were three outs away from earning a trip to Montgomery when Alexandria rallied for three runs to steal a 9-8 win and a state tournament berth.

With the pain and disappointment of that loss still fresh, Warhurst has made it her personal mission to see that Russellville doesn't come up short again. And when Warhurst sets her mind toward achieving a goal, it's unwise to bet against her.

Last Wednesday afternoon was proof of that. "I didn't really start looking at a certain place until my freshman year," Warhurst said, "but I have always wanted to play college softball, ever since I was a kid."

Warhurst made that dream into a reality last Wednesday at the RHS field house, signing a scholarship offer to continue her career at the University of West Florida in Pensacola.

"It's an emotional day," said Warhurst, whose parents Chad and Jennifer are both RHS grads. "I'm gonna miss my family when I go down there. I'm so thankful for all those people who are here today. I couldn't have done it without them."

Warhurst also considered offers from UNA and West Georgia, but she ultimately chose to stick with the Argonauts, who have been recruiting her for the better part of four years now.

"Ever since they got in touch with me at the end of my eighth-grade year, I've really wanted to go there," Warhurst said. "UNA and West Georgia were in my top three, but West Florida was my

favorite because it felt the most like home. They've had interest in me since I was an eighth-grader. They made me feel like I was at home, and I've loved it ever since."

Warhurst has made the six-hour trip to Pensacola numerous times for camps and visits and said she "loved it even more every time I went." She has a close relationship with West Florida coach Ashleigh McLean, who recruited Warhurst as the Argonauts' pitching coach before recently being elevated to the role of head coach when Melissa Paul stepped down.

"West Florida is a good fit for Megan," Montgomery said. "She's been going to camp at West Florida since the eighth grade. She knows the location, she knows the program and she knows the head coach, who was an assistant coach who recruited her all along the way. Megan is very excited and very comfortable down there. It's gonna be a great fit for her."

Needless to say, Warhurst is already thinking big with regard to her goals at West Florida—and how she's going to go about achieving them.

"I want to be successful. I want to compete in a major tournament down there," Warhurst said. "I want to win the Gulf South Conference. I want awards down there. That's what I've always wanted since I was a little girl."

"I understand it's gonna be harder. Workouts are gonna be tougher. But that doesn't need to get in my way. I need to keep working hard, and I'm gonna keep working hard. Throughout these past few years, I've done nothing but work hard, and it'll only get better when I get down there."

Montgomery, who played college softball at UNA, is familiar with the challenges awaiting Warhurst at the next level. She believes her senior pitcher will be up to the task and then some.

"Megan is one of the most dedicated and hardest workers I've ever met," Montgomery said. "She understands that pitching is not just a one-day-a-week type of job. She understands it's three or four times a week. She knows you have to look at it from all aspects; it's a mental thing, it's a physical thing. She's done what it takes to prepare to go to the next level."

"There will be a lot of competition. When you move on to college, it's not just one or two girls pushing you; it's the whole team. You get pushed by the other teams and by your coaches. You get pushed by your teammates. You get pushed by academics. But she's really ready to go to the next level in every realm of the sport and school. A lot of hard work is waiting for her, but she's not one that's scared of hard work. She'll be ready."

From a pitching standpoint, Warhurst certainly has the stuff to succeed in the circle at the college level. She touches the mid-60s with her fastball and also mixes in a screwball, a curveball and a changeup that she says is her favorite pitch.

"I love my changeup," said Warhurst, who missed a significant chunk of last season due to an injury but returned in mid-April and found her stride with four innings of two-hit, five-strikeout ball in a 5-0 win over Lexington. "I'm throwing decent speed, and whenever you throw the changeup it throws them off. That's my go-to pitch."

Montgomery believes Warhurst's entire arsenal and presence in the circle will translate well to the next level.

"Megan is very confident," Montgomery said. "When she steps on the mound, she's very commanding. She has a good pace that works very well, and she throws speed. She's a lefty as well, which helps a little bit. Her curveball is going into batters, and her screwball is a very strong pitch. She can use that as an out pitch in 0-2 counts."

"She's got a good off-speed pitch with nice movement. She's worked very hard on making the ball move and keeping hitters off balance."

Warhurst says her greatest area of progress as a pitcher at RHS has come above the shoulders.

"Mentally. I've mentally grown a lot," she said. "You have to have a strong mind to pitch a game, especially when you go deep in the playoffs or get to regionals. You have to stay strong. No matter what you look like on the mound, you have to have that strong mentality to say that you're gonna do your best out there."

With her collegiate future squared away, Warhurst can now focus on leading an experienced Russellville squad on its quest to earn a state tournament berth. The Lady Golden Tigers bring back a ton of talent from last season's 24-win team, including senior infielder Karlie Moore and a loaded junior class headlined by All-State outfielder A.J. Taylor, pitcher/outfielder Krista Sikes, outfielder Alivia Clemmons, third baseman Autumn Logan, infielder Makala O'Neal and catcher Madison Murray (who missed all of last season with a torn ACL after batting .349 as a freshman in 2017).

"Signing early can definitely be helpful in getting some pressure off and allowing you to just go play," Montgomery said. "This year, what Megan will be able to do is focus on improving where she is now and leading her team where she wants them to go. It's an effort that's gonna take everybody doing their part, but we've got the pieces to get it done."



The  
*Suites*

Short Term Rehab Center  
At Florence

Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, LLC

Tel: 256.766.5771

FlorenceRehabCenter.com



# GARAGES | HAY BARNES | PAVILIONS | SHOPS | HOMES

## Quality Building Kits *customized* to fit your needs



**SPECIAL**

30x40x12 enclosed, 6x6 treated post, wood trusses 4' OC, #1 29 ga. metal with 40 year manufacturer warranty, (1) walk-in door, (2) windows, (2) 10x10 garage doors

**\$11,400\*** include materials and labor  
concrete pad extra



40x84x14 steel trusses, 2x6 purlins and girts, 6x6 pressure treated posts, #1 29 ga. painted walls and #1 29 ga. galvalume roof.

**\$14,250\*** include materials and labor



Barns



Homes

Built on traditions of hard work, ethical business and commitment to quality, Summertown Metals has become a premier manufacturer and distributor of high quality building products. We are family owned and operated and have been in business for more than 10 years. We are committed to providing high quality materials and building solutions at the best possible prices resulting in an unbeatable value for you our customer.



3864 Summertown Highway, Summertown, TN 38483  
[www.summertownmetals.com](http://www.summertownmetals.com)

Call us today for a free quote.

\*Delivery and taxes are extra. Labor is provided by an independent contractor. Pad must be level and suitable for building. Prices may change without notice. Printed prices are good within 100 miles of Summertown Metals. Applicable permits and codes may add to the cost of building.

## Kuykendall, Miller lead Red Bay past Elkmont

Staff reports

Reagan Kuykendall and Mallori Miller combined to score 18 fourth-quarter points on Saturday, helping Red Bay's girls pull away for a 48-39 win over Elkmont in a Thanksgiving tournament at Hartselle.

The Lady Tigers (1-0) were leading by one at 26-25 before getting 10 points from Kuykendall and eight from Miller in the fourth. Kuykendall, a senior forward, finished with 20 points and shot 11-for-14 from the foul line. Miller was a perfect 5-for-5 from the line and finished with 11 points.

Red Bay shot 22-for-31 from the line as a team. Macy Faulkner scored five points, and Destiny McCollister, Madisyn Hester, Kaylee Markham and Cassidy Kuykendall each had three.

## Vina girls start season with win over Sulligent

Staff reports

Emma Humphres and Sara Scott each posted a double-double for Vina last Tuesday night, helping the Lady Red Devils open the season with a 47-39 win over Sulligent.

Humphres, a senior, knocked down three first-quarter threes to help Vina jump out to an 11-7 lead. She finished the night with 13 points and 13 rebounds. Freshman Rayleigh Guin (six points) and Scott (four points) combined to score 10 points in the second quarter, helping the Lady Red Devils extend the lead to 28-19 going into the half. Vina out-scored Sulligent 11-10 in the third quarter and then held on for the win.

Scott finished with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Guin scored eight points and also handed out a team-high eight assists. Sarah Johnson and Kaitlyn King each finished with five points. Abbie Petree scored three points, and Hailey Cantrell had one.

## Guin, Humphres excel at cross country meet

Staff reports

Vina's Rayleigh Guin and Annabelle Humphres each finished in the top 35 out of 140 runners at the recent state cross country meet.

The two Lady Red Devils ran nearly identical 5K times, with Guin clocking in at 23:37.03 and Humphres right behind at 23:37.30. Guin placed 34th, followed by Humphres in 35th place.

"I am proud of all the hard work these young ladies put in," Vina coach Paul Humphres said.



For updates on sports all week long, visit us on the web at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!



## 'BOBCATS' from page 14

Campbell as the lead grew to 23-17, but that's when the turnovers began to mount. The Bobcats committed 13 in the second quarter alone, and Oakman made the most of those extra possessions. The Wildcats shot 9-for-18 from the floor in quarter number two [Phil Campbell was 5-for-10] and out-scored the Bobcats 21-15 to take a 34-33 lead into the locker room.

Oakman held a significant edge in both size and athleticism, which always helps when applying defensive pressure, but Thomas believes that most of his team's mistakes were self-inflicted.

"Teams are gonna be more athletic than us," Thomas said. "They're gonna be faster. They're gonna be bigger. That's gonna be the case a lot this year. But we'll compete, though. I don't see any team being more competitive than us. That's one thing about this group—they're gonna fight. They're gonna get after it. They're not scared. I don't believe they were scared of that team."

"[Most of the turnovers] were stuff like lobbing passes, making a cross-court pass instead of making an easy pass, throwing the ball to a post player instead of a guard on the press-break....I could go through ten or eleven things that we did where you just shake your head and say, 'Why?'"

And they answer, 'I don't know.' But I honestly believe they'll get better. That's one good thing about youth. They're gonna learn. They're gonna get better. From the last game to this one, we improved. We'll get better every game. I honestly believe that, because this group here, they want to work. They want to learn."

Garrison had two baskets and Riddle had one in a 6-2 spurt to open the second half that put Phil Campbell in front 39-36, but the Bobcats just couldn't take care of the basketball. They turned it over seven more times in the third quarter and trailed 49-43 heading to the fourth.

A layup by Saint and two technical free throws by Garrison brought Phil Campbell within four at 51-47 with 6:57 remaining, but the Wildcats answered with a 14-0 run to put the game out of reach.

"I don't think we ran out gas," said Thomas, whose team shot just 2-for-13 from the floor in the fourth quarter. "[Oakman] took the pressure up a little more, and our youth kind of came out. I know that's not an excuse, but we're a tenth-grade guard-oriented group, and it kind of shows sometimes. We didn't have the maturity to slow it down. We tried to run with them, and a team that athletic and that quick, you can't run with them."

## 'TIGERS' from page 13

or would we come out glassy-eyed because of who we were playing? They responded the way I hoped they would. It's just a shame we couldn't hit a shot in the first half.

"But a lot of that was because of the pace of play. You can't practice for that. Once our guys kind of got into the game a little bit, the shots started falling. But early in the game, we were probably just catching our breath a little bit. They were playing so fast."

Red Bay didn't wilt under full-court pressure the way previous Eagle opponents had, turning the ball over just seven times in the first half. But the length of Boler and Valdez—each of whom finished with three blocked shots—prevented the Tigers from getting any offensive production in the paint.

**"It's good. It shows a lot of people—and our team, hopefully—that there's a lot of potential with this group," Torisky said. "The way they responded and played their way back into it, I think that says a lot about the character of our guys."**

"In the first half, the difference was not so much their length on the press," Torisky said. "We handled their press well—better than I thought we would. But just getting inside was tough. Typically, when we get inside, we at least get a shot off. Tonight, we probably got ten shots blocked where they just went up and got it. And you're not gonna see that very much throughout the state, but that's just the way it was."

"We said at halftime, 'We've gotta make some adjustments. We're getting into the lane, but now we've gotta find the shooters.' I think that's what we did in the second half."

Red Bay hit eight threes in the second half, three of which—one apiece by senior guard Colton Corum, sophomore forward Braden Ray and Weatherford—came in a 90-second span midway through the third quarter. That's when Valdez took over, converting a layup and then burying a pair of deep threes on back-to-back possessions as part of a 12-0 run to close the quarter.

"He's an unbelievable athlete," Torisky said of Valdez, who finished with a team-high 21 points on 8-for-16 shooting. "I've watched them play

"We want to play a little up-tempo, but we've gotta be smart about it. At one point [in the second quarter], we had an eight-point lead, and we tried to slow it down and work the ball around and get good shots like we did early on. We forced some shots and took some shots that were okay shots, but we could have gotten better shots."

Phil Campbell finished the game shooting 35 percent (18-for-51) from the field and 9-for-10 from the foul line. Garrison shot 5-for-10 from the field and 4-for-4 from the line, finishing with 15 points. Riddle also scored 15 points and pulled down six rebounds. Saint chipped in with seven points, five boards, three steals and two assists.

Baker finished with five points, and Nate Owens and Ben Williams each had three points and four boards. Easton Cummings scored two points.

Oakman shot 47 percent (31-for-66) from the floor as a team and 5-for-8 from the foul line. Christian Hubbard led the Wildcats with 17 points off the bench. D.J. Roberts had 15 points, and A.J. Odom added 12 points and nine rebounds. Oakman out-rebounded Phil Campbell 31-25.

The Bobcats were set to return to action on Tuesday night against Tanner in a Thanksgiving tournament in Hanceville.

three times, and I don't think he made one three. Tonight he hit three from about twenty-five feet out. You can't guard that. We just had to live with it. He was definitely a difference maker.

"I was really proud, though, of how we fought the big kid [Boler] down low. I don't even know if he reached ten points. That says a lot about our kids, because they knew they were in for a battle."

Boler, who dominated Lindsay Lane with 29 points and 17 rebounds in an 81-39 win earlier this season, took only four shots Saturday night. He made all four, finishing with 10 points and nine boards. Derrick Bishop chipped in with 13 points for the Eagles, and Will Jones added eight.

Weatherford, who topped the 20-point mark 11 times as a junior last season, finished with 21 on Saturday to lead Red Bay. He shot 7-for-15 from the field overall, knocking down five of the Tigers' 11 total three-pointers.

"Playing [Decatur Heritage], they really play defense to get the ball back as fast as possible," Torisky said. "They're trying to steal every pass, but what that does is leave a lot of openings for you to attack and kick. So we knew we were gonna get shots if we didn't turn the ball over. And our guys just started hitting them."

"Those guys on my team can shoot, and I knew they'd start hitting them. They've got confidence, and we work on that every day. When the shots started falling, I think everybody probably looked shocked, but they expected to make those."

Weatherford pulled down seven rebounds to go along with his 21 points. Allison and Corum each scored eight points on 3-for-7 shooting, and Ray added six points and eight rebounds. Senior Noah Brewer banked in a 35-footer at the halftime buzzer and finished with three points. Senior Hunter Bays also had three points, going 3-for-4 from the foul line.

The Tigers shot 31 percent (17-for-54) from the field, making nearly twice as many threes (11) as two-point baskets (six). They were 8-for-10 from the line and out-rebounded Decatur Heritage 24-20. The Eagles shot 58 percent (25-for-43) from the field and made seven threes.

Red Bay is playing this week in a Thanksgiving tournament in Hanceville.

advanced to the Northwest Regional last season—answered the bell and fought their way back into the game. More to the point, they *shot* their way back into it.

Senior big man Gath Weatherford drilled three threes in a four-minute span, the last of which capped off a 14-1 run and cut Decatur Heritage's lead to eight at 54-46. For the first time this season, the Eagles found themselves in a battle in the fourth quarter. The home fans could sense it, and the Red Bay gym was rockin'.

To their credit, the Eagles responded, pushing the lead back into double-figures on a soaring dunk by Boler and then holding Red Bay to just two field goals the rest of the way to secure a 62-53 win. Decatur Heritage improved to 4-0 at the outset of a season that could very well end with them raising a banner in Birmingham.

The Tigers, meanwhile, left Saturday night feeling no less confident about their chances of building on last year's breakthrough.

"It's good. It shows a lot of people—and our team, hopefully—that there's a lot of potential with this group," said Torisky, now in his fourth season at the helm. "The way they responded and played their way back into it, I think that says a lot about the character of our guys."

"Who knows how far we can go? We don't care about that. If we'll just play that hard every night, most teams can't match that intensity. That's what we're banking on."

The Eagles came out hot, shooting 70 percent from the field in the first quarter and opening up a 10-point lead on a bucket by Boler. Junior point guard Clay Allison beat the buzzer with a three, leaving Red Bay trailing 17-10 at the end of one.

Decatur Heritage stayed hot in the second quarter, knocking down three threes and shooting 8-for-14 from the field overall. The Tigers, meanwhile, missed 11 of their 14 shot attempts and went into the break trailing 37-21.

Torisky was pleased with the way his team fought in the first half, but shooting 25 percent (6-for-24) from the field proved difficult to overcome.

"I knew our guys were gonna fight," Torisky said. "We talked about it before the game started: Would we come out here and put up a good fight,





Think you know college football? Then maybe you can beat Brady

Sponsored by State Farm Insurance Agent Lanny Norris and CB&S Bank.

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 13 must be postmarked by Friday, November 23, and picks submitted by email for Week 13 must be received by Saturday, November 24 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 12 winner BARRY KING, who correctly picked 8 out of 10 games and also picked Notre Dame to beat Syracuse 42-17!

# Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 13: November 24 Brady's Pick Your Pick

Florida at Florida State	Florida	
Georgia Tech at Georgia	Georgia	
Auburn at Alabama	Alabama	
Tennessee at Vanderbilt	Vanderbilt	
South Carolina at Clemson	Clemson	
Kentucky at Louisville	Kentucky	
LSU at Texas A&M	Texas A&M	
Michigan at Ohio State	Michigan	
Notre Dame at USC	Notre Dame	
Utah State at Boise State	Boise State	

Tiebreaker Score: Auburn  Alabama

Your Name:

Phone number:

## National Champion of Savings™



Discounts up to 40%



Lanny Norris Agency | 256-332-0540  
LannyNorris.com

HOLIDAY DOOR BUSTERS

SALE  
50% OFF

Monday 11/19 thru Sunday 11/25

ANY ONE ITEM \$50 OR LESS w/ COUPON

Certain restrictions apply. See store for details.



BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

SALE ENDS NOVEMBER 26



AAFA certification includes EasyCare® Ultra Premium interior paint in flat, eggshell and satin sheens, and all colorants.

TrueValuePaint.com

BLACK FRIDAY SALE

GREEN'S DEPENDABLE HARDWARE  
15220A Hwy 43 • Russellville  
Behind McDonald's • 256.331.0123



**BETTER HEALTHCARE IS COMING**

*North Alabama Medical Center will  
open in Florence, Alabama on*

**12.6.18**



*Because We Always Strive For Better.*

Our newly constructed hospital will provide our region with enhanced access to patient-centered, technologically-advanced healthcare.

1701 VETERANS DRIVE | FLORENCE, ALABAMA



**North Alabama**  
MEDICAL CENTER