

Lane named Citizen of the Year

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Although members of the Russellville Civitan Club nominated him for Franklin County Citizen of the Year, it was Pat Lane who thanked Civitan members when he received the honor at the November 19 Franklin County Farm-City Banquet. "I thank the members of the Civitan Club for nominating me," Lane said. "I think about all the people I have looked up to all these years who worked so hard to make this community great, and I'm glad I can be a little part of that."

Lane, a 15-year member of Civitan, is especially active in club projects and fundraisers. In nominating Lane, Civitan members described him as "having a real passion and commitment for the organization and the

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PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Pat Lane, center, with Russellville Civitan Club pPresident Eric Fike and Katernia Cole-Coffey from the Franklin County Extension Office.

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Ian Stevens, 15, is a student at RHS.

Local Scout launches shoe drive to benefit those affected by CF

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

For Ian Stevens, choosing a project for a charitable cause as part of his quest to become an Eagle Scout was a no-brainer.

Stevens decided to go with a cause that hit close to home by starting a shoe drive to benefit those affected by Cystic Fibrosis. The Stevens are extremely close to a family whose daughter Kaitlyn suffers from Cystic Fibrosis and is currently in liver failure and awaiting a transplant from the donor transplant list. According to Ian's mother Fauna, this was something that her son seemed interested in from the start.

"We started looking for projects that Ian could work on to get started with,

See 'SCOUT,' Page 9

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Letitia "Tish" Swinney Benford, Phil Campbell, age 55
Died Monday, November 26, 2018. Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Funeral will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 29, 2018 at Pinkard Funeral Home Chapel in Russellville. Interment will be in Liberty Hill Cemetery in Phil Campbell.

Mary E. Crow, Muscle Shoals (formerly of Littleville), age 82
Died Sunday, November 11, 2018. Memorial service held at Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville.

Helen Lee Sutton Grissom, Russellville, age 62
Died Sunday, November 25, 2018. Funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment will be in Moulton Springs Cemetery in Bankhead Forest.

Linda Faye Hallman, Russellville, age 73
Died Friday, November 16, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Sara Ann Rickard, Spruce Pine, age 77
Died Sunday, November 25, 2018. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

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Commission votes to split cost with city on renovating Walnut Gate Road RR crossing

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission agreed to share the \$33,000 cost that the City of Russellville will incur as part of major improvements to the Walnut Gate Road railroad crossing.

At their November 19 meeting, commissioners agreed to split the \$33,000 with the city in order to make much-needed renovations to the crossing. Most of the funding for the project will be paid for by the Alabama Department of Transportation's Rail-Highway Safety Program. The total project amount is \$330,000.

In other action, the commission:

•Approved catastrophic sick leave for Dale Frederick, an employee of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, and the retirement of Chief Deputy Delane

Clark, effective December 1, 2018.

•Approved a professional engineering agreement with Civil Group for the Highway 77/Highway 60 project for surveying services.

•Approved the resignation of temporary employee Danny Morgan with the Franklin County Highway Dept.

•Awarded the Road Gear Industrial Access Project in the Mike Green Industrial Park to North Alabama Paving at a cost of \$179,074.75.

•Vacated Humphries Road after a public hearing was held with no objection.

•Approved the retirement of Rita Jeffreys from the Red Bay Revenue Commissioner's Office, and approved the hiring of Natalie Henson as a revenue/probate clerk at the Red Bay office.

•Approved advertising for the vacant accountant/payable clerk position at the Courthouse Annex.

RCS Board accepts retirement of Powell, Vincent

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education accepted the retirement of two long-time employees at its November 15 meeting.

Mike Powell, RHS teacher, and Danny Vincent, RES custodian, both retired, with Powell's date effective November 1, 2018 and Vincent's December 1, 2018.

Additionally, the board approved the resignation in position of Justin Vallejo, RMS teacher, effective October 29, 2018, and resignation in temporary employment of Emily Vess.

Leaves of absence were granted to Ashley Almon, RES teacher, from January 22-May 24, 2019, and Kris Lloyd, WES teacher, from November 5-December 19, 2018.

In other action, the board:

•Approved Matthew Duncan as a pro-consult for JV and RMS baseball teams, with maximum payment of \$600, to be paid by the Baseball Booster

Club, and Cory Trapp to be a pro-consult for the varsity and JV baseball teams with maximum payment of \$600, to be paid by the Baseball Booster Club.

•Approved the voluntary transfer of Sharmaine Fikes from RES school bookkeeper to aide at RES, effective January 1, 2019, and Tony Buckhalter from PE strength and conditioning at RHS to ISS at RHS, effective November 1, 2018.

•Approved the employment in position of Tynes Channell, RES custodian, effective December 3, 2018, and Caroline Hargett, RMS math teacher, effective January 3, 2019.

•Approved the temporary employment of Madeline Page, sixth-grade math teacher, to fill a leave of absence from January 3-February 15, 2019.

•Approved facility use request from Pilgrim's for "Storytime with Santa."

•Approved a trip request for the RHS Marching Hundred from April 25-28, 2019, to San Antonio to participate in the Fiesta Flambeau Night Parade.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Board of Education will be Monday, December 17 at 4 p.m., with work session at 3 p.m.

NW-SCC employees recognized at awards ceremony

Submitted to the FFP

Four Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) employees were recognized recently at the 2018 Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Chancellor's Awards ceremony in Mobile.

Chancellor's Awards are given annually to each community college in four categories: Administrator of the Year, Academic Faculty Member of the Year, Technical Faculty Member of the Year and Support Staff Member of the Year. The 2018 award winners for NW-SCC were:

•Administrator of the Year Tom Carter, Assistant Dean, Admissions/Recruitment.

•Academic Faculty of the Year Lauren Wright, History Instructor.

•Technical Faculty of the Year Ray Morris, Electrical Instructor.

•Support Staff Member of the Year Dana Robertson, Accountant I.

The Chancellor's Awards began 32 years ago in the ACCS as a way to reward and encourage those who have exemplified outstanding performance, creativity and dedicated service to their college.



COURTESY PHOTO

NW-SCC employees receive their awards at the 2018 ACCS Chancellor's Awards ceremony in Mobile. Pictured (L to R): Tom Carter, Dr. Glenda Colagross, NW-SCC president; Dana Robertson, Ray Morris. Not pictured is Lauren Wright.

Send your guest columns, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. Visit us online any time at franklinfreepress.net.

Honey Do: Holiday paws

Christmas and other holidays can certainly be stressful for us, but what about the pets who find their space invaded by strange visitors, trees in the house, funny-looking packages and unfamiliar smells of candles, food and potpourri?

Why, it's enough to send a canine to the crazy house.

More than 79 million U.S. households (65 percent) have at least one pet. More than 54 million have a dog, and more than 42 million have a cat. This information is easily found at www.humanesociety.org, along with quite a few other amazing facts concerning pets.

When decorating your tree, place breakable ornaments higher up and out of reach. Cats love to climb, so make your tree stable and secure, even if you have to tie it off to the wall. Real-food decorations, such as strung popcorn, can be a real attraction and could result in a toppled tree.

These statistics are why we need to look at some holiday safety tips for the four-legged members of the family, who don't understand that they shouldn't play with shiny glass balls, chew on electrical cords or eat chocolate candy dropped by the

kids. You can't watch them constantly, so take a few safety measures and everyone can have a happier holiday.

Dogs and cats should never be allowed to eat or chew on batteries, snow globes (which may contain anti-freeze), styrofoam, plastic wrap, twist ties, ribbon, children's toys, medicine or medicine bottles.

People-food, such as table scraps, can cause a pet to gain weight. Chicken bones can splinter and do terrible damage to gums and digestive systems. Never give a pet chocolate, as it can be toxic to dogs and cats.

Plants, such as holly, poinsettia and mistletoe, are also toxic and should be kept out of reach. If you notice diarrhea or vomiting, a trip to the vet is probably in order.

When decorating your tree, place breakable ornaments higher up and out of reach. Cats love to climb, so make your tree stable and secure, even if you have to tie it off to the wall. Real-food decorations, such as strung popcorn, can be a real

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Doug Green



REE SHANNON © 2015

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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

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Always include these 'gotcha' items in your holiday budget

One of the biggest problems with Christmas is how it moves around on the schedule every year.

You never know when it's going to be, when it might be coming, and then....BOOM! There it is at your front door saying, "Hey, I'm Christmas. Buy stuff!"

But, wait a minute....Christmas is on the same day every year! December 25th. Who knew?

Somehow, too many of us are caught off guard year after year by Christmas. You already know you need to save throughout the year for holiday festivities. But we all have little things that, no matter what, sneak up on us.

Here's a list of "gotcha" items to include in your holiday budget:

Stamps

Uncle Billy is waiting on his Christmas card. Unless you plan on driving to Toledo to deliver it in person, you're going to need a stamp—plus about 30 more for the rest of your family and friends. Even though they're inexpensive individually, the cost can add up quickly.

Wrapping Paper

A pair of velvet slippers in a brown bag just doesn't have the same effect. You can do so much better than that! Go the extra foot and buy some nice Christmas wrapping paper. While you're at it, go ahead and include some extra cash so you can buy it on sale the day after Christmas so it's waiting for you next year.

Parties

There's your work party, your wife's work party, your kid's school party, your church party, the

neighborhood party....

During the holiday season, you probably need a project manager just to keep track of all the events. And whether you're bringing cookies, decorations, drinks or gifts, you'll still need to plan ahead.

Travel

Going to see the parents? The in-laws? Maybe you're taking a vacation that doesn't involve awkward dinner conversations. If you're traveling this holiday season, don't forget about gas, snacks, hotels, checked baggage fees, rental cars and anything else you might need to get around.

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Food

You can't possibly forget to budget for food, can you? Let's hope not. But while you might not forget the bread, milk and cereal, you also need to think about the seasonal food you'll be buying like egg nog, ham, turkey and fruit cake.

It's time to make a vow. Let's promise ourselves we won't wait until the last minute to take care of the stuff we know is coming. Keep these things in mind while you're out shopping this holiday season!

—Used with permission from DaveRamsey.com



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by Dave Ramsey

Getting ready for the Baby Steps

Dear Dave,
I like your plan, and I'm ready to get control of my finances. Should I catch up on past due bills before saving \$1,000 for the beginner emergency fund you recommend in Baby Step 1?

Samantha

Dear Samantha,
This is a great question, because it gives me a chance to walk you all the way through the Baby Steps plan.

Make sure your necessities are taken care of first. I'm talking about food, clothing, shelter, transportation and utilities. Then, get current on anything you owe or make payment arrangements for your past due bills. Once you have these things taken care of, it's time to take your first Baby Step.

You've already mentioned getting \$1,000 in the bank for a starter emergency fund. That's Baby Step 1. After that, begin your debt snowball. That's Baby Step 2, and here you'll pay off all your debts from

smallest to largest, except for your home. Attack the first balance on your list by paying as much as you can each month, while making minimum payments on your other debts. When you've paid off the first one, add what you were paying on it to the payment on your next debt and start attacking it. In Baby Step 3, you'll save up and increase your emergency fund from \$1,000 to a full three to six months of expenses. Trust me, you'll be surprised how quickly you can save money when you've got all that debt out of the way!

Once you reach this point, it's time to really start looking at the future. In Baby Step 4 you start investing 15 percent of your income for retirement. College funding for any little ones is next in Baby Step 5, and Baby Step 6 is a big one—pay off your house early.

But Baby Step 7 is the real deal. When you're able to build wealth and give with extreme generosity, you've reached the pinnacle of smart money management. Good luck, Samantha!

Dave

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

'PAWS' from page 4

attraction and could result in a top-pled tree.

If your pet is nervous around strangers, it might be a good idea to invest in an indoor kennel that can be kept in an unused room. Be sure to familiarize your pet with these arrangements ahead of time and provide plenty of water and favorite

toys or blankets.

It's easy to get busy this time of year and forget little things that can have huge consequences. With just a little forethought, your pets and guests will have a much nicer visit.

Always be safety-minded and remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.

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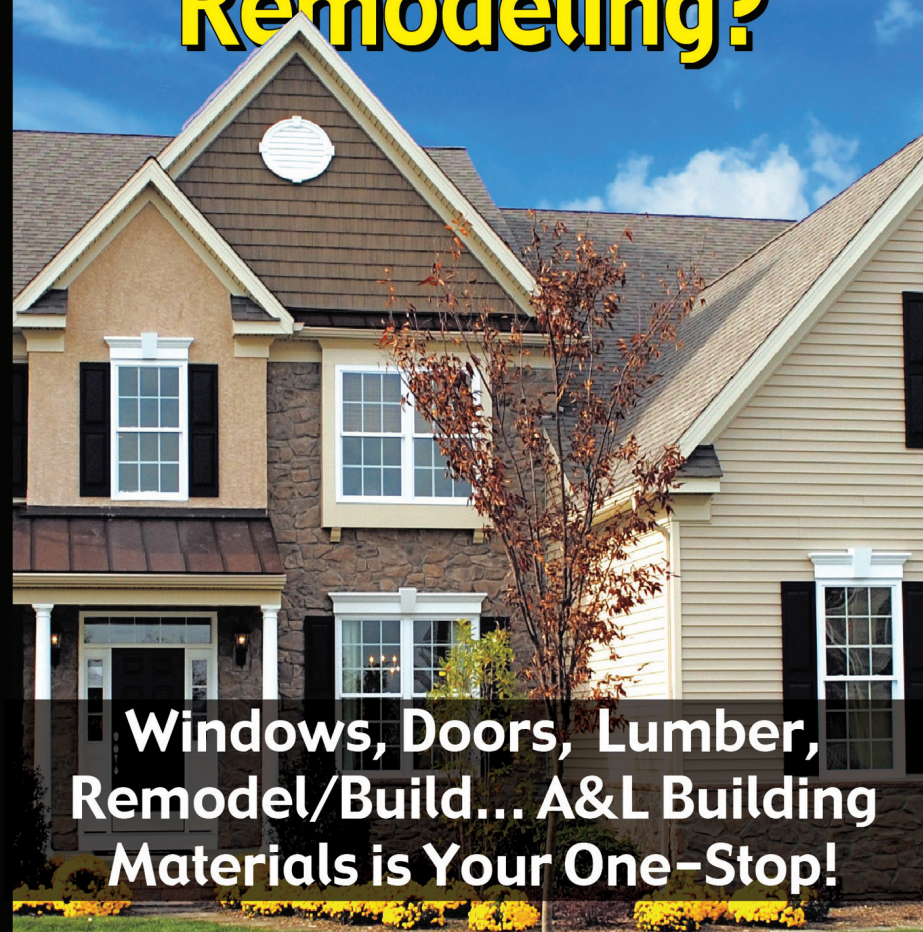
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What's Happening

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

All locations of Bank Independent are now accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for area children through December 14 as part of the Bank's eighth annual Toy Share drive. In 2017, the Bank's Toy Share drive provided more than 3,350 toys and more than \$1,125 in cash donations to partner organizations in time for distribution to local families for Christmas. Charitable organizations distributing Toy Share donations include the Angel Tree Program in partnership with Lexington High School; Christmas Charities Year Round of Madison County; Committee on Church Cooperation in Morgan County; Cornerstone Church in Lawrence County; Department of Human Resources in Franklin, Lawrence and Limestone counties; Lauderdale County Christian Children's Home; Rogersville Volunteer Fire Department; Safeplace of the Shoals; and William Porter Foundation of the Shoals. Toy Share is the last of four annual Share drives hosted by Bank Independent in 2018 to give back to the community as part of Bank Independent's Helping Hands initiative.

Russellville Masonic Lodge 371 is selling Christmas hams. Hams are \$30 and may be pre-ordered by calling 256-810-1970. Pickup will be Saturday, December 22 from 8-10 a.m. at the Lodge on Coffee Street.

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

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

The Red Bay Museum in Red Bay will be open this Sunday afternoon, December 2 from 1-4 p.m. in conjunction with Red Bay's Christmas Open House. With the museum only open regularly on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, this is the perfect chance for those who can't come during those hours to visit the museum. There will be no admission charge, although donations will be accepted. You will be able to purchase items perfect for out-of-town relatives and friends, including Alabama Dirt Shirts with museum logo, ornaments of different Red Bay landmarks, Red Bay afghans, Red Bay History Book by former congressman Carl Elliott, other books by local authors, postcards and other items. The museum contains displays that are recreations of Red Bay landmarks, including the Hotel Red Bay, soda fountain, general merchandise store, theatre, bank, medical clinic, church, military and many more. Finishing up at the end is a display on Tammy Wynette, the largest display on her anywhere at this time. Even if you've been before, items are always being added, and new displays can be seen!

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

Franklin County Christmas parades will be held according to the following schedule (all begin at 6 p.m.): Red Bay, December 3; Vina, December 4; Russellville, December 6; Phil Campbell, December 13.

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

The Cultura Garden Club will hold its annual "Every Light a Prayer for Peace" ceremony on Thursday, December 6 at the Franklin County Courthouse from 4:30-5 p.m. Guest speaker will be Jim Poss, pastor at Branches Church. Entertainment will be presented by the RHS and RMS choruses and drama students, and the JROTC will present the colors. The public is invited to attend. Prior to this ceremony, a reception for veterans will be held in the Courthouse Conference Room from 3:30-4:15 p.m. The reception is co-sponsored by the Cultura Garden Club and Book Lovers Study Club. The Russellville Christmas Parade will follow these events at 6 p.m.

If 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.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre in Russellville on Saturday, December 8 at 7 p.m. General admission seating. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. Call 256-335-4356.

What's Happening

256.332.0255

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

The Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts in Red Bay announces auditions for its next production, *The Seven Year Itch*, by George Axelrod, to be held Sunday, December 9 at 2 p.m. and Monday, December 10 at 7 p.m. at The Weatherford Centre in Red Bay. The cast consists of adult men and women, with older teens being able to play adult parts, and one young boy. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the book, with Mark Richardson directing. The play will be presented February 14-17, 2019, with tickets going on sale the week before. This play will offer dinner theatre before the play with tickets for the play and the dinner for \$25.00. Tickets for the dinner must be purchased in advance. For group sales, contact Beth Hammock at 256-356-9286.

The 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.

On Sunday, December 16, the Second Missionary Baptist Church family invites one and all to its annual Christmas Program. Our theme again this year is "God's Gift of Love." Guest church will be St. Paul C.M.E. Church of Russellville and pastor Zethelyn R. Johnson. Lunch will be served at 2 p.m., and the program will begin at 3 p.m. Come join us so we can praise the Lord!!

The NACOLG SenioRx Medication Assistance Program supplies free or 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.

Toyland opens this week

Submitted to the FFP

It's showtime! *The Roxy's Legend of Toyland* opens this week, with eight performances open to the public.

Event organizers said tickets are going fast and some shows are selling out, so those who want to experience this magical holiday performance should purchase tickets as soon as possible.

Tickets are \$10 for ages two and up and are available for purchase at Russellville Florist & Gifts and at the door before each performance until sold out. Tickets can also be purchased for \$11 on Eventbrite.com. These tickets must be printed and brought to the theater, since tickets through the mail will not arrive on time this close to the show dates.

The Roxy's Legend of Toyland, the creation of former Northwest-Shoals Community College music instructor Lanny McAlister, is aptly named, since it is most certainly a legend in this area. It has brought the magic and joy of the Christmas season to audiences young and old for years and is not something you'll want to miss!

Fans of the production will enjoy popular segments that have been a *Toyland* tradition for years. There will also be two new segments this year featuring *The Lion King* and *Beauty and the Beast*, which McAlister (the production's director) said are already becoming fast favorites among the cast.

Public performances will be as follows:

- Wednesday, November 28 - 7 p.m.
- Thursday, November 29 - 7 p.m.
- Friday, November 30 - 7 p.m.
- Saturday, December 1 - 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.
- Sunday, December 2 - 3 p.m.

For more information and updates about *The Roxy's Legend of Toyland*, visit their Facebook page.



The Roxy's Legend of Toyland opens tonight, Wednesday, Nov. 28.

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So much to be thankful for at RCS

It's the season of thankfulness, and we have so much to be thankful for at Russellville City Schools.

I am especially thankful for our amazing teachers and students. We have teachers here at RCS who continually go above and beyond to make sure their students are not only learning, but are engaged and excited about their learning experience.

Our teachers from pre-K through 12th grade utilize technology and creativity to make their lessons come alive. They put in the hours during school and outside of school to ensure their students' success. And they support each other and collaborate with other educators to continue their own education, always looking for ways to be better teachers. And the same can be said for our staff, who make sure our schools are always running at top notch. There is no doubt we have

the best faculty and staff.

And our students—our students give me new reasons every week to be proud of them. Our students are motivated, dedicated, and they work hard at whatever they do. From athletics to academics to extracurriculars to fine arts, our students aim to succeed and they learn so many life lessons along the way. We take pride in teaching the whole child here at RCS, and with the strong character our students display, you can see this is evident.

And a post about thankfulness wouldn't be complete without mentioning how thankful I am for our community. The community we have here in Russellville is second to none. I know there are many districts who would love to have the



Heath Grimes
RCS Sup't

kind of support that we have here at RCS. Our community shows up big for sporting events and supporting fundraisers, but one of this biggest shows of support came a few weeks ago with the affirmation of the amendment to extend the one-cent sales tax for our local schools for a 30-year period. I cannot tell you how important this is for our system and what a difference it will make in our students' education here at RCS. Thank you, sincerely, for recognizing that our children are our greatest resource, and thank you for investing in their future! Because of this support, I know that we will have so much more to be thankful for in the years to come.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving reflecting on all the many blessings we have.

Heath Grimes
RCS Superintendent

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Stewart thanks RFD for support

Submitted to the FFP

By Christine Stewart,
Russellville Hospital CEO

The Firemen's Fund is just one example of how Russellville Hospital and the Russellville Fire Department work together for the benefit of our community.

The Firemen's Fund was established to assist patients who can not pay for a diagnostic mammogram and have no other resources. The Russellville Fire Department sells T-shirts annually to support the fund. The hospital provides the mammograms, and the radiologist interprets the diagnostic test.

The physicians and registration clerks are aware of the program and will assist patients in applying for the fund benefit.

I want to thank the Russellville Fire Department for their dedication and hard work. It is a privilege to work with the department in the service of our community.

Christine Stewart, CEO
Russellville Hospital



COURTESY PHOTO

The Firemen's Fund is just one example of how Russellville Hospital and the Russellville Fire Department work together for the benefit of the community.

'LANE,' from page 1

ability to motivate members."

Lane's fundraising efforts have helped provide scholarships for local students, needed funds for the American Cancer Society, Meals on Wheels and the Civitan International Research Center.

The annual Farm-City Banquet celebrated its 63rd anniversary this year. The idea for the first banquet began as Charles Dana Bennett, an entrepreneur from Vermont, and Merle H. Tucker, 1955 chairman of the Kiwanis International Agriculture and Conservation Committee, were seated together on a train ride from Chicago to Washington, D.C.

The two men discussed the need for positive public relations between farm and city dwellers. With support from Kiwanis, the efforts for the annual event began. This year's theme was "200

Years of Alabama Agriculture," in celebration of Alabama's bicentennial.

The annual event is organized by the Franklin County Extension System and the Farm-City Planning Committee and has been honored as the best Farm-City Dinner for Division II in the State of Alabama.

Other honorees at this year's Farm-City Banquet included:

- Kenley and Kelly Britnell, Conservation Farm Family of the Year.
 - Northwest Alabama RC&D, Agricultural Community Development Award.
 - Chick Chain Project, Agriculture Youth Award.
- Several 4-H students were honored for their exceptional skills in the project including Jacob Landers (Phil Campbell Elem.), Bo and Kade

LeMay (Phil Campbell Elem.), Maddie Pearson (Red Bay Elem.) and Andrew Massey (Red Bay Elem.)

- Andrea Hovater, Agricultural Service Award.
- Steve and Laurie Harbin, Farm Family of the Year.
- Tractor Supply, Agricultural Business of the Year.
- Gary Stanford and Regina McKinney, Franklin County Extension Farmers Market Service Award.
- Starland Newell, Agricultural Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Golden Farms and Sweeney Farms, Century Heritage Farm Recognition for being owned and operated by the same family for over 100 years. Only 600 Alabama farms have received this honor, including 13 others in Franklin County.

'SCOUT,' from page 1

and we came across the idea to do a shoe drive to benefit someone that we know suffers from some type of illness," Stevens said. "Ian immediately became interested in the idea and also in the fact that Kaitlyn and other kids waiting on the organ donor wait list will indirectly benefit from this drive."

Ian, 15, is currently a student at Russellville High School and has been involved as a scout since he was eight years old. He started out as a Wolf Scout at his church and progressed over the years to his current level, which is Life Scout. In order to become an Eagle Scout, a certain number of volunteer hours are required, as well as starting and overseeing a charitable cause of some kind.

According to Fauna Stevens, the shoe drive will take in any new or gently worn shoes that someone might have lying around the house or simply can not wear anymore. Once the shoes are collected, Ian and other volunteers will package up the shoes and send them off. The shoes will then be sent overseas to underdeveloped countries and places like that. The drive will receive 40 cents per pound of shoes they turn in, but in order for the shoe drive to be a success, the drive must receive around 2,500 shoes in total.

The proceeds that are received from the drive will go towards helping reduce costs of surgery, rooming, therapy, recovery and other costs for those children on the organ donor wait list.

Stevens says that while most charitable causes ask for money, this one will save you time and money.

"We know that at this time of year everyone is asking for monetary donations for their causes, but we're not asking for money," Stevens said. "We are simply asking for shoes that might be lying around your house just taking up space. We know everyone is cleaning out their closets due to getting new things this time of year, so what better way to get rid of things like that? It's a really great way to give back to a great cause."

For anyone who is interested in dropping off a pair of new or gently worn shoes of any size, the drop-off locations are Eye Care Professionals in Russellville, First Methodist Church of Russellville, any of the Russellville City Schools until November 30, Austin's Shoes in Muscle Shoals, Valley Chiropractic in Muscle Shoals, Austin's Shoes in Florence, and Lowes in Florence.



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Council approves personnel moves within RPD

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Several personnel moves within the Russellville Police Department highlighted a short meeting of the Russellville City Council on November 19. Scotty Lowery was promoted to captain, replacing Mike Prince, who retired earlier this year. The council approved a vacancy for lieutenant, the position Lowery formerly held. Michael Miller was promoted to lieutenant, and Jordan Testerman and Dakota Demastus were

promoted to sergeant. The council approved a vacancy for sergeant based on Miller's promotion, as well as a vacancy for one patrol officer position. The resignation of dispatcher Jake Burkett was approved, and the council declared a vacancy for one dispatcher position. In other action, the council: •Approved a resolution commending Franklin County Archives director Chris Ozbirn for her outstanding work for the county. •Awarded the bid for the 2016 TAP Sidewalk Project for Madison Street, Lauderdale Street and

Coffee Avenue, contingent upon approval from the Alabama Department of Transportation to transfer funds to the project. •Approved an expense of approximately \$10,000 for structural engineering and architectural fees for the building at 127 North Jackson Avenue. •Approved the promotion of Andy Devaney to Firefighter II with the Russellville Fire Department. The next regular scheduled meeting of the Russellville City Council is set for December 3, 2018, with work session at 6 p.m. and meeting to follow.

Eight local establishments earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

All of the eight Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of November 12-16 had scores that fall into the "satisfactory compliance" range. Health ratings are required to be prominently posted in all food/lodging establishments. Scores are graded by the Alabama Department of Public Health inspectors on a 100-point scale. Establishments with scores of 85 to 100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are routinely inspected. Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again in 60 days, and those scoring between 60 and 69 will have another follow-up within 48 hours. Any establishment scoring below 60 will be immediately closed.

Areas of inspection by ADPH include management and personnel; food storage, preparation and service; equipment; utensils; linen cleanliness; plumbing and waste; poisonous or toxic material storage; and an inspection of the physical facility or property. The eight Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 86 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range. The highest score was 100, received by Mason Jar on Main, 102 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay. Inspections of Franklin County businesses, with critical item violations noted, resulted in the following scores: •El Quetzal Buena Vista Bakery/Restaurant, 118 E. Franklin St., Russellville, 86. (No paper towels in restrooms or at kitchen hand sink) •Taylor's Restaurant, 808 Ronnie McDowell

Ave., Russellville, 91. (Improper insecticide). •The Grind Cafe and Coffee Shop, 13760 Hwy. 43 Suite 1, Russellville, 91. (Chemical bottles not labeled, Signs of Rodents present). •Piggly Wiggly Market #93, 518 4th Avenue SW, Red Bay, 93. (Chemicals stored with paper towels in produce). •Big Star Supermarket #345, 406 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 95. (Purex stored on drinks). •Panda Buffet, 14633 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96. Of the 21 inspections done in Colbert County from November 12-16, no business scored below the satisfactory range. The high score for the week in Colbert County was 99, scored by Love's Truck Stop, 2048 Hwy. 20, Tuscumbia. Health ratings are available at www.foodscores.state.al.us and may be viewed by city or county.

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Week 14 in the SEC

Last week's record: 4-0

Year to date: 36-15

Saturday, December 1

Alabama vs. Georgia



Mike Self
Sports Editor

Given that Alabama is making its 12th appearance in the SEC Championship Game and Georgia is making its seventh, it's hard to believe this will be only the second title-game meeting between these two perennial contenders. The first (in 2012) was a classic, with Alabama holding off Georgia 32-28 in Atlanta and then going on to beat Notre Dame in the national championship game. [A similar scenario could play out this year, albeit with a playoff semifinal game in between.]

A few weeks ago, it didn't look as though Georgia could hang with Alabama this time around. As of Monday's betting action, the Bulldogs were still two-touchdown underdogs, but they have been playing their best football of the season down the stretch—particularly on offense.

Georgia has been mashing and gashing opposing defenses with the best rushing attack in the SEC, averaging 336.2 yards per game and 7.3 yards per carry in four November wins. Big-game quarterback Jake Fromm has also been hot. Since struggling in the loss at LSU on October 13, Fromm has completed 73 percent of his attempts with 11 touchdowns and just one interception in five games—all of which the Bulldogs have won by at least 17 points.

Alabama, of course, has won each of its 12 games this season by at least 20 points, becoming the first team in history to do so. Record-setting quarterback Tua Tagovailoa essentially wrapped up the Heisman with a monster Iron Bowl, throwing for 324 yards and five touchdowns while also rushing for a score. This will be Georgia's first look at Tua since his second-half relief appearance and game-winning touchdown pass in last year's national title game.

The strength of both teams certainly appears to lie with their explosive offenses, which rank first and second in the SEC in points per game (Alabama at 49.0, Georgia at 40.1) and yards per play (Alabama at 8.0, Georgia at 7.4). The difference, at least in some statistical aspects, is on defense, where Alabama leads the SEC with 40 sacks and Georgia ranks next-to-last with just 20. [There is also a huge disparity in tackles for loss, with Alabama ranking No. 2 in the league at nearly eight per game and Georgia ranking dead last at barely four per game.]

The guess here is that Alabama makes a few more plays defensively in big spots and has more success holding Fromm in check than the Bulldogs do in slowing down Tua. Another high-scoring affair like the 2012 game would not be a surprise.

The Pick: Alabama 37 Georgia 24

Statement game

With an impressive early-season win over a good Wilson team, the Lady 'Cats made their case for being even better than last year's Final 4 squad

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

PHIL CAMPBELL – It was still three days shy of Thanksgiving, but both Phil Campbell and Wilson were in mid-season form last Monday night, treating fans inside the PCHS gym to an impressive display of shot-making by two of the top girls basketball teams in north Alabama.

"I think people got their money's worth on that one," Phil Campbell coach Craig Thomas quipped after watching his team shoot a sizzling 62 percent from the field in the second half and make 10 three-pointers on the night to earn a 71-65 win

See 'STATEMENT,' Page 18



FILE PHOTO

Allen (who put up 16 points, seven rebounds and six assists in last week's 71-65 victory over the Lady Warriors) was one of four Phil Campbell players averaging double-figures in scoring through two games.

New faces help Belgreen boys open season strong

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

THARPTOWN - With three new faces in the starting lineup and several more coming off the bench, Belgreen boys coach Clint Isbell had prepared himself to accept a less than perfect performance from his team on the offensive end of the floor in last Tuesday night's season opener at Tharptown.

"I told them before the game that I wasn't expecting very much offensively," Isbell said, "just because I didn't feel like we'd be in a rhythm in our first game, plus first-game jitters and all that."

The Bulldogs fell short of perfection offensively last Tuesday—but they didn't miss it by much.

Playing at a 90-plus-point pace through the first three quarters, Belgreen shot 54 percent (32-for-59) from the field on the night and hit nine three-pointers on its way to routing the Wildcats 75-36.

"Not bad," said Isbell, whose team put 10 players

in the scoring column, including four in double-figures. "I wasn't expecting a lot offensively, but I told the guys they could at least bring their effort on the defensive end. And I feel like we did that, for the most part. But we did not rebound very well. We didn't have very good effort on the glass, and that's one thing we're gonna point out and get better at."

"They are gonna be very important," Isbell said of his second unit, "because you can't just play five guys. You've gotta have some depth."

Tharptown (1-2 through Sunday) won the battle of the boards 34-28, but the Bulldogs (1-0) dominated pretty much everywhere else. So crisp was their shot-making that they managed to roll up 75 points despite attempting only three free throws the entire night. Belgreen scored 21 points in the first quarter on 9-for-18 shooting, 20 in the second quarter on 8-for-16 shooting and 28 in the third

See 'FACES,' Page 17

Moore, Dempsey help Lady 'Dogs start 2-0

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

THARPTOWN - The best point guards share many of the same attributes: Quickness, a good handle, court vision, a high basketball IQ, etc.

Belgreen girls coach Chad Green would add one more item to the list.

"To me—and this is just my personal opinion—but I feel like your point guard, if they want to be an elite point guard, they've gotta have that free-throw line jump shot," Green said. "Gotta have it, whether it's on a drive-by against a half-court defense or you're on a fast break and you pull up for the jump shot. You've gotta have that to be an elite point guard."

Green's point guard, senior Gabbie Moore, checks that box with a mid-range jumper that is every bit as smooth as it is lethal. Moore sniped away with her fluid lefty stroke last Tuesday night at Tharptown, pouring in a career-high 24 points to lead the Lady Bulldogs to a 69-52 win.

Of Moore's 10 made field goals (in 16 attempts), all but two (one three-pointer and one driving layup) were of the mid-range variety.

"I think that's something she's developed over time," Green said, "that mid-range jumper."

Junior guard Gracie Dempsey added 19 points for Belgreen (2-0 through Sunday), knocking down a pair of threes and going 9-for-12 from the foul line. When Tharptown (1-2) closed to within eight at 40-32 on a three by Shaylee Wieting midway through the third quarter, it was Dempsey who responded with a three of her own and four straight free throws to push the lead back out to 15 at 47-32.

Moore tacked on one of her patented jumpers to cap the 9-0 run and later assisted on a three-pointer by Autumn Bragwell that stretched the lead to 54-36. Moore then closed out the third with another jumper, dribbling around a high screen near the top of the key and beating the buzzer with a 17-footer.

See 'MOORE,' page 15

Bobcats ride huge second half past Wilson

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

PHIL CAMPBELL - Phil Campbell's boys were nearly late coming out of the halftime locker room last Monday night, emerging just in time for the start of the third quarter against Wilson.

Better late than never.

The Bobcats blistered the nets in the second half, shooting 62 percent (17-for-29) from the field and 88 percent (14-for-16) from the foul line. They out-scored the visiting Warriors 54-29 after the break, turning a six-point deficit into a runaway 83-64 win.

"I've been telling people this group has the potential to be a high-scoring team," said head coach Brett Thomas, whose squad had averaged just 53.5 points in splitting its first two games of the season. "At practice, we move the ball well and we shoot it well. I know that's just practice, but tonight we started clicking in that second half. The more we make that extra pass, the better shots we get. In the second half we started passing up the contested shot and taking the open shot. Our guys realized it's a lot easier to make a wide-open shot.

"Our ball movement, our spacing, the little things we talk about were a lot better in the second half. The more we move the ball and space the floor and play as a team, the better we'll be. We weren't selfish tonight. We had four guys in double-digits. That's the team I want to see more of."

Sophomore guard Luke Garrison led the charge for Phil Campbell with a career-high 25 points on 10-for-16 shooting from the field. Garrison hit three of the Bobcats' nine total three-pointers and also added seven rebounds and four assists.

Brett Saint, another sophomore guard, also knocked down three threes and finished with 17 points and nine rebounds. Senior post player Nate Owens added 13 points and eight boards, and senior forward Isaac Riddle reached double-figures for the third time in as many games, scoring 12 points and pulling down nine rebounds.

Phil Campbell crushed the Warriors on the boards, out-rebounding them 43-26. Wilson cooled off after a hot start and finished the night shooting just 35 percent (23-for-65) from the field. The Warriors hit nine threes as a team, but only two of those came in the second half.

"Man-to-man is hard for us because of our [lack of] size," Thomas said. "Wilson has the big boy down low, the [Brycen] Parrish kid, and he's good. You want to play zone to keep them pushed out, but if they shoot like they did in the first half....man, it got to the point where I thought they

were gonna force us to play man. We had to a little bit, but that didn't work out well. So we just told our guys, 'We're gonna play zone, and if you want to stop them, then stop them.'

"Wilson is not a bad team. They're pretty good. This was a good team win for us."

The Warriors made their first four shots (including three from beyond the arc) and jumped out to an early 12-3 lead. Garrison countered with five early points to help steady the Bobcats, and then Owens hit four straight shots to put together his own personal 9-0 run and turn a 13-10 deficit into a 19-13 lead.

Phil Campbell led 21-15 at the end of one but struggled mightily in the second quarter, missing nine of 11 shots and turning the ball over six times as Wilson went on a 20-8 run to take a 35-29 lead into the locker room.

"At halftime," Thomas said, "we just told our guys, 'Hey, we're fighting these guys.' We started off the game down six or seven points and then came back to take the lead, so we knew it wasn't hard to do. We'd already done it once. We just had to do the little things better. In the second quarter, we'd make one pass and then take a contested shot or dribble in and throw up a prayer. We're a good shooting team; we just have to take good shots."

Saint opened the third quarter with a three off an assist from Garrison, cutting the lead in half and sparking a 12-0 run. Saint returned the favor, setting up Garrison for a three that tied the game 35-35 at the 7:00 mark. Junior guard Ben Williams scored six quick points in the next 90 seconds, helping Phil Campbell surge to a 43-37 lead.

Riddle buried a pair of threes in the third and scored eight points; Garrison had 11 in the quarter, Williams had six and Saint added five as the Bobcats shot 12-for-19 from the floor and out-scored Wilson 30-13 to open up a 59-48 lead.

"We played good defense in the third quarter," Thomas said. "We got some steals, we took it to the goal and we made some shots. Life's a lot easier when you're making shots."

Phil Campbell continued making shots the rest of the way, going 5-for-10 from the field and 12-for-14 from the foul line in the fourth quarter. Sophomore reserve Luke Barnwell was a perfect 6-for-6 from the line down the stretch, and Garrison and Saint each hit one three in the fourth.

Williams finished with seven points, and Barnwell added six. The Bobcats shot 46 percent from the field for the game and went 20-for-29 from the foul line.

The 6'5" Parrish led Wilson with 21 points.

Landon English added 14, and Kolby Flipppo had 11.

In other action from last week:

Phil Campbell 52 Tanner 48

Phil Campbell battled back from a six-point halftime deficit for the second straight night, rallying to beat Tanner last Tuesday at a Thanksgiving tournament in Hanceville.

Sophomore guard Luke Garrison led the Bobcats with 15 points, knocking down two threes and going 5-for-6 from the foul line. Garrison had six points in the fourth quarter, helping Phil Campbell out-score Tanner 13-8 to turn a one-point deficit into a four-point win.

Brett Saint, another sophomore guard, added 10 points for the Bobcats. Senior Nate Owens hit three first-quarter threes, helping Phil Campbell stay within three points at 20-17 despite a hot start from the Rattlers. Owens finished the game with nine points.

Junior guard Ben Williams added eight points for Phil Campbell, hitting a big three in the third quarter to help turn the tide. Ridge Raper scored six points, and Isaac Riddle finished with four. The Bobcats won despite shooting just 10-for-22 from the foul line.

After allowing Tanner to score 20 points in the first quarter, Phil Campbell held the Rattlers to just 28 points the rest of the way.

Westminster School at Oak Mountain 81 Phil Campbell 57

Brett Saint scored a career-high 21 points last Wednesday, but the Bobcats couldn't keep up with hot-shooting Westminster in their final game in Hanceville.

Westminster knocked down 13 threes, seven by Sam Bradford and six by James Fairley. Bradford led all scorers with 32 points, and Fairley had 18.

Saint came out hot for Phil Campbell (3-2 through Sunday), drilling a pair of threes and scoring 10 first-quarter points, but the Bobcats still trailed 20-19 at the end of one. Westminster stretched the lead to 44-30 by halftime.

Saint and senior Isaac Riddle each connected from beyond the arc in the third quarter, helping Phil Campbell out-score Westminster 16-12 to cut the lead back down to 10. Westminster answered with a huge fourth quarter, out-scoring the Bobcats 25-11 to pull away.

Saint made five of Phil Campbell's nine threes on the day. Fellow sophomore Luke Garrison hit two threes and finished with 10 points. Riddle and Ridge Raper each scored five points, and Ben Williams, Nate Owens, Francisco Jimenez and Seth Baker added four apiece.

'MOORE', from page 14

to send the Lady Bulldogs to the fourth quarter with a 20-point lead.

Belgreen got nine points from Dempsey (pictured below) and six apiece from Moore and Bragwell in the third, out-scoring the Lady Wildcats 23-13 to double what had been a 10-point halftime lead.

"We talked at halftime about a few little things we had to do better," said Green, whose team forced seven turnovers in quarter number three. "We had to pick the intensity up defensive-wise and press-wise. I just felt like we got lazy on defense in the second quarter. In the third quarter, we picked up the intensity. We got some easy baskets, we hit some shots, we got to get in our press. I think that made the difference."

Coming off an 11-point win over Haleyville in their season opener, the Lady Bulldogs started strong last Tuesday, getting eight early points from Moore and one three apiece from Bragwell and Dempsey to open up a 17-8 lead.

Aly Vandiver answered with a three for the Lady Wildcats, who trimmed the lead to two early in the second quarter and hung around for the remainder of the first half. They trailed 33-23 at the break and could have been much closer had they not missed nine of 12 attempts from the foul line in the second quarter.

"I thought at the first of the game our help-side defense was much better. I really did," Green said. "I think we came out and hit some shots, jumped on them 7-0. In the second quarter, though, I felt like we just weren't giving any big-time effort on the defensive end. We were real lackadaisical on it. We've gotta pick the intensity up, whether we're pressing or we're just playing half-court man-to-man defense. We've gotta play with intensity and effort on the defensive end."

The Lady Bulldogs were never seriously threatened down the stretch despite shooting just 7-for-22 from the foul line in the fourth quarter. They finished the game 17-for-34 at the line and shot 39 percent (23-for-59) from the field. Tharptown was just 7-for-16 from the foul line and shot 36 percent (20-for-55) from the field.

Moore topped the 20-point mark for the second time in as many games and also finished with a team-high eight rebounds and four assists. Bragwell had nine points on three threes, and sophomore post player Emma Dempsey added five points, four rebounds, three blocks and two steals.

Ansley Tate had four points and six boards, and Emma Willingham chipped in with four points, five rebounds and two assists. Megan Smith finished with three points and six boards, and Whitney Turbyfill scored one. Katie Dempsey added six rebounds and two steals.

After the win, Green said he was still looking for more offensive production out of his post players. Through two games, Moore, Bragwell and Gracie Dempsey (the team's starting guards) had been responsible for 75 percent (94 of 125) of the team's total point production.

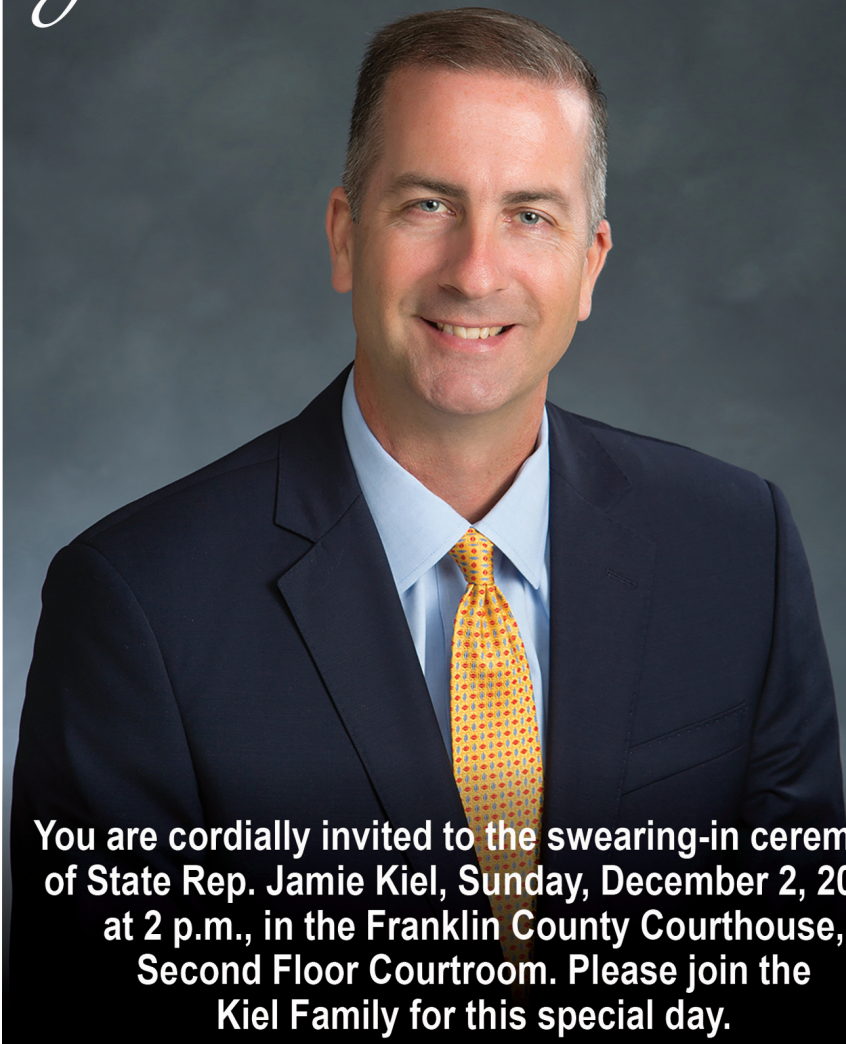
"I've got elite post players," Green said. "That's why I hold them so accountable. I don't just have one good post player. I've got an elite group of post players, for our level of play. We've got bruisers down low, we've got girls who can grit and bang, we've got long athletes who can run the floor. I expect a lot out of them."

Wieting led Tharptown with 14 points last Tuesday. Autumn Montgomery added 11 points on 4-for-5 shooting from the field. Junior post player Brooke Daily scored 10 points, reaching 500 for her varsity career, and also grabbed nine rebounds. Vandiver had nine points and five rebounds, and Adriana Borden pulled down a team-high 11 rebounds to go along with her six points. Macy Petree scored two points.



Gracie Dempsey

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Gabbie Moore

Senior Guard, Belgreen

Moore started her senior season off on the right foot, topping the 20-point mark in each of Belgreen's first two games. After scoring 20 points to lead the Lady 'Dogs past Haleyville at the Red Bay Shootout on November 17, Moore put up a career-high 24 points (on 10-for-16 shooting) in a 69-52 win over Tharptown last Tuesday. She also pulled down a team-high eight rebounds and handed out four assists.

Moore was averaging 22.0 points per game entering the week and has scored more than 700 points in her varsity career.



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Guin leads Vina girls to rout of Cherokee

Staff reports

Rayleigh Guin flirted with a triple-double for Vina last Tuesday, finishing with 23 points, 10 steals and eight assists in a 77-31 rout of Cherokee.

Guin was one of four players to score in double-figures for the Lady Red Devils (3-1). Sara Scott posted a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Sarah Johnson added 11 points, and Kaitlyn King scored 10.

Vina got eight points from Scott and five from senior Emma Humphres in the first quarter, racing out to a 23-2 lead. Guin, a freshman, scored 12 points in the second quarter, helping the Lady Devils stretch the lead to 45-13 by halftime.

Vina out-scored Cherokee 24-12 in the third quarter behind six points apiece from Johnson and King.

Abbie Petree finished with six points for the Lady Devils, and Hailey Cantrell had four. Maddie Mills scored three, and Anna Belle Humphres added two.

Vina will open Area 12 play at home against Brilliant this Friday.

In previous action:

Colbert Heights 70 Vina 43

Emma James scored 20 points to lead four players in double-figures as Colbert Heights cruised past the Lady Red Devils in the championship game of the Vina Holiday Tournament on Saturday, November 17.

The Lady Devils had won the tournament title in each of the previous three seasons and now have a record of 14-3 at the Vina Holiday Tournament over the past four years.

Colbert Heights jumped out to a 19-9 lead at the end of one quarter and stretched it to 33-13 by halftime. The Lady Wildcats led 48-30 after three quarters and then out-scored Vina 22-13 in the fourth to pull away.

Kaylee Jackson added 16 points for Colbert Heights. Asya Williams finished with 12, and Ally Fuller had 11.

Kaitlyn King knocked down five threes and led Vina with 17 points. Emma Humphres added 11 points, and Rayleigh Guin had eight. Kaitlyn Athey finished with four points, and Sarah Johnson scored three.



Vina's varsity girls finished runner-up to Colbert Heights at the fourth annual Vina Holiday Tournament.

Vina 56 Sheffield 29

Emma Humphres had 18 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Lady Red Devils past Sheffield in their tournament opener.

Rayleigh Guin added 15 points for Vina, and Sara Scott had eight. Kaitlyn King finished with five points, and Kaitlyn Athey scored four.

Humphres came out hot, hitting two threes and scoring 11 first-quarter points to help the Lady Red Devils open up an early 14-5 lead. Scott and King combined for 11 second-quarter points as Vina out-scored Sheffield 22-8 to take a 36-13 lead into the locker room.

In recent junior high action, Vina beat Cherokee 35-6 and also beat Sulligent 41-16. The junior high Lady Red Devils are led by eighth-graders Kaitlyn Athey, Madison Mills, Kassidie Greer, Carly Blevins and Ladava Davis, along with seventh-graders Jalyn Shotts, Keyara Umfress and Kaley Attaway.

Weatherford's late three sends Tigers past Tanner

Staff reports

Gath Weatherford hit a game-winning three-pointer at the buzzer last Wednesday, lifting Red Bay's boys to a 59-58 win over Tanner at a Thanksgiving tournament in Hanceville.

Weatherford, a 6'3 senior forward, topped the 20-point mark for the second time in three games, finishing with 20 on the nose. The Tigers (2-1 through Sunday) were trailing by two in the final seconds when he buried his fourth three-pointer of the day to give them their second straight win.

The Tigers struggled from the foul line, going just 5-for-11, but they made up for it from beyond the arc, drilling 10 threes. Four of those (one apiece from Tanner Hamilton, Braden Ray and Clay Allison, plus the game-winner from Weatherford) came in the fourth quarter, helping Red Bay out-score Tanner 22-17 down the stretch to turn a four-point deficit into a one-point win.

Weatherford and senior guard Colton Corum each connected from beyond the arc in the first quarter, but Tanner led 17-11 at the end of one. The Tigers got eight points from Weatherford and four from Arden Hamilton in the second quarter, out-

scoring Tanner 17-15 to cut the lead to 32-28 at the half.

Both teams struggled offensively in the third quarter, and the Rattlers took a 41-37 lead into the fourth.

Corum finished with 12 points, and Allison added seven. Ray hit a pair of threes in the second half and finished with six points.

In previous action:

Red Bay 72 Westminster 41

Colton Corum and Braden Ray each scored 15 points for Red Bay last Tuesday in Hanceville as the Tigers rolled past Westminster School at Oak Mountain.

Ray, a sophomore post player, and Corum, a senior guard, each had four points in the first quarter, and junior guard Clay Allison knocked down an early three to help Red Bay jump out to an early 17-7 lead. Ray then got hot from beyond the arc in the second quarter, drilling three threes as the Tigers out-scored Westminster 18-17 to take a 35-24 lead into the locker room.

Red Bay dominated the second half, out-scoring Westminster 37-17 to win going away.

Allison finished with nine points, and Alex Kennedy had eight. Seniors Gath Weatherford and Noah Brewer each scored seven.

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'FACES,' from page 13

quarter on 12-for-19 shooting (including four threes).

Meanwhile, the Wildcats shot just 25 percent (13-for-52) from the field on the night and committed twice as many turnovers (26) as the Bulldogs (13).

Isbell's two returning veterans, senior guard Brant Bragwell and 6'6 senior post player Mason Bragwell, both performed well in the season opener. Brant Bragwell helped fuel the big third quarter with back-to-back threes and finished the night with a game-high 16 points on 6-for-14 shooting. Mason Bragwell (pictured below), the reigning *Free Press* Player of the Year, was as efficient as ever, scoring 15 points on 7-for-10 shooting and also adding six rebounds and three blocked shots.

"I saw a lot of good things," Isbell said of the two Bragwells, who combined to average more than 30 points per game last year for a Belgreen team that went 25-6 and made a second straight trip to the Northwest Regional. "With those two, the main thing is, yeah, you're our two guys coming back, our two leading scorers from last year, but you've got teammates around you. You don't have to carry everything on your back. As long as they understand that and don't think they have to do it all, as long as they trust the guys around them, we're gonna be fine."

"I saw a lot of good things," Isbell said of the two Bragwells, who combined to average more than 30 points per game last year for a Belgreen team that went 25-6 and made a second straight trip to the Northwest Regional. "With those two, the main thing is, yeah, you're our two guys coming back, our two leading scorers from last year, but you've got teammates around you. You don't have to carry everything on your back. As long as they understand that and don't think they have to do it all, as long as they trust the guys around them, we're gonna be fine."

Some of those guys around them, like senior guard Gaven Taylor and sophomores Scout Bragwell and Isaac Willingham, are not entirely new to the varsity level. Bragwell, a lefty guard with a smooth stroke, knocked down a pair of threes on Tuesday and finished with 14 points on 6-for-10 shooting. Willingham was active in the post on his way to scoring seven points on 3-for-4 shooting and pulling down five rebounds. Taylor had four boards and was one of 10 different Bulldogs to dent the scoring column.

Beyond the starting five, Belgreen is basically brand new. The members of

the second unit got plenty of run last Tuesday night, and many of them made a positive impact when they got the chance. Senior guard Kostner Bryant, who is back in the fold after not playing a year ago, led the bench brigade with two threes and 10 points—eight of which came in the first quarter.

"Kostner is gonna be a good player for us," Isbell said. "He came in early tonight and made a couple of big shots. He's a senior, so he's a little more mature than some of our younger guys, those tenth-graders coming off the B-team."

Post player Tanner Warhurst beat the first-quarter buzzer with a layup off a nice feed from fellow reserve Koby Collins, who later knocked down a three in the third quarter and finished with five points and two steals. Warhurst, David Plott and Mason Donahoe chipped in with two points apiece.

"They are gonna be very important," Isbell said of his second unit, "because you can't just play five guys. You've gotta have some depth. These are guys who are coming off the B-team, plus one kid [Bryant] who didn't play last year and is coming back in to play for us. It's big that they step in and fill those shoes quickly and get that experience and confidence that they can play at the varsity level. It's a totally different speed.

"They've got to learn how to take care of the ball better and play faster. You know, B-team speed to varsity speed is a big step, and it's gonna take a little time for them to get into that. We had them over the summer, and they got to play some games, but there's nothing like season games. As soon as they step in and get more confidence and get more comfortable taking care of the ball and stuff, I think they're gonna help us out a lot."

Edward Lopez led Tharptown last Tuesday night with a double-double, scoring 11 points and pulling down 11 rebounds. Colton Simmons added nine points and five boards, and Winston Nolen chipped in with eight points and five rebounds. Senior Les Montgomery added six points and six boards, and Carson Petree scored two.



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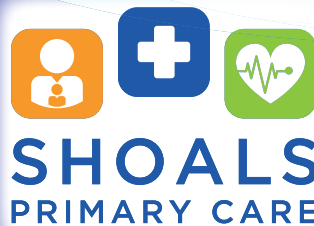
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'STATEMENT' from page 13

over the visiting Lady Warriors. "That was a very good ball game. Both teams shot the ball well. Both teams defended....gosh dog, both of us defended pretty good. When you put up seventy points and sixty-something points in a girls game, that's good offense."

Sophomore guard Caitlyn Mills led the way for the Lady Bobcats (2-0 through Sunday), knocking down four threes and scoring a career-high 19 points on 7-for-9 shooting. Junior guard Kallie Allen delivered a terrific all-around game, finishing with 16 points, seven rebounds and six assists. Sophomore forward Olivia Taylor chipped in with 13 points on 6-for-9 shooting and also grabbed a team-high eight rebounds, including two huge offensive boards in the final minutes that helped seal the deal.

Senior post player Abby Davis, a UAH signee, had more fouls (three) than points (zero) in the first half, but she drained a pair of big threes in the third quarter and finished the night with 10 points, four rebounds and two assists. Sophomore forward Katie Thomas played major minutes off the bench and contributed eight points, four boards, two assists and two steals.

"Both our leaders, Kallie and Abby, stepped up when they had to," said Craig Thomas, whose team shot 54 percent (27-for-50) from the field overall in topping the 70-point mark for the second time in as many games. "Our tenth-graders stepped up tonight, too. We had four players in double-figures again. That's hard to defend, when you've got four kids who can get to double-figures."

Junior guard Sidney Bevis scored a game-high 23 points for Wilson, knocking down three of the Lady Warriors' eight total three-pointers. Bevis started fast, hitting her first four shots of the game to score nine quick points and help Wilson jump out to a 16-6 lead.

Allen drilled her second three of the night to steady the Lady Bobcats and spark a 10-0 run. Mills converted a pair of steals into layups, and Thomas hit two free throws to pull Phil Campbell even at 16-16. Kaitlyn Wilson buried a three in the final seconds to give Wilson a 19-16 lead at the end of one quarter.

After missing eight of their 13 shot attempts in the first quarter, the Lady Bobcats heated up in quarter number two, shooting 6-for-11 from the floor and drilling four threes (two by Mills and one each by Taylor and Thomas). Allen chipped in with four points, and senior Kaci Harris made two free throws in the final minute to send the game into the locker room tied 34-34.

With Davis (who scored 21 points in a season-opening win over Tharptown) limited by foul trouble, Mills and Allen combined for 23 first-half points against Wilson to keep Phil Campbell afloat.



FILE PHOTO

Davis averaged 15.5 points per game during Phil Campbell's 2-0 start. The 5'11 senior signed with UAH on Monday of this week.

"Caitlyn is shooting the ball as well right now as anybody I've ever had," Thomas said of Mills, who was averaging a team-best 17.5 points and shooting 62 percent from the field through two games, with six made threes. "Kallie is just a great floor leader. She distributes the ball well, and she scores when she has to. Kallie knows when she has to score, and she steps up and scores."

Wilson played the entire second quarter without its best post player (senior Tori Walker) and starting point guard (Liza Storie), both of whom were on the bench with two fouls. They returned to the floor in the third quarter, and the Lady Warriors grabbed a 38-36 lead on a bucket by Walker at the 5:40 mark.

Davis, who had gone 0-for-4 from the field in the first half, nailed a three from the top of the key to put Phil Campbell in front 39-38. Wilson answered with a pair of free throws from Bevis and a putback by Walker, but Davis drilled another from downtown to tie the game 42-42 at the 4:00 mark.

"Abby settled down a little bit in the second half," Thomas said. "It seemed like she got a little overwhelmed right at the start of the game, a little frustrated. She settled down in the second half and played like Abby is capable of playing."

Mills assisted on a layup by Taylor to put the Lady Bobcats on top 44-42, and the teams continued to trade punches. Chaney Peters buried a three for Wilson, but Mills answered with a three of her own to put Phil Campbell back in front 47-45. A putback by Peters tied the game at the 2:40 mark, but Allen found Taylor for an open jumper to make it 49-47. Storie nailed a pull-up jumper to tie the game again with 2:10 left in the third.

Davis scored at the 1:40 mark to make it 51-49, and then two baskets by Taylor in the final 40 seconds sent Phil Campbell into the fourth quarter with a six-point cushion. Bevis opened the fourth with a corner three for Wilson to cut the lead in half, but the Lady Bobcats came right back with a jumper from Davis and another three from Mills to open up their largest lead of the night at 60-52. They went dry for the next three minutes, however, and Wilson got a three-point play from Storie and two free throws from Walker to climb back within three at 60-57 with 3:30 remaining.

Katie Thomas answered with a bucket in the post, and Allen sandwiched a pair of driving layups around a three by Storie. With Phil Campbell nursing a 66-61 lead in the final minute, Taylor grabbed a key offensive rebound and got the ball to Davis, who was fouled. Davis missed the front end of the one-and-one, but Taylor was there again, snatching another offensive rebound and sticking it back in to make it 68-61.

Sophomores Taylor and Thomas, both in their first full season at the varsity level, combined to shoot 8-for-12 from the floor last Monday night, scoring 21 points and pulling down 12 rebounds.

"They did exceptionally well on rebounding," Craig Thomas said. "Olivia had two rebounds right there at the end of the game that sealed it for us, and Katie rebounded well. Both of them actually shot the ball well, too."

Wilson got as close as 70-65 with less than 20 seconds remaining, but Storie missed a three that would have cut it to a two-point game. Kenner Scott grabbed the rebound, and Thomas went 1-for-2 at the line with 6.8 seconds left to finish off a satisfying win for the Lady Bobcats over a high-quality opponent from a higher classification.

"Wilson pushes the ball as hard as anybody we play," Craig Thomas said. "Wilson defends as hard as anybody we play. They're the best shooting team we'll play for a while. They shot the ball really well tonight. When we played our normal help-side defense, they would find the one the help came off of, and she would knock down the three."

"I prefer this kind of game, though. Me and Wilson's coach both agreed that this did both teams a lot of good. It was much better than any blowout game. The intensity was there, the crowd was in it, and the girls on both sides played extremely well."

Wilson had shot at least 50 percent from the field in each of the first three quarters before stumbling to 3-for-11 in the fourth. The Lady Warriors, who played without injured guard Emma Nester (one of their top perimeter shooters), finished the night at 46 percent (23-for-50) from the floor and 11-for-16 from the line. They turned the ball over 18 times, compared to 19 by Phil Campbell.

Walker finished with 12 points and eight rebounds. The Lady Bobcats held a 29-18 edge on the boards overall.

With three new starters joining Davis and Allen in the lineup following last year's 26-6 season and Final Four berth, Thomas believes a win like last Monday's can pay major dividends for his team later on down the line.

"It showed us we can beat good teams, which is something we've got to learn again this year," he said. "Our two older kids [Davis and Allen] think we're gonna beat everybody. They think that's what we're here for. And that is what we're here for. But all of our younger kids, they're sort of thinking, 'Can we win this?'"

"Tonight they stepped up and got it done. I'm really proud of the young girls, too."

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Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 14: Nov. 30/Dec. 1 Brady's Pick Your Pick

Utah vs. Washington	Washington	
Texas vs. Oklahoma	Oklahoma	
Memphis vs. Central Florida	Central Florida	
Alabama vs. Georgia	Alabama	
Fresno State vs. Boise State	Boise State	
Clemson vs. Pittsburgh	Clemson	
Northwestern vs. Ohio State	Ohio State	
UAB vs. MTSU	UAB	
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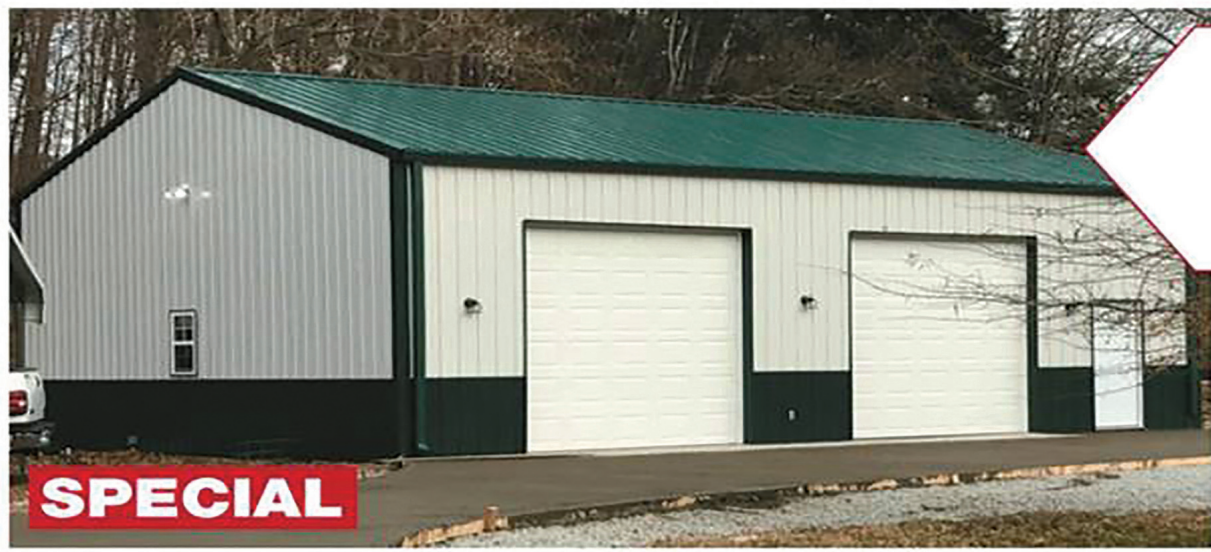
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