



Listening & understanding, available here.

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



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

FranklinFreePress.net

02.06.19

Morrow leaves lasting legacy as District 18 representative

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When the Alabama Legislature convenes next month, it will be the first time in almost three decades that Johnny Mack Morrow won't be among its ranks.

Morrow served as District 18 representative in the Alabama House for seven terms, from 1990-2018. He vacated his seat last year in order to make a run at the Alabama Senate.

While Morrow fell short of his bid to represent District Six, his political legacy for northwest Alabama will continue to resonate for years to come.

With political partisanship seemingly at an all-time high, Morrow possessed the ability to cross party lines and remain effective for his district, even though the numbers of his fellow House Democrats dwindled.

With political partisanship seemingly at an all-time high, Morrow possessed the ability to cross party lines and remain effective for his district, even though the numbers of his fellow House Democrats dwindled.

He was a founding member and program chairman of the Rural Caucus, the only

See 'MORROW,' Page 9



Johnny Mack Morrow



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

Merrill highlights state history in Alabama: The Bicentennial



John Merrill

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill has penned a new book that features 365 prominent Alabamians and their contributions that have helped define our state's history in its first 200 years.

Alabama: The Bicentennial is a collaboration between Merrill and long-time friend and author Tom Ward.

The book, which is expected to be available for sale in early February, profiles Alabamians whose accomplishments had national and global impact as well as transforming the lives of people in their state. Its

release coincides with Alabama's bicentennial celebrating becoming the nation's 22nd state on December 14, 1819.


Profiles include the first American doctor to surgically repair a wounded heart, a musical act that produced 21 No. 1 songs in a row, and the first American non-president to be honored with a national monument. Their connection? Each is part of Alabama's rich and proud tradition.

At least one resident of all 67 Alabama counties is featured in the book.

Profiles include the first American doctor to surgically repair a wounded heart, a

See 'MERRILL,' Page 3

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



George Evans, MD
SHOALS PRIMARY CARE
Offering general medical care services for the entire family
256.383.4473 Ext. 2021
340 Cox Blvd • Sheffield, AL



FAMILY Pharmacy GROUP
BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama
Family Pharmacy of Russellville
Accepting Tricare and BCBS
Hwy 43 & Underwood Rd
256.332.5545
familypharmacygroup.com



Sale good February 6 through February 12*



MARTY'S MEAT MARKET

This Week's

Specials

Fresh Lean
Ground Beef
\$2.49 lb.
fam. pack

Boston Butt
Pork Roast
\$1.39 lb.
2-pk.

Boneless Skinless
Chicken Breast
\$1.99 lb.

Boneless Beef
Bottom Round Roast
\$3.29 lb.

T-Bone Steak
\$6.99 lb.

Whole Boneless
Pork Loins
\$1.79 lb.

Country Style Pork Ribs \$1.99 lb

Whole Spareribs
\$1.99 / 2-pk.

Marty's No. 1 Chicken Fingers
\$19.99 / 5-lb. bag

Old Fashion American Cheese
\$15.99 / 5-lb. box



Cut Fresh Daily!

**Come enjoy these great deals!
We thank you for your business!**



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

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!

LOCAL • PERSONAL • CARING



Monuments are Designed & Lettered in our local shop. On-site Engraving & Sandblasting Franklin County's Home Owned and Operated Monument Dealer!

Grant & Beverly Atkins
403 East Lawrence Street
Russellville, Alabama

"In Memory of our loved ones..."

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

Linda Engle Berryman, Russellville, age 67
Died Thursday, January 31, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Lindsey Cemetery in Hackleburg.

Jessie Herring Blalock, Knoxville, TN (formerly of Phil Campbell), age 95
Died Sunday, January 27, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Liberty Hill Cemetery in Phil Campbell.

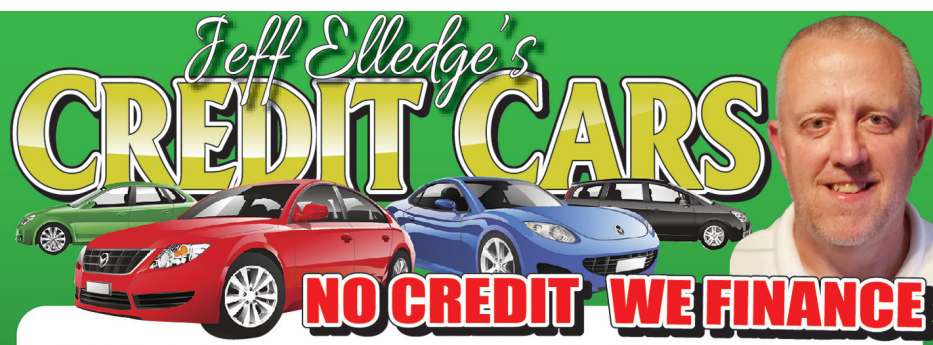
Barbara Carolyn "Spoony" Black Broadway, Russellville, age 66
Died Sunday, January 27, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Jonesboro Cemetery.

Vance Bonds Hester, Phil Campbell, age 72
Died Friday, February 1, 2019. Funeral held at Mt. View Baptist Church in Phil Campbell. Interment in the adjoining cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Helen J. Mitchell, Phil Campbell, age 80
Died Monday, February 4, 2019. Funeral arrangements had not been announced at press time. Pinkard Funeral Home was directing.

Jack Leon Watson, Russellville, age 76
Died Friday, February 1, 2019. Funeral arrangements had not been announced at press time. Spry Memorial Chapel was directing.

Tom Weaver, Hamilton, age 83
Died Saturday, January 26, 2019. Funeral held at Marion County Funeral Home. Interment in Hamilton Memory Gardens.



05 Buick Lacrosse
\$1000 Down
02 Buick LeSabre
\$1000 Down
03 Buick LeSabre
\$800 Down
04 Cadillac Seville
\$1200 Down

08 Chevy Aveo
\$1000 Down
03 Chevy Impala
\$800 Down
05 Ford Explorer
\$1000 Down
97 GMC Sierra
\$1000 Down

elledge.jeff@gmail.com

2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals
256.383.7979 • 256.710.3711

Hallman-Glass hired as new EMA director

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Mary Hallman-Glass has spent a lifetime serving others.

So her transition into becoming the next Franklin County Emergency Management Agency director will be a continuation of that dedication.

The Franklin County Commission hired Hallman-Glass last Tuesday to replace Jody Hitt, who resigned earlier this month to become deputy EMA director in Colbert County. Hallman-Glass will begin her new job February 13.

Hallman-Glass, who lives in the Waco community, been a part of the Blue Springs Volunteer Fire Department since 1992, with more than 22 years of service as its fire chief.

Under her leadership, the department secured more than \$250,000 in grant funds to purchase a new fire truck and protective equipment for firefighters. The Blue Springs fire district has an ISO rating of 5, not an easy task for a rural fire district.

Hallman-Glass is First Responder-certified, Hazmat-trained and Weather Spotter-certified. She previously worked as a park police officer for the Florence Park and Recreation Department. But her most recent career was as an asset protection manager for Belk Department Stores.

"I just like helping people, and when the opportunity came up for me to put in for this position, I thought about it, prayed about it and believed it would be a good fit for me," Hallman-Glass said. "I love helping my community and the people of Franklin County."

Hallman-Glass and her department have gained a reputation of a willingness to go outside the Blue Springs Fire District to help other agencies. Recently, her department responded to assist the Vina Fire Department fight a fire at a logging operation.

"I consider us one big family," Hallman-Glass said. "I know if I needed help with my department, Michael Moomaw of Vina or anyone from Red Bay or any other department would come, because they all did. Everyone answered the call after the tornadoes in 2011. We're one big family."

"Her background and performance on the job she holds with Belk's is what stood out to me," Massey said. "After the interview process, I believed she was the best qualified full-time applicant we had for the EMA director position."

Hallman-Glass believes that dealing with the aftermath of the April 27, 2011 tornadoes helped her and other first responders prepare for any emergency they may face.

"I always say you can never prepare for anything like that—you just hope your training and ability to help other people kicks in, and no matter what it takes, you get the job done," Hallman-Glass said.



Mary Hallman-Glass

'MERRILL' from page 4

The Bicentennial to every school media center in the state that has a fourth grade, so all students have access to the book.

"What we want to do is make sure each and every fourth-grader in the state can come here to Montgomery, whether his or her family can afford the field trip fee or not," Merrill said. "The monies from the sale of the book will be held for teachers, counselors, and principals from schools to make application for scholarships for students to have field trips to Montgomery."

"What we want to do is make sure each and every fourth-grader in the state can come here to Montgomery, whether his or her family can afford the field trip fee or not," Merrill said. "The monies from the sale of the book will be held for teachers, counselors, and principals from schools to make application for scholarships for students to have field trips to Montgomery."

As Merrill begins his second term, he comes off a busy year that saw him once again travel to all 67 Alabama counties for the seventh consecutive year. With the Alabama Legislature convening in March, Merrill will work with legislators to make it easier for Alabama residents to vote absentee.

"We want to work to change the language where it requires an excuse provision in the absentee application," Merrill said. "No circuit clerk anywhere in Alabama actually checks on election day to see if a person is really out of town, so why have that provision in there? What we will do is change the language to read the person expects to be out of county on election day."

"There are some people who actually won't complete an absentee application because they believe they are lying if they don't actually end up

"The response to that tragedy showed we were prepared and able to respond in a mass emergency situation."

Hallman-Glass is a 1991 graduate of Phil Campbell High School.

Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore extended his appreciation to Ken Dobbs for his service as interim EMA director and the work he did leading up to the anticipated severe weather forecast for Tuesday.

"I want to thank Ken for the job he did. I'm glad we didn't have any more problems than what we had, but Ken did a good job keeping us updated," Moore said.

Franklin County commissioner Rayburn Massey, who made the motion to hire Hallman-Glass, said the county was blessed to have 10 qualified applicants, but that she stood out both during the interview process and when he followed up with her references. Interviews were held last week.

"Her background and performance on the job she holds with Belk's is what stood out to me," Massey said. "We reached out to a couple people in the associated with the Franklin County Fire Association and received very positive feedback. After the interview process, I believed she was the best qualified full-time applicant we had for the EMA director position."

Hallman-Glass said she plans to remain involved with the Blue Springs Fire Department after she begins as EMA director in Franklin County.

"I live in Waco in Blue Springs Fire Department's District. I plan to remain a big part of that," Hallman-Glass said.

out of town on election day."

Another change Merrill hopes to see will further help to make sure people are legitimately participating in the absentee process by having the applicant submit his or her photo ID at the time of application rather than when the ballot is returned.

Merrill, whose office has helped to gain six absentee voter fraud convictions the last four years, wants to eliminate the posting of the list of voters who have applied for absentee ballots at the courthouse.

"We have people who will actually go to the courthouse to look at that list and then go harass the voter," Merrill said. "These absentee election brokers, who get paid for going to get votes, pay people through cash, beer, cigarettes, etc., whatever it takes to get the vote, and that's what we're going to eliminate."

As of December 31, 2018, Alabama had 3,474,796 registered voters, with more than 1.1 million of those registering to vote since Merrill took office in 2015.

"We've also removed more than 750,000 names from the voter rolls that didn't need be on there. Another area we've worked hard to improve is business services," Merrill said. "We've streamlined the process and reduced the waiting time on formulating a business from months to the same day for 135 consecutive weeks now."

Business corporation filings are now being filed on the same day they are received by his office, a process that once took several months.

"Even though we've done a lot, we've got more to do," he said. "The only thing I know to do is keep at it, so that's what we continue to do. I'm thankful to the people of Alabama for giving me the opportunity to continue serving them."

Honey Do List: Ramp it up

RAMPS. If you are any kind of outdoor guy or gal in the South, you probably have a set. Ramps are important and useful for loading four-wheelers, lawnmowers and various sports and farm equipment. Whether homemade or store-bought, the use of loading ramps can be very dangerous if the proper safety equipment and the right style of ramp is not used.

•**Weight rating.** Ramps should be rated to handle the weight of the equipment to be loaded, plus anything added to the equipment plus the weight of the operator. Any manufactured ramp should be plainly marked with a load rating. Check the manufacturer's published weight of your equipment, add the operator's weight, then add an extra 20 pounds for gasoline and added accessories. The combined weight should never exceed the published capacity of the ramps.

•**Length.** The length is calculated based on the height of the truck you are loading into. The formula is 2.2 inches of ramp length for each inch of height. If the truck bed is 30 inches from the ground, multiply 30 X 2.2, and you need a ramp that is at least 66 inches long.

•**Style.** Equipment with minimal ground clearance, such as a lawn mower, will usually load better with an arched ramp. This will keep the deck from hanging at the point the ramp meets the truck. Also,

equipment with smaller tires will require a ramp with solid or closer mesh grid.

•**Width.** Measure the equipment across from the outside of each wheel, and set the ramps accordingly to minimize the danger of running off the side.

•**Safety.** I have seen many people neglect to secure the ramps to the vehicle, and I have seen a few end up on their back on the ground. If your equipment pulls with the rear wheels, the ramp can be kicked out when the front wheels clear the ramp going onto the truck. The best way to secure ramps is to run a strap from about the middle of the ramp to the bumper of the truck and pull it tight.

•**Traction.** Most manufactured metal ramps have grids or holes in the bottom to provide traction. Many times, wooden ramps allow tires to slip, especially if there are wet or muddy conditions. Installation of metal strips (cleats) or non-slip tape can help correct this problem.

Homemade wooden ramps should always be inspected for signs of rot or decay that may weaken them. Be safe and remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green



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.

Gas tax is new legislature's first test

When I was in the Legislature, I opposed tax increases unless we had tried everything else and the money to be raised from the tax was earmarked for very specific purposes.

In my personal opinion, we shouldn't even be talking about raising the gas tax until we pass a lottery and see what kind of revenue it would bring in.

There's no question that our roads and bridges in Alabama are in pathetic shape. In fact, nearly a quarter of our bridges in this state are considered to be unsafe or structurally deficient.

Our roads and bridges are in such bad shape that our schools are losing money on gasoline because school buses have to take longer routes in order to avoid the unsafe roads and bridges.

But raising taxes on gasoline—which disproportionately affects rural Alabamians and the middle class—should be a last resort and is only acceptable if we have eliminated all government waste and implemented a state lottery or other gaming legislation.

Most lawmakers know this. That's why state leaders are having a hard time lining up the votes to pass their tax.

The leadership already knows they do not have enough votes among Republicans to pass this gas tax. They have said in the press that they need Democratic lawmakers to support it, even though Republicans have a supermajority that should allow them to pass any legislation they want without a single Democratic vote.

This gives a great deal of power to those lawmakers who are good negotiators and are willing to stand up to the leadership and demand their local road and bridge projects be earmarked in the bill.

But it also puts a great deal of pressure on lawmakers—especially those who are new to the Legislature and are afraid or unwilling to stand up to the those in power.

Too many politicians try to play both sides. They try to appease the leadership by voting in favor of the procedural votes that are required to pass the tax, and then try to make their voters back home happy by voting against the tax on the final vote after the bill already has enough votes to pass.

That's the coward's way, and it does nothing to help the voters back home.

My hope is that our lawmakers will be who we need them to be, and that they will not raise our taxes without first cutting out government waste and letting the people vote on a lottery.

But if legislators do vote for the gas tax then it could be their last term in office. After all, voting to raise taxes is just like voting to give yourself a pay raise, and the people back home will remember it the next time your name is on the ballot.

The people of Alabama have been pretty clear about where they stand on raising taxes. Passing a new gas tax—especially one that includes additional automatic gas tax increases for the future—without cutting waste out of government or letting the people vote on a lottery is a sure way to lose the people's support (and rightfully so!).

One thing is certain: Once the votes are cast, we will find out who our legislators really are.

Craig Ford is the owner of Hodges-Ford Insurance and the Gadsden Messenger. He represented Gadsden and Etowah County in the Alabama House of Representatives for 18 years.



Craig Ford



**DAVE
SAYS**

Financial Straight-Talk

www.davesays.org

by Dave Ramsey

Let her take care of the payments

Dear Dave,
My daughter is in college, and I've always warned her to stay away from credit cards. Recently, I learned she got a department store credit card despite my advice. She has stayed within her credit limit, but she has never made any of the payments. At this point, she owes about \$3,500. She's a good student, and I want to look at this as a young person's mistake. Should I pay it off for her this one time?

Joseph

Dear Joseph,
You're right, this is a typical young person's mistake. Like a lot of mistakes our kids make, it's one that's bad and wonderful at the same time. It's bad because, if she had just listened to dear old dad, she would've avoided a mess. It's wonderful, though, because it gives you the opportunity to provide her with a real-world, teachable moment.

I understand you wanting to help her out "this one time." It means you have a good heart and that you care about your daughter and love her. There's a reality here, though, I hope you won't overlook. It's *her* debt, not yours. She knew what she was doing when she signed up for that credit card. She knew what it meant, what was expected, and *she* is the one who should have to make good on the repayment. The entire deal is legal and fair.

At this point, my advice is to put your arm around her, talk to her and lovingly explain where she went wrong and why it was a bad idea. You can even help her find a part-time job if she doesn't have one right now, so she can pay off her debt and get out of this mess. But leave the payments to her.

My guess is by the time she finishes working her tail off to pay this debt she will have learned a lesson she'll remember for the rest of her life!

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.*

Bank Independent ready to kick off Shelter Share drive

Submitted to the FFP

SHEFFIELD – On February 11, Bank Independent will kick off its sixth annual Shelter Share drive to benefit local animal shelters.

All locations of the Bank will serve as donation points for pet food and supplies designated for local animal shelters.

The 2018 Shelter Share collected and distributed more than 1,175 items and more than \$330 in donations to shelters in northwest Alabama last year. Donations were used to supplement resources available to local shelters.

"Shelter Share drive was the heartfelt creation of team members who saw the need from local shelters for community assistance," says Macke Mauldin, president of Bank Independent and CEO of its parent company BanIndependent, Inc. "So many of our team members are involved in fostering and rescuing shelter animals. Through volunteering, they recognized a need and took action to raise awareness. Bank Independent is proud to support Shelter Share as part of our Helping Hands initiative."

Throughout the month of February, every Bank Independent sales office will accept donations of pet food, kitty litter, paper towels, nursing bottles, cleaning supplies, first aid items, used blankets, bedding and towels.

The donated supplies will be delivered by Bank employees to the Athens Limestone County Animal Shelter, Colbert County Animal Shelter, Decatur Animal Services, Huntsville Animal Services, Morgan County Animal Shelter and Florence Lauderdale Animal Shelter in early March.

About Bank Independent

Since 1947, Bank Independent has taken pride in serving the customers who count on us to be there for them when they need us most. With 28 traditional Sales Offices across North Alabama and one Digital Sales Office, we're committed to providing the best service, designing the most desired products and creating an overall excellent experience for each and every customer. As a local community bank, we believe in building relationships that run deep and last. All of our employees reside in our local communities and believe in giving back through volunteering. To become part of a bank that makes a positive difference in people's lives, visit us at bibank.com.

NEW NOW LEASING

Village at Oliver Place NEW 2 & 3 Bedroom

Now Offering Move-In Specials

Apartments & Townhomes
Water included starting at:

2 BR \$425 • 3 BR: \$498

205.993.5005 • Pike Avenue • Phil Campbell
TDD (Hearing impaired) 800.548.2546



Stay Warm This Winter!

A&L Discount is your home for Superior Fireplaces!



Gas Fireplaces—Indoor and Outdoor
Fireboxes—Outdoor
Vent-Free Gas Fireplaces—Indoor and Outdoor
Wood Burning Fireplaces—Indoor and Outdoor

**Inserts
Manufactured
Locally in
Franklin
County!



Starting at only
\$689!

Call us today
for more
information!

256.332.8181
HWY 43 • Littleville

North Highlands Church of Christ in partnership with Food Bank of North Alabama

FREE Every 3rd Saturday
of each month
Sat., Feb 16th

9:00am-11:00am
North Highlands Church
of Christ Fellowship Hall

"For I was hungry and you gave me
something to eat Matthew 25:35"

The Foster Grandparent Program is seeking volunteers ages 55 and older to help tutor and mentor children in day care, head start and schools. Volunteers will receive a tax-free stipend and travel reimbursement. They can call 256-332-6800 for an application.

AARP Tax-Aide will be providing FREE income tax preparation at the Department of Human Resources in Russellville on Thursdays beginning February 7 and ending April 11. You do not have to be a member of AARP, retired or a certain age to use this service. Call Ben at 256-332-0252 for an appointment, which is required.

Franklin County Schools Pre-K registration is NOW open for the 2019-20 school year. Pre-registration is open online at <https://alprek.asap-connected.com> through March 22. Random selection will be held on March 22 in the Pre-K classroom. These dates are for all six Franklin County Pre-K programs. Some classrooms still have space for THIS school year for students who will be attending kindergarten next school year. Enrollment is open to all children four years of age on or before 9/1/19 who are residents of the state of Alabama. Children who are eligible for kindergarten are ineligible for this program. Enrollees must provide copy of child's birth certificate, proof of residence (utility bill or lease or copy of mortgage). There is no registration fee for this program. Upon enrollment, child's immunization record must be provided.

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 February 7.

Gateway Church of God on Hwy. 43 in Russellville will have revival services with evangelist Floyd Lawhon this Friday, February 8-Sunday, February 10. Bro. Lawhon has been around the world preaching the gospel. He has seen thousands come to Jesus and many healing miracles in his ministries. There will be a Special Singing each service. On Friday night, the gospel group "Purpose" from right here in Russellville will be singing. Michael Cummings and Dora's praise team will sing on Saturday night, followed by the Gateway Church Praise Team and Singers on Sunday. Friday/Saturday services will be at 7 p.m., and Sunday services will be at 10:50 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please do not miss this revival. It is going to be great!!!! Everyone is welcome! For more info, call 256-332-7176.

East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department will hold a chicken and beef stew fundraiser this Saturday, February 9 at the East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department, 10443 Hwy. 81 in Phil Campbell. Serving begins at 11 a.m. Bring your own containers please. Please come support the fire department!

Ministerios llamada final will have a church bake sale this Saturday, February 9 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Cookies, brownies, cakes, muffins, hot chocolate, coffee and tamales! Funds raised will go toward a kids' playground at the church. The church is located at 1315 S. Jackson Avenue, Russellville.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guest Mountain Breeze at the Roxy Theatre in Russellville this Saturday, February 9 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.

The Cottages (900 North Jackson Ave., Russellville) will host a Heart Health Fair for Senior Citizens on Tuesday, February 12 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Blood pressure screening, hearth health talk and heart-healthy snacks.

The next meeting for American Legion Post 64 will be Thursday, February 14 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m.

The Shoals Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will meet in the Sheffield Room at Park Place, 501 N. Montgomery Avenue in Sheffield, on Thursday, February 14 at 2:30 p.m. Wendy Sellers will teach on "Living the Abundant Life." We believe that God heals spiritually, physically and emotionally. All are welcome.

The Bay Tree Council in Red Bay announces its second production of the 2018-2019 season, *The Seven Year Itch*, by George Axelrod and directed by Mark Richardson. Performances will take place February 14-16 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, February 17 at 2 p.m. at The Weatherford Centre in Red Bay. Tickets for the play are on sale now at The Weatherford Centre and are \$8.00 each for play only and \$25.00 for play and dinner, but dinner MUST be reserved in advance. You may go by The Weatherford Centre or call 256-356-9829 to reserve or purchase your tickets between the hours of 2-4 p.m. weekdays. For group sales you may contact Beth Hammock at 256-356-9286.

The book *Motherwit: An Alabama Midwife's Story* by Onnie Lee Logan will be discussed at the February 20 10 a.m. meeting of The Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club. The club meets at Coldwater Books, 105 West Sixth Street, Tusculumbia. For more info, email nancy537481@yahoo.com or visit the following link: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/174022.Motherwit>.

Ronnie McDowell and his band will return to Russellville on Saturday, March 16 at 7 p.m. for another benefit for the historic Roxy Theater. Franklin County's own Joseph Baldwin will be the opening act. For ticket information, please call 256-415-3270 or 256-460-8988. Reservations are going fast! Floor tickets are \$20 to \$30, and general admission balcony tickets are \$15.

BARGAINS OF THE MONTH

29.99
DeWALT® 34 pc. Standard and Metric Socket Set
R 202 751 2 While supplies last.



YOUR CHOICE 39.99
DeWALT® 8 pc. Standard or Metric Ratcheting Combination Wrench Set
R 229 196, 198 2 While supplies last.



YOUR CHOICE 5.99
4 pk. 6W or 10W LED Bulbs
E 235 061, 062, 063, 064 B12 While supplies last.



9.99
Milwaukee® 18 pc. Shockwave Impact Bit Set
R 158 978 B5 While supplies last.



YOUR CHOICE 19.99
First Alert® 10-Year Photoelectric Smoke Alarm
E 210 431 B3
Plug-In Carbon Monoxide Alarm
E 248 182 B3 While supplies last.



39.99
800 lb. Capacity Hand Truck
T 892 304 1 While supplies last.



TV-AD-14756

GREEN'S DEPENDABLE HARDWARE

15220A HWY 43
RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35653
256-331-0123
HWY 43 JUST BEHIND McDONALD'S

True Value

Sale ends 2/28/2019

©2018 True Value Company LLC

FREE Shipping to our store on your TrueValue.com orders.

McDowell returning to Roxy for 26th year

Submitted to the FFP

This year marks the 26th year for Ronnie McDowell to perform in Russellville. The Franklin County Arts Council will open the doors of the Historic Roxy Theatre on Saturday, March 16 at 7 p.m.

Through the years, McDowell has formed friendships with so many in Russellville that he is more like our own hometown boy who has made it big. His fundraising concerts have benefited the Roxy Theatre, the Chamber of Commerce and our local economy.

People come from all over the United States for this show. McDowell has a winning personality that has inspired a nationwide network of fans that are devoted to promoting everything he does. Wanda Myrick, past president of his fan club and an Arts Council member, has coordinated all of McDowell's shows in Russellville. He has an amazing string of hit songs that he has amassed over the years, but it is his stage presence and genuine warmth that fills the seats again and again.

McDowell is best known for his 1977 song "The King Is Gone," a tribute to Elvis Presley, who had recently died. To date, "The King Is Gone" has sold more than five million copies. From that single onward, McDowell charted more than thirty Top 40 hits on the Billboard country music charts. He has toured constantly promoting his album releases.

McDowell has performed with entertainers such as Conway Twitty, Tammy Wynette, Jerry Lee Lewis and Loretta Lynn. Like all great entertainers, McDowell is still constantly in demand on the road, and he tours relentlessly with his band. McDowell sang 36 songs on the soundtrack *Elvis*, the Dick Clark-produced television movie that featured Kurt Russell as the performer.

He also was the singing voice for the television movie *Elvis And Me*, the ABC television series about the early years of Elvis's career titled simply *Elvis*, as well as the 1997 Showtime special *Elvis Meets Nixon*.

In addition to his music, McDowell is also a well known painter. With that talent, he has created numerous paintings of Elvis and celebrities such as George Jones, Dolly Parton and Johnny Depp. Now he is focused on the world created by Walt Disney. McDowell has turned his talents to paying tribute to the work of Walt Disney, and the paintings are so extraordinary they have captured the imagination of Disney Fine Arts. If you are a "Disney Art" lover, be sure to look for some fabulous artwork by McDowell in Disney parks, galleries and cruises.

Or you can simply come to the Roxy on March 16 and enjoy being with him in person and admiring his artwork and taking some of his art with you.

Tickets may be purchased from any Arts Council members, or call 256-415-3270. The tickets on the floor range from \$20-\$30. General Admission tickets in the balcony are \$15. Make plans today, because tickets won't last long.

Willis leaving commission for position with gas department

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

After more than 12 years working for the Franklin County Commission, Mandi Willis is leaving after accepting the position of staff accountant with the Russellville Gas Department.

Willis, the human resources director/payroll clerk for the Franklin County Commission, will begin her new job February 11. Her final day with Franklin County will be February 8.

"This is not a decision I made lightly, because of the wonderful people who I have worked with and for," Willis said. "It was an extremely tough decision to make, but I feel this was an opportunity for me and my family that I could not pass up."

Willis and her husband Jonathan make their home in Russellville with their two sons, Ty and Cade.

The Franklin County Commission held a special called meeting last Friday morning to accept Willis's retirement and prepare the way to hire her successor.

Her position will have to be posted and advertised before a replacement can be hired. Willis notified commissioners of her decision last Monday and said it was not an easy thing to do.

"I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity given to me 12 years ago and for many wonderful years working for the Franklin County Commission," Willis told commissioners in her resignation letter.

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

Select Frames Only.

EyeCare Professionals



Dr. Wayne Stevens

Dr. Martha Morrow

Dr. David Britton

"Where healthy eyes are our focus"

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
256-331-5901

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



Your #1 fan

Your local independent agent is your neighbor – someone you can trust and someone who's here for you when it matters most!



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

PROJECT: 2019 DISTRIBUTION LINE ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENT
RUSSELLVILLE ELECTRIC BOARD RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA

Separate sealed bids for labor, transportation, and equipment for the construction of 2019 Distribution Line Additions and Improvements will be received at Stewart Engineering, 300 E 7th Street, Anniston, Alabama 36207 (PO Box 2233, Anniston, AL 36202), on or before March 12, 2019 at 2:00 P.M., at which time and place they will be opened and read aloud.

The project will consist of Labor for construction of 2019 Distribution Line Additions and Improvements:

Additions and improvements to approximately 4.7 miles of 12 KV distribution line (approximately 165 poles).

The materials that will be furnished by the Owner are described in attached Specifications and Drawings.

NOTE: Owner will furnish all materials.

Drawings, Specifications and Contract Documents may be examined at the office of the Owner or at the office of the Engineer. Copies may be obtained from Stewart Engineering, Inc., Electrical Consultants, P. O. Box 2233, Anniston, AL 36202, upon payment of \$150.00 for each set, none of which will be refunded. Three copies of Drawings and Specifications will be furnished to the successful bidder for construction purposes, without charge and additional Drawings and Specifications will be available to the successful bidder at their cost of reproduction.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Each bidder must be licensed as a contractor under the laws of the State of Alabama and will be required to advertise completion of the contract in accordance with Alabama State Law.

RUSSELLVILLE ELECTRIC BOARD
RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA
J. LANCE JUNKIN
STEWART ENGINEERING, INC.

RCS Board approves calendar for 2019-20

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education approved the calendar for the 2019-20 school year at the board's January 24 meeting.

Students will start the new school year August 8, with teacher workdays set for August 5 and 6.

The first student holiday will be Monday, September 2 for Labor Day. Homecoming is set for Friday, September 20, with a yet-to-be-determined football opponent.

Students will have a two-day fall break October 14-15. Thanksgiving Break will be November 27-29, but the first two days of that week, November 25-26, will be virtual student days, meaning that students will have assignments they can work on either online or without the aid of a computer. Students will not attend school those two days.

Russellville City Schools Superintendent of Education Heath Grimes said these virtual days count as part of his system's compliance with the 180-student day requirement, but even without them, the system is in compliance with the 1,080 hours of instruction requirement.

Christmas Break begins Monday, December 23 and runs through Tuesday, January 7, 2020. Students will not attend Monday, January 6 and Tuesday, January 7, but teachers will have in-service dates both days.

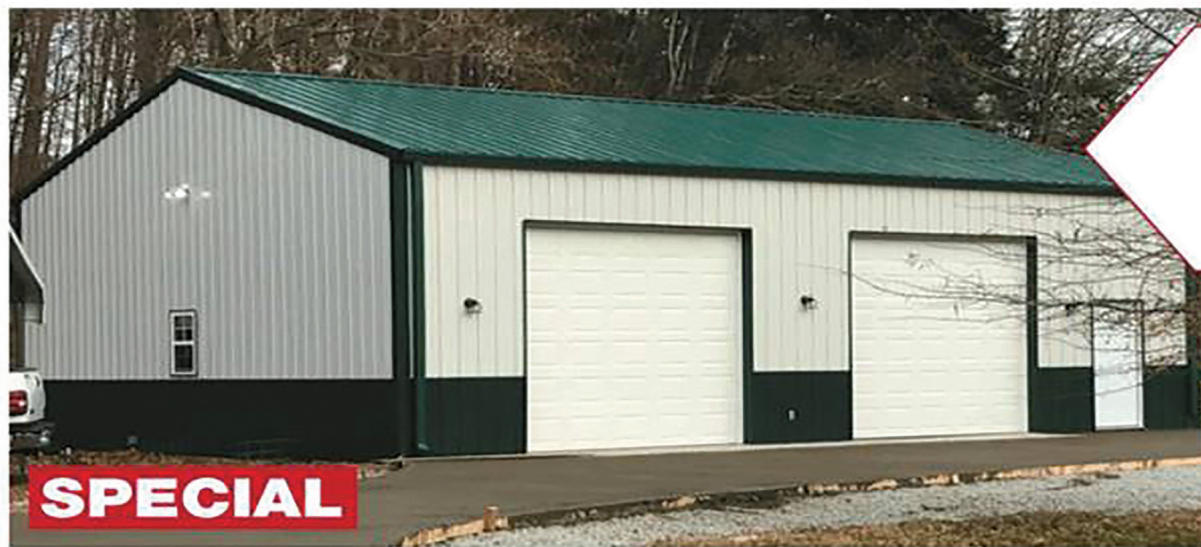
Spring Break is set for March 30, 2020 through April 3, 2020, and the final day of class for students will be Friday, May 22, 2020.

The new school calendar is available online at www.rcs.k12.al.us.

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

GARAGES | HAY BARNES | PAVILIONS | SHOPS | HOMES

Quality Building Kits *customized* to fit your needs



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



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.

Four local eateries earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

All four of the Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of January 21-25 had scores that fall into the "satisfactory compliance" range.

Health ratings are required to be prominently posted in all food/lodging establishments. Scores are graded by the Alabama Department of Public Health inspectors on a 100-point scale.

Establishments with scores of 85 to 100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are routinely inspected. Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again in 60 days, and those scoring between 60 and 69 will have another follow-up within 48 hours. Any establishment scoring below 60 will be immediately closed.

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

of the physical facility or property.

Each of the four Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

The highest score was 99, received by Subway #24292, 15300 Hwy. 43, Russellville.

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

- B&A Auction, 1385 Cty. Road 77, Russellville, 93. (Hoses attached at three compartment sink without backflow protection).

- Price Less Foods #493, 15160 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 95.

- Subway #37464, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 97.

Of the 15 inspections done in Colbert County from January 21-25 all received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 100 was received by Littleville Senior Center, 1400 Jackson Highway, Russellville.

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

'MORROW,' from page 1

bipartisan caucus in the entire Alabama House. When it came to advocating for and protecting his district, Morrow wasn't afraid to cross party lines, or any line drawn in the sand for that matter.

One of his most instrumental accomplishments came in securing funding for making a four-lane highway on Alabama 24, part of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor V.

In his first term, Morrow saw a developmental highway map that showed no plans to improve Alabama 24 in a 20-year plan. Morrow went to meet with Congressman Tom Bevill and used personal connections to have Alabama 24 designated as an ARC corridor, meaning the project would receive 80 percent federal funding. That was a major move for a freshman legislator at the time.

Morrow had the vision to realize industrial development for his district was tied to infrastructure improvements.

Morrow was pleased to see the recent completion of the project from the Alabama state line to Russellville, but he continued to press Mississippi officials to do their part and connect 24 to I-22, something that remains undone.

While the Highway 24 expansion was ongoing, Morrow worked with Alabama Department of Transportation officials to protect Burnout Baptist Church and the Belgreen High School softball field parking lot from being consumed by the project.

Another major contribution by Morrow as a freshman legislator was to co-sponsor then-Gov. Jim Folsom Jr.'s economic incentive package that landed the Mercedes automotive plant in Vance. The economic ripples from that legislation continue today, with thousands of jobs coming as a result.

If you asked Morrow his position on issues, he'd tell you he was in favor of the people of his district having the right to decide on their own through a vote. That happened time and time again as a result of Morrow fighting for the people's right to vote.

Franklin County remains Alabama's only county to have passed a constitutional amendment protecting the people's right to elect the Franklin County Superintendent of Education, a direct result of Morrow's efforts.

And when it came to protecting and advocating for public education, you could count on Morrow being at the front of the legislative line.

"Johnny Mack Morrow is a true public education advocate," said Russellville City Schools Superintendent of Education Heath Grimes. "He's been very supportive of teachers and students

and always was there to help with projects if at all possible. I appreciate his work in the legislature over the years."

Morrow is Alabama's only legislator who passed a bill allowing the sheriff and school officials to create a school security force in public schools. This bill was passed for Franklin County Schools in 2013, overriding then-Gov. Robert Bentley veto.

When it came to the controversial Alabama Accountability Act, Morrow fought against the legislation like a bulldog protecting its bone. Morrow combated efforts to expand the legislation in 2017 by setting up informational meetings with the Rural Caucus, which resisted expansion of the legislation.

Eddie Britton, a retired educator, administrator and the chairman of the Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee, said he admires Morrow for his willingness to take a stance on issues he believed in.

"We have lost another true patriot in Alabama government in Johnny Mack Morrow, who served us faithfully for 28 years," Britton said. "Even if you did not agree with him on all issues, he wanted to do what he believed was right for the people in his district. He helped a lot of people with a lot of issues."

"We have lost another true patriot in Alabama government in Johnny Mack Morrow, who served us faithfully for 28 years," Britton said. "We will miss his leadership. His legacy includes seeing the completion of Highway 24, his tireless work for broadband service for rural areas and his concern for our community colleges, as well as his contributions to helping the young people across northwest Alabama."

Morrow sponsored legislation to eliminate the duplication, competition and inefficiency of multiple water systems across Franklin County. That legislation created the Franklin County Water Service Authority.

When plans were announced in the early 1990s for Northwest Junior College to merge with Shoals Community College, Morrow fought the merger from day one, as he maintained the merger would eventually destroy the Phil Campbell campus.

More than 25 years after the 1993 merger, concerns remain about the lower enrollment, reduced course load and declining infrastructure of NWSCC's Phil Campbell campus.

After the April 27, 2011 tornadoes that ravaged much of northwest Alabama, Morrow was on site

almost immediately, working extensively on recovery efforts. Morrow organized support groups and helped coordinate responses to the worst natural disaster Franklin County has ever endured. He sponsored bipartisan legislation that provided funding to rebuild both Phil Campbell and Hackleburg High Schools.

Morrow worked daily toward seeing his dream of broadband wireless internet available to rural areas of Franklin County and Northwest Alabama. He set up the state's only county broadband authority through a 2014 constitutional amendment that gave the Franklin County Water Authority the ability to negotiate for broadband wireless internet and to move forward making the "Information Highway" a reality in Franklin County.

When talk of constructing four mega-prisons in Alabama began, at a cost of nearly \$1 billion, Morrow organized the Bettis Commission (tasked with finding solutions to Alabama's troubled prison system) and fought the effort to build the prisons with no-bid contracts. Morrow advocated for openness in the process and fought for public disclosure of the proposed location of the mega-prisons. Ultimately, the efforts of Morrow and other opponents killed the \$850 million bond issue, although the issue is expected to rear its head again in 2019.

Morrow's purchase of Cypress Cove Farms saw him and his wife Martha open the farm to the public for events including an annual farm day, birding trails, veterans activities, youth trapping workshops, Camp Courage and many other events for Northwest Alabama students.

He partnered with the Red Bay American Legion to host annual Veterans Day activities for more than 1,200 children each year, with the focus on the theme that 'your freedom isn't free.' The program introduced children to veterans who shared their personal accounts of serving their country.

Camp Courage, now in its sixth year, was created by Morrow to offer a camping experience for blind and deaf children. Children from four states attended the 2018 camp.

Morrow may not hold a seat in the Alabama Legislature any longer, but his tireless dedication to the people he represented will continue to live on through his many accomplishments.

"We will miss his leadership," Britton said. "His legacy includes seeing the completion of Highway 24 and his tireless work for broadband service for rural areas and his concern for our community colleges, as well as his contributions to helping the young people across northwest Alabama."



Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

NETTERBUG'S FLEA MARKET

LOCATED BEHIND BURGER KING AT 115 LAUREL AVE RUSSELLVILLE

BABY ITEMS, WOMEN'S FORMALS, CLOTHES (ALL SIZES) MUCH MORE!

OPEN THUR - FRI - SAT 10 AM-5 PM

256-367-6189

HOUSES/ APARTMENTS/ PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

House for sale. 12126 Hwy. 43 South (Cedar Creek Subdivision), Russellville, AL 35653. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, finished basement, oversized 2-car garage and storage building. Call 256-332-9772. Leave message.

3 BR brick ranch in Hester Heights, Russellville. 2 full BA, remodeled kitchen, 2-car attached garage, 2 1/2 car detached garage, large stormhouse, and large lot. Asking \$149,000. Call 256-263-8589.

Office/Business Space for

Lease. Former Maggie J's location on Highway 43, across from Walmart Shopping Center. 13722 Highway 43. Available immediately. Call 256-627-4674. (2)

For Rent. One Bedroom Duplex Apartment. Patio/Private Entrance. Also, Two Bedroom Duplex Apartment for Rent. Call 256-627-1916 or 256-332-5081. (4)

House for Rent. 707 South Jackson Ave. 2 BR/1 BA. \$385/mo. \$385/deposit. Call 256-810-3998 or 256-460-5016. (5)

House for Rent. 326 Duncan Creek Road. 2 BR/1 BA. \$385/mo. \$385/deposit. Call 256-

810-3998 or 256-460-5016. (5)

FURNITURE/ HOME DECOR

White desk with three drawers, \$65. Blue cloth desk chair, \$15. Call 256-483-1131. (4)

HELP WANTED

The Franklin County TRACKS Program is currently seeking nurses to work in our afterschool centers, which are open Monday-Friday from 3:15 p.m. until 5:30 pm. We are looking for LPN's, RN's, or any other higher nursing degree. Please call 256-331-0005 if interested or if you have any questions

regarding the job. (3)

MISC. FOR SALE

Fender Banjo for sale. \$200. Call 256-324-0179.

Browning Bar .30-06 Rifle For Sale. Includes new scope and strap. Gun like new. \$850 OBO. Call 256-436-6602. (1)

12 Kewpie dolls for sale. Various sizes. Call 256-332-1341. (2)

2 new stainless turkey fryers, \$15 each. 1 green, 1 blue. Kerosene lamp. Call 256-332-1341. (4)

Franklin Free Press Classified Rates Yard Sale Rates: FREE,

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!

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.

Amigo Paisano

Compre su casa hoy. Haga una cita con Don Enrique. No credito no hay problema, solo demuestre 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



My take on this... Cold weather is a hot topic

I'm sure all of you will recall how we were predicted a severe storm weather advisory alert last week. We were to have snow and freezing conditions and road advisories.

It was a "heads-up" to be prepared. There were probably 80 percent of the population who did just that. They listened and went to the grocery store and bought milk and bread and other necessities. Some went as far as to purchase generators in case of a power outage.

Oh yeah! Those 80 percent were sitting on ready, sitting in their cozy recliners with a big smiles their faces and saying, "I'm ready Big Boy. Bring it on!"

Well, the snow didn't come; the roads were not slicked over. What was even better was that the roads were clear and lives were not in danger. I thought it was a blessing in disguise, but, as it turned out, a lot of those 80 percent were enraged because we "did not get" that cruel storm that was predicted. I couldn't believe it!

I've been on Facebook a short time now, and I couldn't believe all the attacks on Jason Simpson, the meteorologist. There were comments left and right attacking him in the worst

way because he predicted a winter-weather snow-advisory that never took place. There were so many damaging comments to his credibility and even to his college degree. There were several of those 80 percent commenting how much better they could predict the weather and had never been to college.



Gail Notes

Thankfully, some people were willing to acknowledge that Jason Simpson is human, and that no matter what the forecast, God is the only one in complete control; all the gadgets and apps used to determine our weather forecast will never be enough to give 100 percent accuracy. Oh yeah! What is wrong with you people? God controls things, and I love it when we get a little too cocky and overconfident that he puts us in our places! And I am not saying that Jason Simpson was overconfident, because he wasn't. The weather pattern changed, so therefore the weather changed, and once again I will remind you the All-Knowing weather man is God!

Our weather did an about-face! Simpson did the best job he could, and instead of being

thankful, your "Facebook-Reactions" were appalling, to say the least.

Remember the many times your butts were saved because he gave you a heads-up on tornadoes and high winds and floods and heat waves. I didn't see any positive recognition shown then. That is the good ole Alabama folks at their finest. We tend to overlook the good in people but look through a magnifying glass to find as many faults as we can to berate, humiliate and tear someone's character and values apart, piece by piece.

I'm just one percent of that 100 percent, but I'm so thankful to be in an entirely different category as the heartless, uncaring and finger-pointing majority.

I want to let Simpson and all the other meteorologists know how much I appreciate the education and time you invest on a daily basis to make lives as safe as possible. I'm sorry you have to listen to the disrespectful ignorance of so many.

Appreciate the human forecaster for what he does, and show a little more respect. But show all respect to God's forecast. His predictions will remain 100 percent accurate.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Franklin County Commission will accept applications for the following positions: Roadway Maintenance Technicians (RMT II – RMT V). Highway Department officials are looking for skilled equipment operators and truck drivers that are qualified to safely operate any or all of the following: Dump truck, Tractor trailer / Lowboy, Tractor/Bush hog, skid steer, mini excavator, motor grader, pothole patching truck, chip sealing equipment, paving equipment, etc. The type and level of experience will be considered in determining the most qualified for these positions.

An application and job description may be picked up at the Franklin County Commission Office, located at 405 N. Jackson Ave., Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 PM on Friday, February 8, 2019. If you have questions or need any additional information, please contact David Palmer, County Engineer at (256) 332-8434.

Franklin County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the employment or the provision of services.

PUBLIC NOTICE: ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS

Russellville Electric Board has a 1997 F700 Series 55 ft. Bucket Truck with material handler, gasoline engine.

Minimum bid \$12,000.00

Awarded to highest bidder. All bids must be sealed and delivered to Russellville Utilities Office no later than 1 p.m. on February 7, 2019 or submitted at bid opening.

Bids will be opened at Russellville Electric Board Warehouse at 2:00 p.m. on February 7, 2019.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Franklin County Commission will accept applications for the following: Human Resources Director/Payroll Clerk for the Franklin County Commission Office until 12 p.m., on Thursday, February 14, 2019.

This position requires the applicant to possess a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources. An application and job description may be picked up at the Franklin County Commission Office, located at 405 North Jackson Ave., Russellville, AL., 35653, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Franklin County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the employment or the provision of services.

Five questions to ask before you get married

Marriage is one of the biggest decisions you'll ever make, so the last thing you want to do is go in unprepared.

Money is the number one issue couples fight about. In fact, Ramsey Solutions released a study that shows money fights are the second leading cause of divorce, behind infidelity. So, making sure you're on the same page about your finances with your future spouse is extremely important. When you sit down and talk with your partner about your finances, it builds a different level of trust in your relationship. You'll wind up growing closer to each other as a result.

Talking about money can be uncomfortable at first, but it's so worth it! Before you say "I do," here are a few questions you should ask yourself as you get ready to have the money talk with your future spouse.

1. Where are you currently with your finances?

Both of you should answer this question and get it out on the table. How much debt do you have—including student loans, car loans, mortgages, credit cards and even personal loans? What's your annual income? How much do you have in savings?

Once you both have that information, you can make a plan to attack your debt. That leads us to a very important question—do you want debt to be a part of your marriage? I hope the answer is no, but you need to have this discussion. If you're determined to get out of debt and your spouse continues to pile up credit card debt, then you're headed toward a lot of marital stress.

Debt is a thief. It steals your money and your joy. The last thing you want to do is delay all of those dreams you have with your future spouse. Being debt free will allow you to turn your dreams into a reality. So, make a plan to get out of debt together, and don't let it be an option ever again.

2. Am I a spender or a saver?

You probably know the answer to this question immediately, right? Would you rather spend your time shopping at the mall or updating your budget in Excel?

The spender and the saver are total opposites, but it's true what they say—opposites attract. Often in marriage, one person is a spender and one is a saver. And that's okay! Just because one likes to spend and one the other likes to save doesn't mean your marriage is doomed. You balance each other out.

The problems start when you go through life without understanding each other's natural tendencies. You have to start by embracing one another's differences. There is no right or wrong here. The key is to communicate and make a plan for your money together. Spenders shouldn't let all of the budgeting fall to the saver and vice versa. You are one now!

The spender and the saver are total opposites, but it's true what they say—opposites attract. Often in marriage, one person is a spender and one is a saver. And that's okay! You balance each other out. The problems start when you go through life without understanding each other's natural tendencies. You have to start by embracing one another's differences. There is no right or wrong here. The key is to communicate and make a plan for your money together. Spenders shouldn't let all of the budgeting fall to the saver and vice versa. You are one now!

3. Do I understand how a budget works?

If you don't know how to make a budget, stop what you're doing and learn how to create one. I know what you may be thinking... "Budgets are the worst!" or "You can't have fun when you're on a budget!" Budgeting might seem restrictive but telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went actually gives you permission to spend! It's also a great way to deepen communication with your spouse because you're planning for your future together.

Your budget is your game plan. With a zero-based budget, you list your monthly income at the top of the page. Then list all your monthly expenses—gas, food, rent, debt payments and so on—below that. The income minus the outgo should equal zero. Every dollar should have a "name." Give yourself grace. It will take a few months to get used to budgeting, but you'll get there!

4. What are your financial fears?

This might not be a fun question, but it's an important one. Fear can make us do crazy things, especially when it comes to your money. Fear is what leads to people hiding purchases from their spouse or getting a secret credit card. Both of which are bad ideas, by the way!

Maybe you're afraid because you don't have the security that comes with savings or maybe you're scared because you're living paycheck to paycheck, like most Americans. Whatever they are, share them with your fiancé. Getting your fears out on the table will help you to get on the same page when it comes to your values and money.

5. What are your dreams?

Where do you picture yourself (and your spouse) years from now? What type of lifestyle are you living? You probably already know the answer, and these are things you should be sharing with each other, too.

Talking about money with your partner binds you on an intimate level unlike anything else. You wind up sharing your hopes and dreams together, and who doesn't want that? The honeymoon doesn't have to end when your wedding is over. Dream together, and make a plan for your money together. I promise, you'll add a sense of peace in your marriage that could not exist with debt!

**As a #1 New York Times best-selling author, host of The Rachel Cruze Show, and The Rachel Cruze Show podcast, 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

Shoals Primary Care, LLC

Internal Medicine • Family & General Practice

Dr. Faizullah Syed is Welcoming New Patients



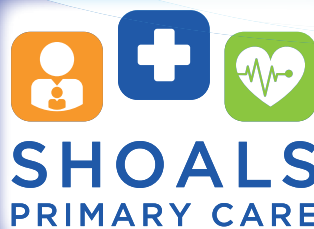
Baylee Corsbie CRNP, Faizullah Syed M.D., Misty Maxwell CRNP, Kelli Robertson CRNP

MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED • MEDICARE PATIENTS WELCOME

Admitting Privileges at Helen Keller Hospital

Monday-Thursday • 8am - 5pm | Friday • 8am-Noon

Walk-ins are Welcome



342 Cox Boulevard
Sheffield
256-383-4473
shoalsprimarycarellc.com

Letters to the Editor

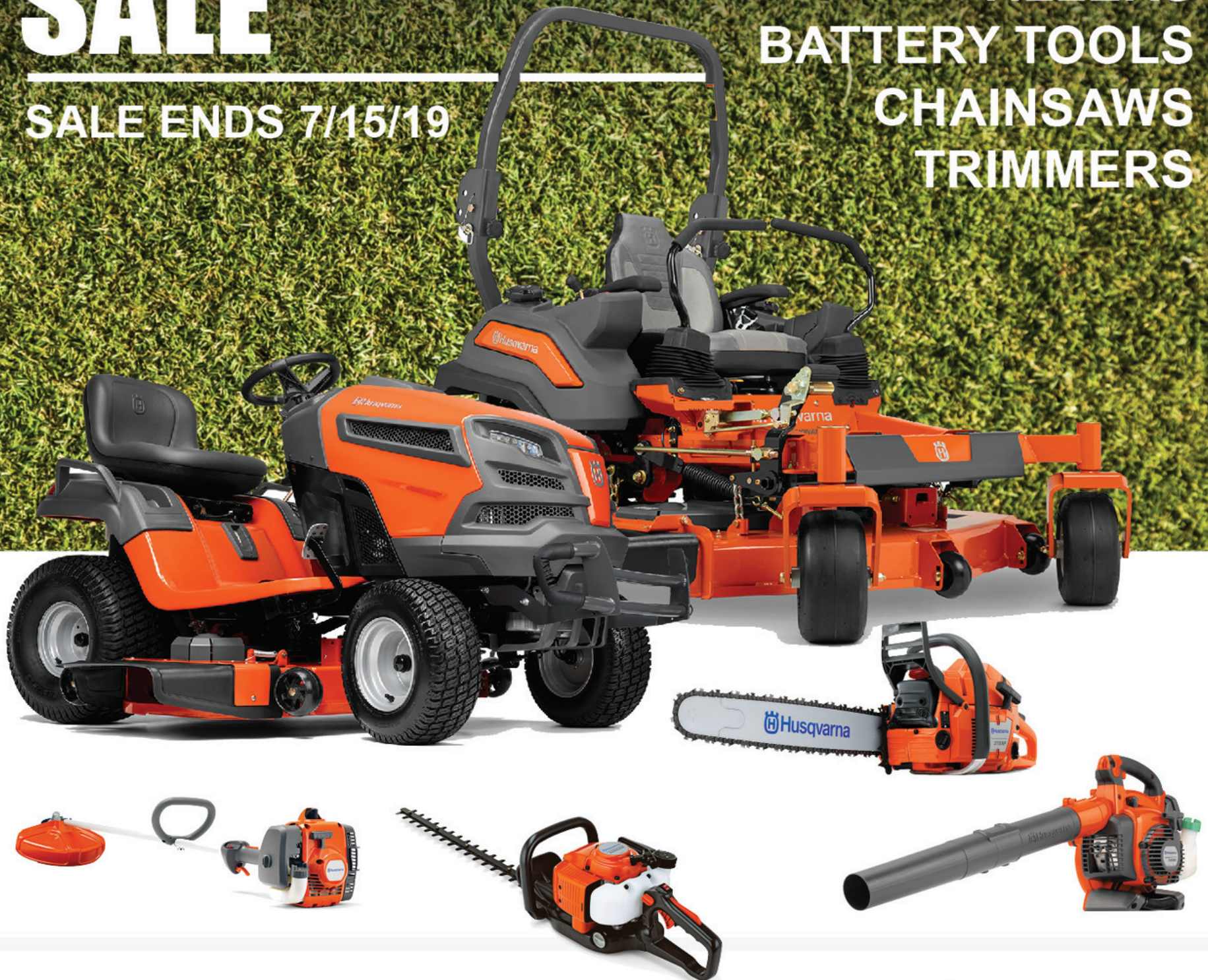
We love to hear from you! Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoons, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at franklinfreepress.net!

WINTER CLEARANCE SALE

SALE ENDS 7/15/19

RIDING MOWERS
PUSH MOWERS
ZERO-TURNS
HEDGE TRIMMERS
TILLERS
BATTERY TOOLS
CHAINSAWS
TRIMMERS



Find your Husqvarna at:

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


Husqvarna
READY WHEN YOU ARE

Connect with us online at [HUSQVARNA.COM](https://www.husqvarna.com)



PC girls finish season sweep of rival Phillips

Mike Self
 Franklin Free Press

BEAR CREEK - With roughly one minute remaining and her team clinging to a two-point lead over rival Phillips in last Monday's showdown, Phil Campbell's Katie Thomas caught a pass near the top of the key and waited.

And waited.

And waited.

Thomas, the daughter of head coach Craig Thomas, knew the Lady Bobcats were in milk-the-clock mode. Generally speaking, that means layups and free throws only; all other shots are to be passed up in favor of running more clock.

With that in mind, Thomas waited two or three seconds (an eternity in basketball) for someone in a Phillips uniform to come guard her. When no volunteers showed up, she waited no longer. Thomas (who had drilled three first-half threes but was scoreless in the second half at that point) loaded up a deep one and let it fly.

Watching from the sidelines, maybe 20 feet away, Craig Thomas had one thought pop into his mind.

She better make it.

She did.

Thomas's three found nothing but net, pushing Phil Campbell's lead to 72-67 with 60 seconds to go. The sophomore forward then shot 4-for-5 from the foul line over the final minute,

See 'SWEEP,' Page 16



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Phil Campbell's 77-75 win at Bear Creek last Monday was Thomas's 100th as head coach. He is now 101-43 in five seasons with the Lady Bobcats.

Great Expectations



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Just two years removed from losing 24 games, Torisky (center) and the Tigers wrapped up the regular season with 24 wins—one shy of the program record set in 1994-95.

When they made it to Hanceville a year ago, Red Bay's boys were just happy to be there. As this year's postseason tips off, the Tigers have a loftier goal in mind: Win a state title.

Mike Self
 Franklin Free Press

FLORENCE - Leading by four with a little more than two minutes left in last Friday's regular season finale at Mars Hill, Red Bay's boys executed a textbook press break, zipping diagonal passes back and forth and ultimately getting the ball out ahead of the pack to senior guard Colton Corum.

All the Panthers could do was scramble back to commit a foul and prevent the layup, sending Corum to the line.

Most coaches, in that instance, would have applauded their team's poise under pressure, or at the very least offered some encouragement to Corum as he prepared to shoot a pair of very important free throws. Then again, most coaches haven't brought a program from a 24-loss season to a 24-win season in the span of just three years.

Pulling off that type of turnaround in that time frame requires extremely high expectations—a

zero-tolerance policy for failure, if you will.

So it was that John Torisky, the Tigers' fourth-year head coach, stalked up and down the visiting sideline, chastising Corum for failing to finish through contact and earn himself an and-one opportunity. Torisky wasn't satisfied with two chances at the foul line; he wanted the three-point play.

"Our goal is to win a state championship," Weatherford said. "There's no goals under that. We're shooting for the moon."

"I did," the coach said later on Friday night. "And like I told Colton, it's nothing personal. That's what's great about these guys. They respond. I looked like a jerk, and I probably was a little bit. But we needed points, and a three-point play would have broken their back. Now he's shooting two free throws, and maybe we get 'em and maybe we don't. He did well getting the free

See 'GREAT,' Page 18

Belgreen boys finish 8-0 in area play

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

BELGREEN - Sometimes the best pre-game talks are the ones that don't quite pan out.

With 6'6 senior Mason Bragwell sidelined by the flu for last Monday night's critical area finale against visiting Hackleburg, Belgreen coach Clint Isbell knew how easy it would be for his team to fall into the trap of depending too heavily on its perimeter shooting.

"Our talk before the game," Isbell said, "was, 'Don't rely on the three.'"

Then again, if you shoot threes the way Isbell's team did last Monday night, you can rely on them all you want.

The Bulldogs buried 10 threes in the first half and a season-high 13 on the night, thriving in their ailing big man's absence and clinching home-court advantage for the area tournament with an 80-54 rout of the Panthers.

"We didn't wanna rely too much on the three, but we were hitting it," said Isbell, whose team finished a perfect 8-0 in Class 1A, Area 12. "So I wasn't gonna tell them not to. We shot it really well. It helped us out tonight."

Senior guard Brant Bragwell buried four threes in the second quarter alone and hit seven on the night, finishing with a season-high 29 points. Sophomore guard Scout Bragwell hit a pair of threes in the first quarter and shot a perfect 5-for-5 from the field overall in the first half on his way to scoring 14 points.

Tanner Warhurst, filling in for Mason Bragwell at

the five-spot, also finished with 14 points, shooting 5-for-6 from the field and 4-for-5 from the foul line. Senior guard Gaven Taylor hit two first-quarter threes and finished with 10 points, and the Bulldogs also got one three apiece from Kostner Bryant and Isac Willingham.

Despite the absence of Bragwell and his 17.7 points per game, Belgreen still shot a sizzling 61 percent (20-for-33) from the floor in the first half (drilling five threes in the first quarter and five more in the second) and took a 53-27 lead into the locker room.

Isbell said afterwards that he didn't anticipate a 53-point first half on a night when his team's leading scorer was home with the flu.

"Not really. Mason is such a big presence for us inside, and he draws a lot of attention," said Isbell, whose team led 76-39 at the end of three quarters before throttling back in the fourth. "So I was a little shocked by it. But we shot it well, and we had a lot of guys step up. Tanner Warhurst, Will Donahoe and Isac Willingham all stepped up and played really good inside tonight in Mason's absence."

The Bulldogs got early threes from Taylor and Scout Bragwell but were still trailing 9-8 before Brant Bragwell found Scout Bragwell cutting to the basket for an easy layup. Brant Bragwell followed with a three and a pull-up jumper before assisting on another three by Scout Bragwell that made it 18-9.

Taylor then nailed his second three of the quarter at the 1:30 mark to cap off a 13-0 run and make it 21-9. Belgreen led 23-11 at the end of one.

Brant Bragwell caught fire in the second quarter, drilling four threes and pouring in 16 points on 6-for-8 shooting from the floor as the Bulldogs out-scored the Panthers 30-14 to take a 26-point lead into the break.

"He had a big night for us," Isbell said of Brant Bragwell, who just recently eclipsed the 1,000-point mark for his varsity career. "He shot it well for us. He and Scout Bragwell both shot it well outside."

Belgreen got nine points from Warhurst and two more threes from Brant Bragwell in the third quarter, out-scoring Hackleburg 23-12 to open up a 37-point cushion. The Bulldogs coasted to their eighth win in eight area games this season, finishing unbeaten in area play for the first time in Isbell's three years as head coach.

"We're definitely pleased with that," he said. "We lost one my first year to Hackleburg, and then to Tharptown last year, so this is the first year we went undefeated. I knew coming in that Hackleburg had just lost one area game, to us, so we had to win to know we were hosting [the area tournament]. Otherwise it would have gone to a coin flip.

"The guys knew that, and they were focused."

Scout Bragwell handed out five assists last Monday to go along with his 14 points on 6-for-8 shooting. Brant Bragwell shot 10-for-22 from the floor overall and had four assists, three rebounds and two steals. Warhurst had five boards, and Willingham chipped in with five points, seven rebounds and two blocked shots.

Bryant scored four points, and Jonathan Gonzalez and Will Donahoe each added two. Belgreen shot 50 percent (30-for-60) from the floor and 7-for-9 from the foul line. The Bulldogs out-rebounded Hackleburg 25-16 and turned the ball over only 10 times.

Senior Kaleb Moore led the Panthers with 26 points on 12-for-17 shooting. Hackleburg shot 53 percent (23-for-43) from the field but hit only three threes and committed 17 turnovers—eight of which came in the second quarter.

In other action last week:

Red Bay 53 Belgreen 34

Red Bay's boys held Belgreen to just two made baskets in the second half last Thursday night, beating the Bulldogs for the third time in as many tries this season.

The Tigers came out hot on the offensive end, knocking down four threes (one each by Gath Weatherford, Jalen Vinson, Clay Allison and Hunter Bays) in the first quarter to build an early 18-12 lead. Sophomore post player Lane Shewbart scored six points in the second quarter, helping Red Bay stretch the lead to 31-22 by half-time.

The Tigers clamped down defensively from there, holding Belgreen to just one field goal in the third quarter and one field goal in the fourth.

Senior guard Colton Corum hit a pair of threes and finished with 11 points to lead a balanced scoring attack for Red Bay. Allison also hit two threes and scored 10 points. Weatherford added nine points, seven of which came in the first quarter. Bays made two threes and finished with eight points, and Shewbart also scored eight.

Alex Kennedy chipped in with four points, and Vinson added three. The Tigers hit eight threes and shot 5-for-6 from the foul line.

Senior post player Mason Bragwell led the Bulldogs with 15 points, shooting 7-for-9 from the



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Isbell and the Bulldogs are seeking their third straight area tournament title this week. They will play a first-round game at home on Thursday night, with the finals set for Saturday.

Free throws help Lady Bulldogs edge Sulligent

Staff reports

Belgreen's girls overcame a tough night offensively on Saturday by cashing in at the foul line, hitting 23-of-37 free throws and wrapping up the regular season with a 42-37 win at Sulligent.

The Lady Bulldogs (21-6) made just two field goals in the entire first half—a three by Gracie Dempsey in the first quarter, and another three by Autumn Bragwell in the second quarter. Belgreen shot 9-for-17 from the foul line, however, and trailed by just two at the break, 17-15.

Junior post player Ansley Tate scored nine points in the third quarter, helping the Lady Bulldogs out-score Sulligent 13-8 to take a 28-25 lead into the fourth. Gabbie Moore and Emma Dempsey each went 3-for-4 from the line in the final period, and Belgreen also got four points from Katie Dempsey and a three from Gracie Dempsey to help seal the deal.

Tate finished with 10 points to lead the Lady Bulldogs. Bragwell shot 5-for-6 from the line and scored eight points. Emma Dempsey had seven points on 7-for-8 shooting from the line, and Gracie Dempsey also scored seven. Katie Dempsey finished with five points, and Moore had four. Emma Willingham added one.

In other action last week:

Deshler 61 Belgreen 60 (overtime)

Belgreen's girls rallied from a nine-point fourth-quarter deficit to force overtime against Deshler last Friday night, but the Lady Tigers got a tie-breaking free throw from Donachia Ramson in the extra period and escaped with the win.

Trailing 18-9 at the end of one quarter, the Lady Bulldogs got a pair of threes from senior guard Gabbie Moore in the second quarter and out-scored Deshler 18-16 to cut the lead to seven at 34-27 going into the break.

Junior guard Gracie Dempsey nailed two threes for Belgreen in the third quarter, but the Lady Bulldogs still trailed 50-41 heading to the fourth.

Dempsey made two more threes and scored eight points in the final period, and Emma Dempsey added four points down the stretch as Belgreen out-scored Deshler 17-8 to tie the game 58-58 at the end of regulation.

Katie Dempsey had the Lady Bulldogs' only field goal in overtime, and Destiny Sanford countered with Deshler's only bucket. Ramson made a free throw that ultimately proved to be the difference.

Chloe Siegel hit seven threes and finished with

25 points to lead Deshler (19-9). Abbi Holley added 15 points and 10 assists. The Lady Tigers hit nine threes as a team and shot just 4-for-12 from the foul line.

Gracie Dempsey made four second-half threes and finished with 17 points to lead Belgreen. Ansley Tate added 13 points, and Emma Dempsey shot 6-for-8 from the foul line and finished with 12. Moore scored nine points on three threes, and Katie Dempsey also had nine.

The Lady Bulldogs hit seven threes and shot 15-for-22 at the line.

Belgreen 68 Red Bay 53

Belgreen's girls got a season-high 26 points from Emma Dempsey and a third straight big game from Ansley Tate last Thursday night, pulling away late to beat Red Bay for their 20th win of the year.

Leading by just six at the end of three quarters, the Lady Bulldogs got 11 points from Dempsey and eight from Tate in the fourth on their way to out-scoring Red Bay 23-14 down the stretch to seal the deal.

Tate, a junior post player coming off a career-high 28-point effort against Hackleburg last Monday, finished with 22 on Thursday. Dempsey, a 6'1 sophomore, shot 10-for-12 from the foul line Thursday night on her way to topping the 20-point mark for the second time this season against Red Bay and the fourth time overall. [She scored 22 points in a 70-59 win over the Lady Tigers on December 8.]

Between them, Dempsey and Tate accounted for 18 of Belgreen's 24 field goals in Thursday's win.

Senior guard Gabbie Moore and junior forward Katie Dempsey scored seven points apiece, and senior guard Emma Willingham added four. Each of them made one three-pointer. Junior guard Gracie Dempsey had two points. The Lady Bulldogs shot 17-for-21 from the line as a team, including 11-for-12 in the fourth quarter.

Senior guard Mallori Miller led Red Bay with five threes and a season-high 25 points. Senior post player Reagan Kuykendall added 10 points, and Macy Faulkner had eight. Destiny McCollister scored all six of her points in the third quarter, helping the Lady Tigers out-score Belgreen 14-11 to cut a nine-point halftime deficit down to six at 45-39.

Lila Blackburn finished with four points for Red Bay, which made seven threes and shot 6-for-12 from the line.

Belgreen 70 Hackleburg 39

'BELGREEN', from page 14

foul line. Scout Bragwell hit two threes and finished with eight points, and Kostner Bryant added six points. Brant Bragwell scored three, and Gaven Taylor added two. Belgreen made three threes and shot 11-for-15 from the foul line.

Deshler 68 Belgreen 60

The Tigers led 25-9 at the end of one quarter last Friday and held on to beat the Bulldogs for the third time this season in as many tries.

Sophomore guard Scout Bragwell had a big night for Belgreen, hitting five threes and scoring a game-high 25 points. Senior big man Mason Bragwell added 23 points, shooting 15-for-17 from the foul line.

Matthew Minetree led Deshler (22-6) with four threes and 12 points, and Kevon Summerhill also scored 12. Rece Malone hit three threes and finished with 11 points.

Minetree hit two threes in Deshler's big first quarter, but Scout Bragwell countered with 11 second-quarter points to help the Bulldogs hang around. They trailed 41-25 at the half and 54-40 at the end of three quarters before out-scoring the Tigers 20-14 in the fourth. Mason Bragwell scored 10 points in the final period on his way to topping the 20-point mark for the 10th time this season.

Brant Bragwell finished with eight points for Belgreen. Kostner Bryant and

Tanner Warhurst each added two. The Bulldogs hit six threes and shot 18-for-21 from the line.

J.P. Robinson scored seven of his nine points for Deshler in the fourth quarter. Jalin Johnson added eight points. The Tigers hit eight threes and went 10-for-15 from the line.

Belgreen 74 Sulligent 56

Mason Bragwell scored 28 points for Belgreen on Saturday night, helping the Bulldogs wrap up their regular season with a 74-56 win at Sulligent.

Scout Bragwell hit four threes and scored 18 points for Belgreen (16-11), and Brant Bragwell scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half.

The Bulldogs got eight points from Mason Bragwell and five from Scout Bragwell in the first quarter, jumping out to an early 15-11 lead. Up 32-23 at the half, Belgreen got eight points from Mason Bragwell and seven from Brant Bragwell in the third quarter, out-scoring Sulligent 20-15 to stretch the lead to 52-38.

Mason Bragwell shot 6-for-7 from the foul line on his way to topping the 20-point mark for the 11th time this season. Isac Willingham scored six points, Tanner Warhurst had four and Kostner Bryant added two.

The Bulldogs hit six threes and shot 10-for-11 from the line.

Tanner Collins led Sulligent with 13 points.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Gracie Dempsey and Belgreen (21-6) reached the 20-win mark for a second straight season. They will face Vina on Wednesday night in the Class 1A, Area 12 tournament.

Ansley Tate scored a career-high 28 points for Belgreen last Monday night, helping the Lady Bulldogs win their third straight game and wrap up area play with a 70-39 rout of Hackleburg.

Belgreen (6-2 in Class 1A, Area 12) led 19-11 at the end of one quarter and 40-20 at the break, cruising to its seventh win in eight games.

Tate, a junior post player, shot 6-for-9 from the foul line last Monday night and easily surpassed her previous season-high of 18 points. Katie Dempsey shot 5-for-6 from the line and scored 11 points, and Emma Dempsey also had 11. Gabbie Moore finished with 10 points, and Gracie Dempsey added eight. Autumn Bragwell had two.

Belgreen made only one three but had a big night at the foul line, shooting 19-for-27.

'SWEEP,' from page 13

helping the Lady Bobcats hold on to finish off a season sweep of Phillips and extend their win streak to ten with a 77-75 victory.

After watching that dagger three—Phil Campbell's season-high 10th of the night—splash through the net, Craig Thomas had a different thought pop into his head.

Atta girl.

"We were in sort of a delay, trying to run the clock out," he said after the game. "They just lost her. And she made 'em pay."

Thomas's efficient performance [she shot 4-for-5 from beyond the arc and 4-for-5 from the foul line on her way to scoring a season-high 16 points] was merely one part of an outstanding offensive night for the Lady Bobcats. Senior forward Abby Davis, who was sick all weekend leading up to the game and needed an extra breather or two to make it through last Monday's contest, nevertheless dominated down low with 24 points on 10-for-15 shooting from the floor.

Junior guard Kallie Allen hit a pair of second-quarter threes and had a crucial go-ahead three-point play late in the fourth quarter, finishing with 21 points on 9-for-16 shooting. Finally, sophomore guard Caitlynn Mills buried three threes—including a critical one with three minutes remaining that cut a five-point deficit down to two—and finished with 11 points.

Most impressively, the Lady Bobcats racked up 22 assists on their 29 made baskets—including all ten from beyond the arc. Allen led the way with nine assists, Mills had six and Davis finished with five (to go along with a team-high 12 rebounds and three blocked shots). Much of the night on Phil Campbell's end was a clinic on ball movement and making the extra pass.

"We have been preaching that lately—really, really playing team ball," said Thomas, whose team had nine assists on ten first-quarter field goals and led 24-14 at the end of one. "We've got five kids that can score at any time. Abby, for one, has done an excellent job finding the open person. She's been drawing double-teams from pretty much everybody."

Phil Campbell had perfect balance in last Monday's first quarter, getting two threes apiece from Thomas and Mills and six points apiece from Davis and Allen to build that early 10-point lead. The Lady Bobcats hit three more threes in the second quarter but shot just 4-for-13 from the floor overall as Phillips cut the lead down to six at 36-30 going into the break.

Junior guard Gracie Hallman, who would finish with a game-high 26 points, opened the second half with a pair of threes for the home team, and Phillips out-scored Phil Campbell 23-15 in the third quarter to take a 53-51 lead.

"Defensively tonight, I thought probably 20 points of theirs came off transition, where they would just get a turnover and go or get a long rebound and go," said Thomas, whose team came in allowing an average of just 40.0 points per game on the season and had held Phillips to 37 in a win at Phil Campbell on November 29. "Their transition was good. When we did turn it over, they got a transition bucket. We've gotta work on that part. And we didn't box out well in that third quarter. I had to call a timeout."

The final period was played at a level one would expect to see from two teams who played in Birmingham last season and fully expect to make another Final Four run in their respective classifications this season. Allen opened the fourth with a basket off an assist from Davis, tying the game at 53-53. Ally McCollum, a 6'1 junior, answered with

a jumper for Phillips, and a three-point play by senior guard Lexie Dishner made it 58-53 with 6:27 remaining.

Freshman Kenner Scott, just into the game for the first time all night, nailed a huge corner three for the Lady Bobcats, getting them back within two at 58-56. Phillips responded, however, with baskets by Hallman and Dishner to open up its largest lead of the night at 62-56 with 4:40 to go.

A transition layup by Mills and a basket by Davis off an assist from Allen brought Phil Campbell within three at 63-60, but Hallman scored to push the lead back to five. That's when Allen assisted on a clutch three by Mills to make it 65-63 with 3:00 remaining.

The Lady Bobcats took their first lead of the fourth quarter when Davis grabbed a defensive rebound and raced coast-to-coast for a three-point play to make it 66-65 with 2:36 to go.

"Abby's had the stomach virus since the Belmont game last Friday," Thomas said. "She was feeling bad that day. I wasn't gonna play her a whole lot tonight, but, shoot, in a game like this, you play who you gotta play."

Phillips reclaimed the lead at 67-66 on a pair of free throws by Amber Markham at the 2:10 mark, but then Davis set up Allen for a three-point play to make it 69-67 with 1:45 remaining. A steal by Mills gave possession back to the Lady Bobcats, and then Thomas buried the big three at the 1:00 mark to push the lead to five.

To their credit, the She-Bears didn't go down without a fight. They trimmed the lead to one at 74-73 on two free throws by McCollum with 25.7 seconds remaining, and then Allen missed a pair at the line for Phil Campbell. McCollum grabbed the rebound but traveled as she started up the court, giving possession back to the Lady Bobcats.

Thomas was fouled with 16.3 seconds left and made two free throws, pushing the lead to 76-73. Phillips called timeout and tried to get Hallman free for a look from three, but the junior guard wound up getting fouled on the floor and went to the line with 3.9 seconds left.

She made both free throws, cutting the lead to one at 76-75. Phil Campbell got the ball inbounds to Davis, who was fouled and missed the first but made the second to make it 77-75 with 2.8 seconds to go. Hallman's heave from beyond half-court was no good as time expired, giving the Lady Bobcats their third straight win over Phillips—and second in a row in Bear Creek—dating back to last season.

Three days after grinding out a 44-39 win over Belmont (MS), Phil Campbell showed last Monday that it can win a high-scoring shootout as well.

"This was a different type of game," said Thomas, whose team set a new season-high for points scored last Monday and improved to 9-0 in January. "Phillips runs with us. Belmont was very slow, very methodical, run offense, run offense. We didn't get to touch the ball nearly as much. This game was up and down the floor. But it's good to be able to win both kinds of games. That means we can match up or deal with whatever anybody does to us."

"We're gonna try to run, regardless."

Phil Campbell started fast (shooting 10-for-16 from the field with four threes in that 24-point first quarter) and finished strong (shooting 8-for-14 from the floor with three threes and 7-for-11 from the line in a 26-point fourth quarter) last Monday. The Lady Bobcats ended the night at 48 percent (29-for-61) from the floor, compared to 40 percent (29-for-73) by Phillips.

The Lady 'Cats got out-rebounded 42-33 but survived in large part due to finishing plus-18 on points scored from beyond the arc (10 made threes to just four for the She-Bears).

"When you shoot it good," Thomas said, "it makes everything easier."

Katie Thomas had six rebounds to go along with her season-high 16 points. Allen also pulled down six boards and had two steals. Sophomore Olivia Taylor chipped in with two points, six rebounds and two assists.

McCollum finished with 18 points on 7-for-16 shooting and also grabbed a game-high 17 rebounds. Bailey Bishop, a 6'3 senior, also had a double-double with 12 points and 12 boards. Dishner had nine points and six rebounds.

In other action last week:

Phil Campbell 61 Tharptown 36

Abby Davis celebrated Senior Night at Phil Campbell in style last Thursday, scoring a season-high 29 points to lead the Lady Bobcats to their 11th straight win.

Davis, a UAH signee and the team's only senior, scored 17 first-half points, helping Phil Campbell take a 32-18 lead into the locker room. She then poured in 12 more points in the third quarter as the Lady Bobcats out-scored Tharptown 20-6 to open up a 52-24 cushion.

Davis topped the 20-point mark for the seventh time this season, adding five rebounds, four steals and three blocks. Junior guard Kallie Allen finished with 13 points, three assists and three steals.

Katie Thomas chipped in with nine points and three steals, and fellow sophomore Olivia Taylor added six points, eight rebounds and four steals.

Gracie Montgomery made two threes and finished with 12 points to lead the Lady Wildcats.

Wilson 43 Phil Campbell 39

A turnover-filled third quarter proved too much for Phil Campbell to overcome last Friday as the Lady Bobcats saw their 11-game win streak end.

Phil Campbell (22-4) got 12 early points from junior guard Kallie Allen and led by as many as nine at 19-10 with 5:18 left in the first half. Senior Emma Nester hit a pair of threes to bookend a 9-0 run that pulled Wilson even at 19-19, and the game was tied 21-21 at the break.

Nester opened the second half with another three, but Abby Davis answered with a tying three for the Lady Bobcats. Phil Campbell struggled to get shot attempts in the third quarter, turning the ball over nine times. Wilson (21-9) failed to capitalize, however, shooting just 2-for-15 from the floor in the quarter, and the game was still tied 28-28 heading to the fourth.

Nester hit her fourth and final three of the night with 2:37 left in the game, pushing Wilson's lead to four at 37-33. Davis assisted on a bucket by Katie Thomas to get the Lady Bobcats back within two, and Allen went 1-for-2 at the line with 2:07 remaining to cut the lead to one at 37-36.

Nester scored to make it a three-point game, but Kaci Harris drilled a three at the 1:35 mark to pull Phil Campbell even at 39-39.

Wilson's Chaney Peters was fouled on a three-point attempt with 1:15 remaining and went 2-for-3 at the line, putting the Lady Warriors on top 41-39. Phil Campbell's next two possessions resulted in a missed free throw and a turnover, and then Wilson senior Tori Walker hit two clinching free throws with 4.7 seconds left to seal the deal.

Allen led the Lady Bobcats with 13 points on 6-for-11 shooting and also had three steals. Davis finished with nine points, nine rebounds and six assists. Thomas also scored nine points and pulled down nine rebounds.

FREE FURNACE TIME!

Purchase a Qualifying American Standard System from Fuller & Receive the Matching Furnace or Air Handler for FREE!

and
*Finance Your New System with Zero Down & Convenient Monthly Payments!



GET THIS **FREE** WHEN YOU BUY THIS



American Standard.
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

*Subject to credit approval. Ask for details.



256.774.9019

AL HVAC 91114 • AL Plumbing MPG-3489 • AL Electrical 01889

Bobcats close regular season with win at Wilson

Staff reports

Nate Owens scored 10 of his 12 points in the fourth quarter last Friday night, helping Phil Campbell finish strong in a 55-41 win at Wilson.

Leading by just two at halftime, the Bobcats (9-16) out-scored Wilson 10-3 in the third quarter to open up a 35-26 advantage. Owens then scored 10 points in the final period, and Ben Williams went 4-for-4 from the foul line as Phil Campbell out-scored the Warriors 20-15 to win going away.

Sophomore Ridge Raper led the Bobcats with 14 points. He had six in the first quarter, helping Phil Campbell get out to an early 15-10 lead.

Williams shot 6-for-6 from the line and finished with 12 points. Brett Saint hit a pair of first-half threes and finished with nine points. Luke Garrison added four, and Mason Swinney and Nate Orrick each had two.

The Bobcats made five threes and shot 14-for-18 from the foul line.

In other action last week:

Tharptown 56 Phil Campbell 52

Winston Nolen scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half last Thursday, helping Tharptown rally from a 15-point deficit to spoil Senior Night at Phil Campbell.

The Bobcats dominated the first quarter, getting nine points from Isaac Riddle, six points from Brett Saint, a three from Luke Garrison and a three-point play from Nate Owens to build an early 23-11 lead. Riddle, a senior forward, scored seven more points in the second quarter, helping the Bobcats take a 35-20 lead into the locker room.

Tharptown turned the tide with a huge third quarter, getting nine points (including a pair of threes and a three-point play) from senior Les Montgomery and eight points from Nolen to out-score Phil Campbell 23-9 and cut the lead to one.

Nolen, a sophomore guard, added eight more points in the fourth quarter, helping the Wildcats

out-score the Bobcats 13-8 to finish off the comeback win.

Edward Lopez added 11 points for Tharptown on Thursday, and Montgomery had nine. Hayden Moss hit a first-quarter three and finished with five points. Colton Simmons added four, Carson Petree had three and Ruben Alfaro scored two.

Riddle led Phil Campbell with 23 points, 16 of which came in the first half. He knocked down three threes on the night. Garrison added seven points, and Saint and Owens scored six apiece.

Ben Williams had four points, and Seth Baker, Mason Swinney and Easton Cummings each added two.

Phil Campbell 81 Phillips 69

Phil Campbell got a season-high 24 points from Isaac Riddle and four second-quarter threes from Brett Saint last Monday night at Bear Creek, snapping a five-game losing streak with an 81-69 win over rival Phillips.

Riddle and Luke Garrison each scored eight points in the first quarter, helping the Bobcats jump out to a 20-15 lead. Saint then caught fire in the second quarter, pouring in 12 points (all from beyond the arc) as Phil Campbell out-scored the Bears 29-15 to take a 49-30 lead into the locker room.

Brandon Green had 10 of his 24 points in the third quarter, helping Phillips out-score the Bobcats 25-14 to cut the lead down to eight at 63-55 heading to the fourth. Phil Campbell got eight points from Riddle and six from Nate Owens in the final period, holding on to finish off a season sweep of the Bears.

Riddle, a senior forward, shot 4-for-6 from the foul line on his way to topping the 20-point mark for the second time this season. Saint matched his season-high with five threes on the night and went 3-for-4 from the foul line, finishing with 18 points.

Garrison hit three threes and scored 16 points, and Owens added 15. Ben Williams chipped in

with seven points, and Austen Baker had one. The Bobcats hit nine threes and shot 10-for-17 from the line.

Tharptown 67 Cherokee 38

Tharptown's boys got 27 points from Winston Nolen and four threes from Hayden Moss on Saturday afternoon at Cherokee, closing their regular season with a rout of the Indians.

Nolen, a sophomore guard, topped the 20-point mark for the 10th time this season—and he did it by halftime, pouring in 21 points before the break. Nolen scored 13 points in the first quarter, but the Wildcats (8-17) still trailed 17-16 at the end of one.

Tharptown got eight points from Nolen, two threes from Moss and another from Yovani Gomez in the second quarter, out-scoring Cherokee 25-6 to take a 41-23 lead into the locker room.

Nolen made a pair of threes (both in the first quarter) and finished 3-for-4 at the foul line. Moss scored 12 points, and Carson Petree added seven. Ruben Alfaro finished with five, and Alex Flores and Edward Lopez had four apiece. Gomez and Colton Simmons each scored three, and Les Montgomery added two.

The Wildcats hit eight threes and shot 11-for-22 from the foul line.

Varsity girls

Tharptown 74 Cherokee 6

Catie Dawson scored 17 points to lead three players in double-figures for the Lady Wildcats in Saturday afternoon's rout of Cherokee.

Brooke Daily added 14 points for Tharptown, and Jaiden Gaston had 12. The Lady Wildcats led 20-0 at the end of one quarter, 43-3 at halftime and 62-3 at the end of the third.

Dawson made two threes and shot 3-for-4 from the foul line. Aly Vandiver also hit two threes and finished with eight points. Macy Petree scored seven, and Taylor Cameron added six. Shaylee Wieting had five points, Gracie Montgomery scored three and Adriana Borden added two.

AMERICAN REALTY COMPANY, LLC

For All Your Real Estate Needs

Call Steve Pounders!

256.460.8383

Realtor/
Associate Broker



AmericanRealtyCompany.net

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

'GREAT', from page 13

throws, and then next time he made that layup.

"I'll say it was coaching," Torisky added with a laugh as Corum, standing a few feet behind his head coach in the hallway outside the visitor's locker room, smiled and flashed an emphatic thumbs-up.

Corum, one of four seniors on the current roster who were freshmen when Torisky took over the program in 2015, did indeed make both free throws after being fouled, extending Red Bay's lead over Mars Hill to 50-44 with 2:19 remaining. Moments later, following a miss by the Panthers, Corum got free in transition again and this time finished at the rim, pushing the lead to eight and essentially slamming the door shut on the Tigers' 24th win of the season—just one shy of the program record set by the 1994-95 team.

Afterward, Corum talked about the role Torisky's strict standards have played in transforming the culture of the entire program.

"We have very high expectations for ourselves," said Corum, who finished with a team-high 13 points on Friday and averaged 8.4 per game for the regular season. "If we don't exceed them, we're gonna be disappointed in ourselves. This was a great win to get us some momentum going into the post-season."

Area championships, regional tournament berths, No. 1 rankings and Final Four aspirations—all of which the Tigers have experienced over the past two seasons—weren't exactly the norm for Red Bay boys basketball when Torisky took the reins four years ago. The team won five games his first season, then bottomed out at 2-24 in year number two.

The Tigers broke through last season, winning 18 games and making it to Hanceville for the first time in 23 years. The turnaround has culminated this season with two weeks spent atop the ASWA Class 2A rankings and a 24-5 record through Sunday that included only two losses—to Class 1A No. 1 Decatur Heritage and Class 4A state title contender Deshler—within the borders of Alabama.

Senior forward Gath Weatherford, the team's most valuable player and leading scorer at 12.4 points per game, says that Torisky deserves the credit for taking the Tigers from doormat to dominators in just three short years.

"Whenever he first came in, it was a rough first two years," said Weatherford, who—through Sunday—had scored 1,091 points since the start of his sophomore season. "He was just trying to get everything started and turned around and let us lay a foundation. It's been his desire and moti-



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

In 12 games from January 1 through the end of the regular season, Brewer (above) and the Tigers allowed an average of just 35.9 points.

vation that's gotten it done. He's in the gym more than we are. Behind the scenes, he's doing all kinds of stuff—making sure we're in the weight room, making sure we're getting shots up.

"Practices, you know, they're not a joke. They're tough. That's where it's at. He's pushed us really hard."

That no-excuses mentality was put to the test last week, with two key members—6'3 sophomore Braden Ray (the team's second-leading scorer at 9.6 points per game) and 6'2 junior Arden Hamilton—of Red Bay's ten-man rotation sidelined by sickness. The Tigers circled the wagons and grinded out a pair of tough road wins short-handed, stifling Belgreen 53-34 on Thursday and then earning the 55-49 win at Mars Hill on Friday.

"It's pretty high right now," Torisky said of his team's confidence level after closing the regular season with 12 wins in their final 13 games. "Our two losses in Alabama are to Decatur Heritage and Deshler. Those are not two bad teams to lose to. They'll possibly have a chance to win a state championship. We feel like we can play with anybody on any given night. And our guys should feel that way."

Afterward, even Torisky couldn't help but be impressed.

"I think tonight was a good test for us," he said. "I forget, because I'm out there coaching, but we're short two guys—one of them being our number two scorer for the year. Considering he's been out the last two games, we played pretty well last night and then came here tonight and won a tough one. We're really happy with where we're at.

"We can obviously always get better, but just in terms of our defense and where we needed to be with our offensive execution, we're pretty close. We're gonna be a tough out in the postseason."

Torisky was asked on Friday about his team's confidence level after winning for the 11th time in 12 games since returning from a Christmas tournament at Mater Dei High School in Illinois. [Red Bay's only hiccup thus far in 2019 was a 64-60 loss to Deshler on January 23 in a game the Tigers led by seven points late in the third quarter.]

"It's pretty high right now," he said. "Our two losses in Alabama are to Decatur Heritage and Deshler. Those are not two bad teams to lose to. They'll possibly have a chance to win a state championship. We feel like we can play with anybody on any given night. And our guys should feel that way.

"We've got a lot of guys who can step up and hit a big shot. Colton had a big night tonight, and Gath always does his thing. When we get Braden back in the mix, we've got a lot of weapons."

That depth was on full display in Friday's win at Mars Hill. Junior guard Tanner Hamilton scored a season-high 10 points off the bench, and 6'5 sophomore Lane Shewbart—starting for the second straight night in place of Ray—added eight points on 4-for-6 shooting. Junior point guard Clay Allison hit a pivotal three midway through the third quarter and then shot 5-for-6 from the foul line in the fourth to help seal the win.

Weatherford, of course, did his thing, drilling a three from the left wing and then driving for a reverse layup on back-to-back possessions early in the fourth quarter to push a precarious three-point lead all the way out to eight. He finished with 12 points, four rebounds, three assists, three steals and two blocked shots.

"Tanner Hamilton really stepped up tonight," Corum said after the win. "Lane Shewbart did, too. That's one thing about our team—we have balanced scoring. Of course, Gath is our number one scorer, but on any given night, any of us can go for ten or twelve. That's something that's great about our team, and not a lot of teams can say that."

Not a lot of teams defend the way the Tigers do either. Through Sunday, Red Bay was allowing just 42.6 points per game on the season; in 12 games since January 1, that number is down to a paltry 35.9 points per game.

Those numbers make Torisky's goal of holding teams to less than 50 points seem like child's play—but there's a reason the coach settled on half a hundred as the benchmark.

"Coach told us a stat today when we were going over plays for tonight," Corum said following Friday's win. "When we've held teams under 50 points this year, we're 23-0. Tonight made it 24-0. I went up to Coach after the game and said, 'Hey, we held them to less than 50!' He said, 'I told you—that's the formula that's gonna work.' And it worked again tonight.

"Our defensive effort every game is just tenacious. We can score a lot, but we usually don't score 70 or 80 points. [Red Bay averaged 56.9 points per game during the regular season.] Mars Hill is usually scoring that many. Tonight we only scored 55, but holding them to 49 points, that's really good."

Torisky, Weatherford and Corum all agree on this much: The Tigers—who will open play in the Class 2A, Area 13 tournament on Tuesday night at home against Addison—are taking a different approach to this postseason than they did last year.

"We're definitely more mature in terms of handling success," Torisky said.

'GREAT', from page 18

"Last year, I think that was an issue for us. When we got to the regional, it was like, all of a sudden, 'We're here.' We didn't know. I don't know if our guys expected to be there. This year we've handled winning a lot better. The kids don't get too up, and they don't get too down when things go bad."

Added Corum, "I feel like we have more confidence going into the postseason this year. We don't overlook teams—I don't mean that at all. We were a good team last year. I feel like we've moved to a great team this year. Starting Tuesday, it's one more game. Even though the opponent may not be as good as us on paper, we still have to play our best game. Because it's win or go home."

Weatherford, who scored 20 points last February in a 62-58 regional semi-final loss to Mars Hill in Hanceville, talked on Friday about the world of difference a year can make.

"We're coming in with a different mindset," he said. "We have a lot of confidence in ourselves. Last year, we were going into this blind. We were the first team [in a while] to sort of have success and get a playoff berth and go to the regional. It was the first time we'd been there. This year, we have experience. We know what we're doing and what it's gonna take."

If the Tigers hold serve on their home floor this week and capture the area tournament title, they would head into sub-regional play with a school-record 26 wins. That mark has been on the periphery of Red Bay's collective vision since practice began back in October.

"It's been in the back of our heads," Weatherford said. "How could it not be? At the start of the season, we sat down and talked about it. We said, 'If we make that our goal, we're probably not gonna get it. But if our goal is to come into every game and execute, play defense and play as hard as we can, then everything will start falling into place.'

"So far, so good."

An area championship, a new school record for wins, a second straight regional appearance—all would be worthy accomplishments. But all would also leave the Tigers wanting. High expectations and lofty standards for success have engineered this turnaround, and this is not time to start hedging bets.

"Our goal is to win a state championship," Weatherford said. "There's no goals under that. We're shooting for the moon. It's really gonna take us coming together. We're gonna have to have everybody contribute. What we rely on most is our defense. We're gonna have to hold teams under 50 points. We're gonna have to play defense. That's what's gonna get us through."

"That, and the will to win. We know what it's gonna take. We have that hunger and desire. We come in expecting to win every game."



PHOTO/KG Allison (1) is one of four Red Bay players averaging at least 7.7 points per game this season.



Brant Bragwell Senior Guard, Belgreen

Bragwell stepped up last Monday night in a critical game against Hackleburg, hitting seven threes and scoring a season-high 29 points to help the Bulldogs clinch home-court advantage for the Class 1A, Area 12 tournament with an 80-54 rout of the Panthers. The senior guard closed the week with another strong outing, scoring 14 second-half points (and 16 overall) in a 74-56 win at Sulligent on Saturday.

Bragwell finished the regular season second on the team in both scoring (15.1 points per game) and three-pointers made (55).



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

The Largest and Freshest Salad Bar in Franklin County!

Lines are for THEME PARKS WHY WAIT?

Helen Keller ER

LOW WAIT TIMES

 Helen Keller Hospital
www.helenkeller.com

  #HKHGrowingFamily

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

Russellville Housing Authority Incorporated

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

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
 FRANKLIN COUNTY

THERE ARE OTHER WAYS...

TO GET OUR INK!



MAILBOX • SMARTPHONE • TABLET • COMPUTER • RADIO • FRANKLINFREEPRESS.NET