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09.11.19

Council considers bond refinance to fund large-scale paving projects

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

In a move described by mayor David Grissom as a cost-saving measure, the Russellville City Council rescinded a resolution and engagement letter with The Frazier Lanier Company related to possible refinancing of a 2013 bond issue.

The council previously approved the resolution at its May 24, 2019 meeting. The resolution designated Frazier Lanier as the underwriter for the general obligations warrants to be issued by the city.

Grissom said these were related to possible refinancing of a 2013 bond issue with additional monies to be added to a refinance for Russellville City Schools' capital projects.

At the council's September 3 meeting, Joe Jolly & Company was approved as the new underwriter of the project.

"We changed the underwriter to Joe Jolly & Company

as a cost-saving measure, both for the city and the school system, after we looked at all the financial information related to it," Grissom said.

"The city is looking at adding some additional money for street paving to be amortized over 12 to 15 years," Grissom said. "We will start receiving revenue from the new gas tax in January. Year one, the estimate is \$48,000. You can't pave a lot of roads with \$48,000, so we'll take that gas tax money and use it to make payments on money we borrow so we can use somewhere around \$800,000 for road repairs."

Before rescinding the engagement letter with Frazier Lanier, the council went into a 20-minute executive session. Grissom declined to confirm whether the subject of that session was related to the refinancing matter.

The process now begins for Joe Jolly & Company to prepare a refinancing package for the council to consider that will also include monies to be borrowed by

See 'COUNCIL,' Page 3

Senate candidate Byrne: People of Alabama need 'a better alternative'

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As a fourth-term Congressman representing the people of Alabama's First Congressional District, Bradley Byrne won his last term unopposed.

With a seemingly safe future in the House of Representatives, you might wonder why Byrne is vacating his seat to run for United States Senate in 2020.

Byrne believes his voting record in Congress better aligns with Alabamians' values and beliefs than Jones'.

"I traveled around the state in 2018 during the time I would have been campaigning," Byrne said. "I took people's temperature I knew around the state and decided that I, or someone like me, needed to run to give people an option they could be proud of."

Byrne said he doesn't want to witness what he saw in Alabama's special election in 2017, when Democrat Doug Jones defeated Republican Roy Moore for the Senate seat vacated by Jeff Sessions' appointment as Attorney General.

"I was very upset with the special election in 2017," Byrne said. "I just didn't like the way it ended. And I disliked even more the way Alabama came out looking as a result. I'm a lifelong sixth-generation Alabamian. I love Alabama, and it really hurt me personally to see the way our state was portrayed during that campaign. But I had to admit to myself, I didn't do anything about it."



Byrne

See 'BYRNE,' Page 11

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Verna Joyce Cofield, Phil Campbell, age 75
Died Friday, August 30, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Shady Grove Cemetery.

Claudy Wilson Glasgow, Phil Campbell, age 80
Died Friday, September 6, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Hines Memorial Baptist Cemetery in Bear Creek.

Austin Lee Green, Russellville, age 42
Died Thursday, September 5, 2019. Memorial service held at Pinkard Funeral Home.

Hilda L. Hill, Phil Campbell, age 87
Died Sunday, September 8, 2019. Visitation will be Wednesday, September 11, 2019 from 12-2 p.m. at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Funeral will follow at 2 p.m. Interment will be in Landersville Cemetery in Mt. Hope.

Betty Jo Jackson, Russellville, age 81
Died Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Duncan Creek Cemetery.

Junior Edward Lane, Town Creek, age 88
Died Wednesday, September 4, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in King Cemetery.

Sheila Renee Oliver, Russellville, age 49
Died Saturday, August 31, 2019. Memorial service held at Spry Memorial Chapel.

Winni Faye Parsons, Tuscumbia, age 87
Died Wednesday, September 4, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

Leland Earl Rea, Russellville, age 63
Died Friday, August 30, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Pleasant Hill Baptist Cemetery in Frog Pond.

Janie Ruth Smith, Mt. Hope, age 71
Died Monday, September 2, 2019. Funeral held at Rock Springs Mitchell Memorial Presbyterian Church. Interment in Mt. Hope Methodist Church Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Jack W. Turbyfill, Russellville, age 89
Died Friday, September 6, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Allen McWright Cemetery with military honors.

William Keith Washington, age 58
Died Monday, September 2, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Duncan Creek Cemetery.

Maylene Wilson, Russellville, age 89
Died Sunday, September 8, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery.



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Twelve local eateries earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Twelve of the 14 Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of August 26-30 had scores that fell 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.

Twelve of the 14 Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

Los Tres d/b/a/ Costa, 912 4th St. SW, Red Bay, scored an unsatisfactory 73. Violations included no serve safe certification, no FERA papers, paper towel dispenser not working and chemical spray bottles not labeled.

Rhoda P's Catering Services, 2080 College Road, scored a below satisfactory 82. Violations included: Sliced tomatoes and lettuce sitting out at 64-66 degrees; lettuce, tomato, sliced cheese, pickles, sitting out unprotected in

self serve area; taco meat and spaghetti beyond seven day date limit; no available proof of foodhandlers' employee reporting agreement.

The high score was 100, received by Red Bay Senior Center, 115 5th Ave. SE, Red Bay.

Other inspection scores and violations of Franklin County businesses included:

- Subway, 504 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 90. (Unapproved insecticide).
- Legacy Chevron, 13518 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, 92. (Toxic items stored with rolls of paper towels).
- Mama Cortez d/b/a Rancho Viejo Restaurant, 11797 Hwy. 43 S, Russellville, 92. (Pork ribs sitting out at 67-70 degrees).
- Harold's Gas & Grocery, 1425 Hwy. 172 East, Hodges, 94. (No drying device at handsink).
- Russellville Hospital, 15155 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 94. (Foods including boiled eggs, mac and cheese and chicken spaghetti exceeding expiration date).
- McDonald's, 15254 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
- Parade Food Mart, 4141 Hwy. 24 East, Red Bay, 98.
- CJ's Grocery, 14545 Hwy. 187, Russellville, 98.
- Big Star #345 Deli, 406 4th St. SW, 98.
- Los Dos Hermanos, 409 Madison St., Russellville, 99.
- Cedar Creek Chevron, 11477 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.

Of the 12 inspections done in Colbert County from August 26-30, all received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 98 went to Easy Stop, 2600 Woodward Ave. Muscle Shoals.

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

'COUNCIL' from page 1

Russellville City Schools. As a municipal school system, a bond issue for RCS must flow through the City of Russellville.

The city's portion of any bond issue/refinance would be separate from monies borrowed by Russellville City Schools. The 2013 bond issue includes monies borrowed by both entities.

"The city is looking at adding some additional money for street paving to be amortized over 12 to 15 years," Grissom said. "We will start receiving revenue from the new gas tax in January. Year one, the estimate is \$48,000.

"You can't pave a lot of roads with \$48,000, so we'll take that gas tax money and use it to make payments on money we borrow so we can use somewhere around \$800,000 for road repairs."

Grissom said the expected revenue for the City of Russellville from the new gas tax would be \$64,000 in the second year and \$80,000 in year three.

"We'll look at this in the bond market and see how much money we can borrow to pave our streets now and let that \$80,000 a year in new revenue for the city go to service the debt over 12 to 15 years," Grissom said.

The council is also considering borrowing an estimated \$420,000 to construct a splash pad at a location to be determined later. With favorable interest rates (currently 1.74 percent on 12-to-15 year loans) available to the city, officials believe this is the time to move forward with the bond issue.

Grissom asked councilman David Palmer to prepare a plan for which roads in the city are most in need of repair. Palmer will meet with each councilman to gain their input into the most pressing needs in their districts and compile a list to present to the council.

"David is very good at that," Grissom said. "We've got some four-cent gas tax money in a separate fund we can use, and we're looking at \$1 million to \$1.5 million in possible paving depending on how much we can get out of this bond issue."

Grissom asked Palmer to contact Alabama Department of Transportation officials to see if they would split costs of repairing Clay Avenue from Lawrence Street north to the schools. There was a previous commitment from ALDOT to pay half if the city committed half the funds, but that was several years ago, and the project was never done.

"Now with this opportunity with the bond issue, we will go back to ALDOT and see if Mr. [John] Cooper will still agree to jointly fund that project," Grissom said.

Palmer discussed the possibility of milling and paving Madison Street west from Jackson Avenue to Waterloo Road as another priority project.

In other moves, the council:

- Discussed the possible purchase of a skid steer with milling head attachment and broom attachment and an asphalt hotbox for the Russellville Street Department.
- Hired William Christopher Hill as a patrol officer with the Russellville Police Department.

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Honey Do: Allergens

Every day we live, work and play in many different environments, come into contact with many people and handle many different types of materials. We generally have little control over the cleanliness of these different experiences, but most people go home to the same house and sleep in the same bed every night. This is one area where we have control and can fight allergens that may cause us to have many different health issues.

While you sleep, you inhale microscopic, allergenic particulates from bedding, carpet, draperies and upholstered furnishings. If you suffer from allergies, the removal or regular cleaning of these areas will help.

While you sleep, you inhale microscopic, allergenic particulates from bedding, carpet, draperies and upholstered furnishings. If you suffer from allergies, the removal or cleaning of these areas will help.

Bedding should be washed weekly in water that is at least 130 degrees. Mattresses and springs should be vacuumed regularly. There are allergen-proof zippered covers that may be used to cover mattresses to keep them from collecting dust and

provide a washable surface. Use synthetic pads and pillows. Feather and cotton pillows are huge habitats for allergens.

Severe allergy sufferers should remove carpet and heavy drapes. If removal isn't possible, vacuum regularly. Tile, linoleum or even short-napped carpet is better, and light, airy window treatments are much less prone to holding dust.

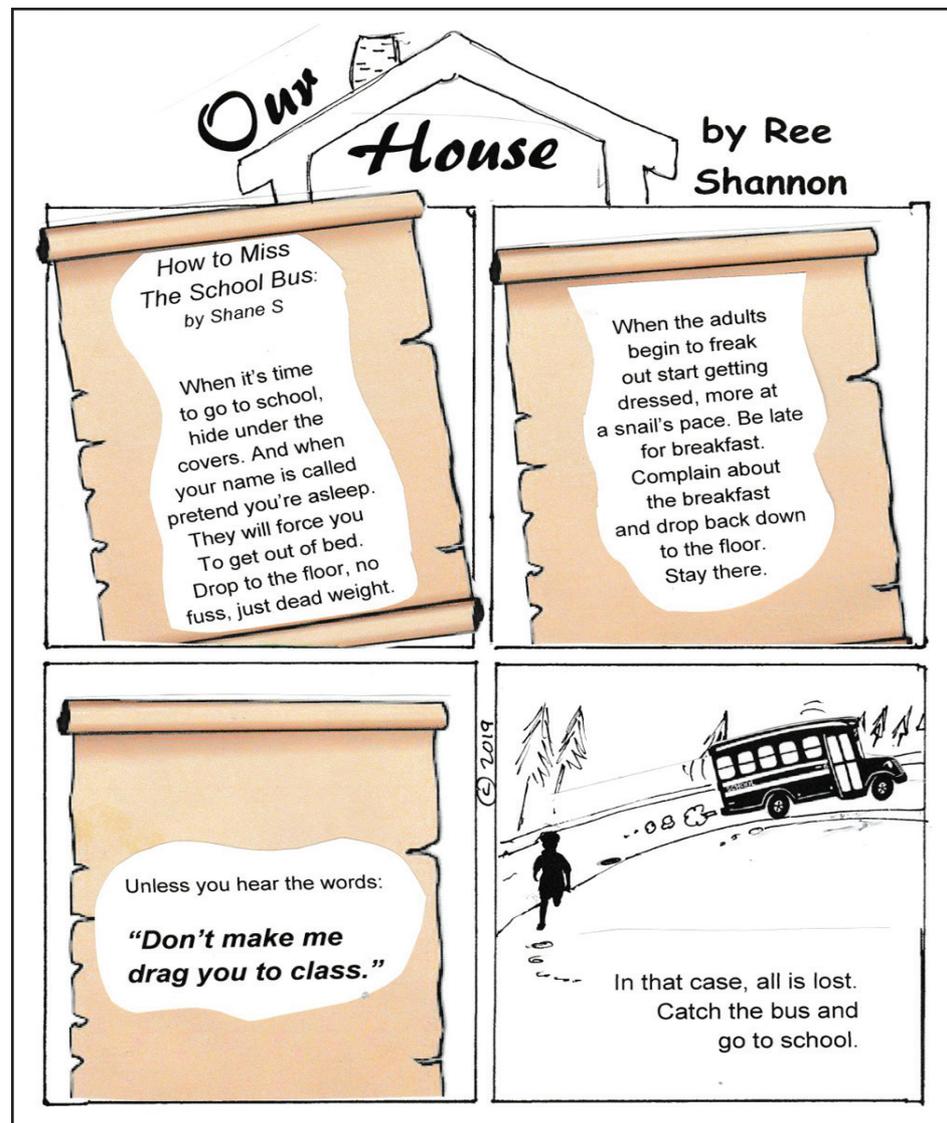
Avoid storing items under the bed. This creates areas for dust to collect and allergens to thrive. If you must use this space, use clear storage boxes and clean the area regularly. Storage boxes are great for storing clothes, toys and stuffed animals to cut down on dust collection and making them easier to move and clean around. Clear boxes make it easier to see the contents and allow light into storage areas to discourage spiders and critters from taking up residence.

Humidity levels are important to control dust mites, who need high humidity to survive. Dehumidifiers,



Doug Green

See 'ALLERGENS,' Page 5



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RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35653
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The Franklin Free Press is published weekly by Pilati Investments, Inc. Our publication is mailed to our readers at no charge.

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The key to your retirement future

Do you know what millionaires say is the number one tool for building wealth? Is it single stocks? Nope. How about real estate? Guess again. What about an inheritance? Not even close.

The answer, according to our National Study of Millionaires, is the 401(k). In fact, eight out of 10 millionaires said investing in their employer-sponsored retirement plan—which included 401(k)s—was their main tool for reaching millionaire status.

That's right: The same tool that thousands of millionaires used to build their wealth is likely available to you at your workplace! Are you making the most of it?

In honor of National 401(k) Day, which was September 6, let's take a closer look at what makes the 401(k) the perfect place to begin saving for retirement and building wealth:

If your employer matches your contributions (and most do), you get an instant 100 percent return on part of the money you invest in your 401(k). That's free money, people. Take it!

Tax-deferred growth means your money grows faster.

Pretax contributions lower your taxable income, allowing you to invest more.

You can invest up to \$19,000 per individual per year. If you're 50 or older, the contribution limit increases to \$25,000 per year to help you catch up.

If you leave your company or the company goes under, your 401(k) is safe and you can roll it over directly into another retirement account.

That's a pretty good deal, right? But listen to me, *before* you start investing in your 401(k), you need to be debt-free (everything except the house) and have an emergency fund with

enough savings to cover three to six months of expenses. Why? Because you'll be able to invest more when you don't have any debt payments, and you won't have to turn to a credit card or your 401(k) to repair a broken air conditioner or car engine. Those are really bad ideas!

Getting back to the 401(k) and saving for retirement, way too many Americans are getting close to retirement with nowhere near enough money saved up. Among households headed by someone over 55 years old, almost half of them (48 percent) have nothing saved for retirement—not a single penny. That's not okay!

Eight out of 10 millionaires said investing in their employer-sponsored retirement plan—which included 401(k)s—was their main tool for reaching millionaire status. That's right: The same tool that thousands of millionaires used to build their wealth is likely available to you at your workplace! Are you making the most of it?

If you invested just *four percent* of your \$50,000 income into your 401(k) from age 25 to age 65, you could have \$1.2 million saved for retirement. What if your company matches that four percent? You could have \$2.4 million saved for retirement. And this is assuming you never got a single raise. That's crazy!

A lot of folks come up to me and say, *Well, that sounds great, Chris, but I'm in my 50s and I have nothing saved for retirement! What am I supposed to do?* Listen to me: Whether you're 21 or 61, it's never too early or too late to start saving for retirement. You can start right where you are.

Let's say you just turned 50 years old and you're worried that you don't have enough saved

See 'FUTURE,' Page 5



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by Dave Ramsey

Live like your income hasn't changed

Dear Dave,
I'll be graduating from college in December, and I'll have a job waiting for me that pays \$50,000 a year. This will bring our household income up to about \$95,000. The problem is we've got \$18,000 in student loan debt, \$2,500 in credit card debt and \$4,000 to pay in medical bills.

We're living in an apartment right now, so how should we handle this income increase regarding our debt situation?

Mikayla

Dear Mikayla,
Congratulations on your decision to get control of your finances and your degree! If you two just keep living the way you have been, minus the debt, and put the rest toward the debt you've incurred, you could be debt-free in a year or so.

Remember, just because you've got a lot more money coming in doesn't mean you should double your entertainment budget, take an expensive vacation or run out and

'ALLERGENS,' from page 4

bathroom vents and air cleaners can help control humidity, but if the humidity is too low the air will be dry and uncomfortable to breathe. Maintain any air filters in these machines.

It's recommended that once or twice a year you "move out" of the bedroom and thoroughly clean all areas, bedding and window coverings. The cooler days of fall that are approaching are a good time to do this. You'll be sure to breathe a little easier.

Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.

'FUTURE,' from page 4

for your retirement years. You're panicked! But instead of giving up, you get really focused and save \$625 every month into your 401(k) starting today. If you did that, you could have around \$500,000 by the time you're 70 years old. That's pretty good!

The bottom line is, there's no time to waste. It's time to get focused. No matter what age or stage of life you're in, you can use your 401(k) to build wealth and get closer to the retirement you've always dreamed of. Let's get to work!

About Chris Hogan

Chris Hogan is a #1 national best-selling author, dynamic speaker, and financial expert. For more than a decade, Hogan has served at Ramsey Solutions, spreading a message of hope to audiences across the country as a financial coach and Ramsey Personality. Hogan challenges and equips people to take control of their money and reach their financial goals through The Chris Hogan Show, his national TV appearances, and live events across the nation. His second book, *Everyday Millionaires: How Ordinary People Built Extraordinary Wealth — And How You Can Too*, is based on the largest study of millionaires ever conducted. You can follow Hogan on Twitter and Instagram at @ChrisHogan360 and online at chrishogan360.com or [facebook.com/chrishogan360](https://www.facebook.com/chrishogan360).

buy a new car. The first thing I'd recommend is sitting down together and working out a written, monthly budget. Give every dollar a name and a job to do before the coming month begins.

Don't forget the debt snowball, either! List all your debts from smallest to largest, and attack the smallest—that credit card debt—first with a vengeance while making minimum payments on the medical bills and student loan debt. Once you've paid off the credit card debt, roll the money from that payment over and apply it, plus any other cash you can scrape together, toward the medical bills. Once the medical bills are out of the way, repeat the process and roll the payments over again, targeting the student loan debt. At this point, you should have a bunch of cash to throw at those student loans each month until all that debt is off your backs once and for all.

I'm really proud of you two, Mikayla. If you'll follow my plan from here on out, you'll gain control of your money and be set to start saving and building real wealth!

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 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

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 The Russellville Fire Department is selling T-shirts to raise money for breast cancer testing at Russellville Hospital for those who can't afford it and need it. Short-sleeve shirts are \$15, and long-sleeve shirts are \$20. Pre-order forms can be picked up at either Russellville fire station. Persons who turn in their money prior to September 13 will receive their T-shirt by October 1. Thanks for your support!

 This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Russellville Marching Hundred. We need your help in designing a T-shirt for this special milestone. The winner will receive \$50.00 and a T-shirt sporting the winning design. Submissions should follow these guidelines: •Make reference to the M100's 75th Anniversary; •Incorporate band images (ex. instruments, shako, uniform, music notes, flags, rifles, batons, pompoms, etc.); •Be an 8½ x 11" ORIGINAL artwork submission generated on a white background, since T-shirts will be white; •Submission designs should have no more than 5 colors; •Include complete name and contact number on the back of submission (should not show through). Note: Original artwork submitted will not be returned. The submission deadline is September 20, 2019. Mail entries to: M100 Design Submission, Attn: Mr. Jeremy Willis, 1865 Waterloo Road, Russellville, AL 35653. Thank you, and we look forward to receiving your submissions!

 American Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, September 12 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

 You are invited to a "State of Our Schools" luncheon, sponsored by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, this Thursday, September 12 at 11:30 a.m. at the A. W. Todd Centre. Lunch will be served at a cost of \$10 per person. Speakers will include Russellville City Schools superintendent Heath Grimes and Franklin County superintendent of education Greg Hamilton.

 The Shoals Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will meet in the Media Room at Park Place (500 N. Montgomery Avenue in Sheffield) this Thursday, September 12 at 2:30 p.m. Gail Cross will lead the study "God Comforts Us in Our Affliction" from the book *Anointed to Heal* by Larry and Audrey Eddings. We believe that God heals spiritually, physically and emotionally. Prayer for healing will be offered. All are welcome.

 Mountain View Baptist Church will host its annual "Beast Feast" this Saturday, September 14. Doors open at 5 p.m. Feast begins at 5:30 p.m. Church is located at 2110 Hwy. 81 in Phil Campbell. Tickets are free and can be picked up at Mountain View Baptist Church. This special event for hunters and outdoorsmen will feature more than \$5,000 in prize giveaways! Sponsored by H.U.N.T. Outdoors Ministry. Joe Bufford will be the featured speaker. For more information, call Jason Hester at 256-366-9126 or David Evett at 256-412-3925.

 The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guest Brandon Whyde at the Roxy Theatre in downtown Russellville this Saturday, September 14 at 7 p.m. General admission seating. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. Call 256-335-4356. The KGB will be the featured act at a show sponsored by the Franklin County Arts Council at the Roxy on the second Saturday of each month. Proceeds will benefit the renovation and restoration of the historic Roxy Theater.

 DivorceCare, a special help seminar and support group for people experiencing divorce and separation, will be held on Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church Colbert Heights. DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include "Facing My Anger," "Facing My Loneliness," "New Relationships," "KidCare" and "Forgiveness." Meetings will be held at 6000 Woodmont Drive, Tusculumbia, AL. For more information, call First Colbert Heights at 256-383-8016.

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

 The NACOLG SenioRx Medication Assistance Program supplies free and low-cost medications for anyone in Alabama with a disability or a chronic illness, regardless of age, that requires daily medication. Medicare recipients may also be eligible. For more information, contact NACOLG SenioRx today. There is no charge for this service. Call 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463) or 256-389-0529 and ask for Paula Pardue. This program is in partnership with the state of Alabama and Alabama Department of Senior Services.

 You're invited to "Gospel Night in the Shoals," Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Shoals Community Theater in Florence. It will be an evening of Southern Gospel Convention and Quartet Singing featuring the 36-member group of former quartets, worship leaders, soloists and pastors and the new Southern Gospel quartet, Glorify. Presented by Valley Grove Baptist Church and local sponsors. Free admission and a love offering will be taken. Come join us for an evening of praise and worship.

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

What's Happening

256.332.0255

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

On Friday night, September 20, from 6-8 p.m., a concert to kick off the Red Bay Founders Fest will be held at Red Bay's Heritage Park featuring Resound and the Red Bay FFA String Band, with a fireworks show immediately to follow. Light concessions will be on hand. On Saturday, September 21, a one-day tribute to the town's heritage will have visitors headed to Red Bay for a day of free family fun. Situated under the shade trees of Bay Tree Park, the annual Red Bay Founder's Fest will have contests, sidewalk sales and live music. The day-long event kicks off with the Queen's Train Ride at 8:30 a.m., from the beauty pageant winners that will be held on September 15 at Red Bay High School, and live music cranks up at 9 a.m. A contest in the gazebo to see who has the best fried pie entries with the best tasting and most unusual will take home a cash prize. There are a variety of contests for festival-goers to participate in, including a buck dancing contest held at the main stage, a quilt contest, a coloring contest and a photography contest, which will be on display at the Weatherford Library. Additional activities include arts and crafts and an antique car-truck-motorcycle-tractor show. The Red Bay Museum will be open for tours and for the viewing of "Making Alabama," a Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit. The merchants will offer sidewalk sales, specials and door prizes throughout the day. A variety of delicious festival food will be available, and the giveaways are another crowd favorite. Prizes will be awarded to the largest family, longest distance traveled to the event, and youngest and oldest attendees. Also, Life South will hold a blood drive at Red Bay City Hall. Bay Tree Park is located near 2nd Street in downtown Red Bay. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call Tracie Clark at 256-356-4473, ext. 3.

Learn the fundamentals of the business of beef production in Alabama! LA Beef Systems Short Course (four-meeting series) will be held Tuesday, September 24, Thursday, September 26, Tuesday, October 1 and Thursday, October 3 from 6-8 p.m. each night at the A.W. Todd Center (201 South Washington Avenue, Russellville, AL 35653). Topics include Forages and Nutrition, Herd Health and Reproduction, Record Keeping and Environmental Stewardship, and Economics and Meat Science. A meal will be provided. Cost is \$40 (for education materials). RSVP by Thursday, September 17. Call the Franklin County Extension Office at 256-332-8880 or email gambalsa@aces.edu.

Spruce Pine Historical Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Spruce Pine Community Center in Spruce Pine. Next meeting will be October 1. All members and friends are urged to attend.

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 in Russellville. Next meeting will be October 3. Call 1-800-MYDIXIE or 256-324-2317. The Sons of Confederate Veterans is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Membership is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate Armed Forces.

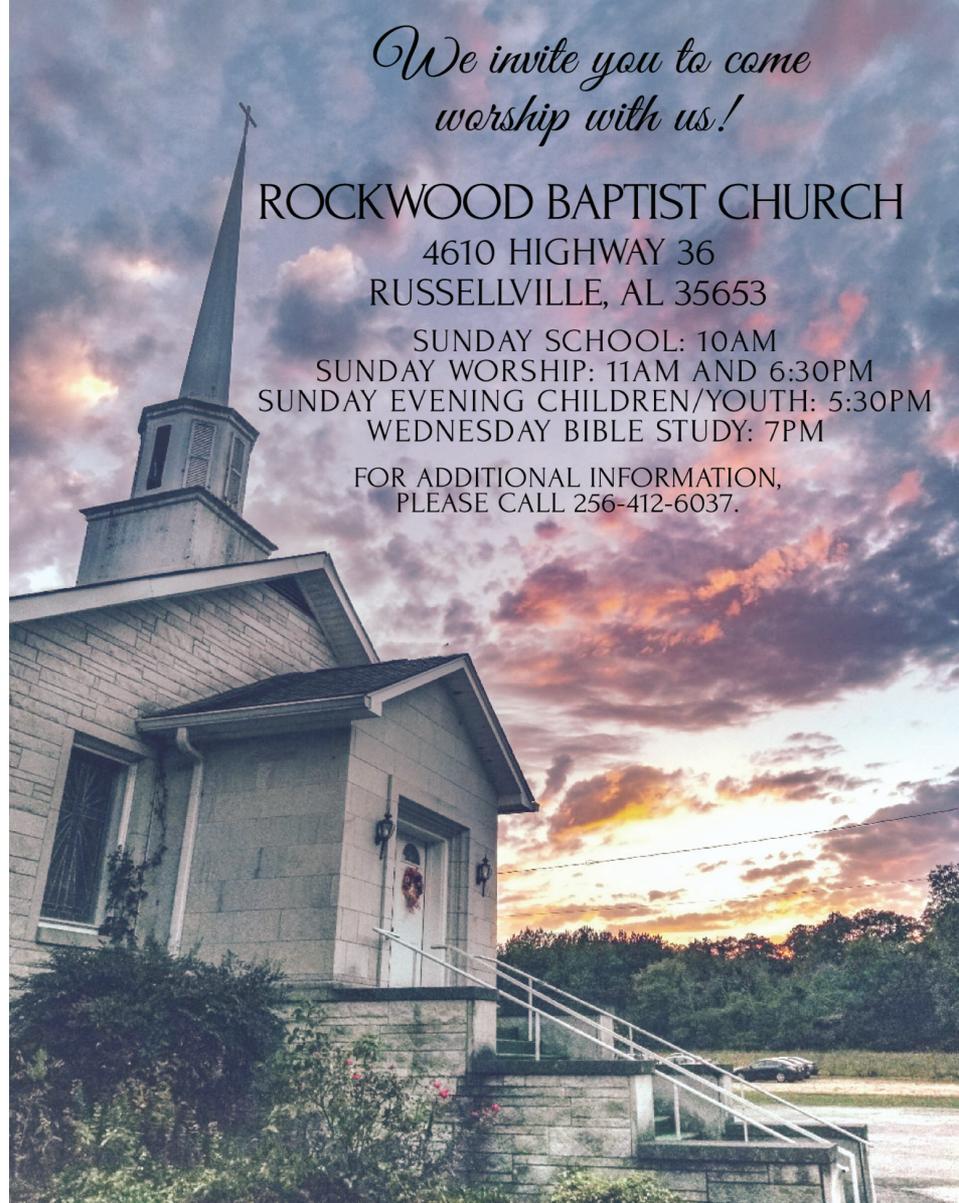
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303 4th Avenue SE, Red Bay

Tue., Sept. 24 in Russellville, AL @
the Russellville Parks & Recreation
Center, 201 Ash Avenue
from 9 am - 4 pm

We look forward to meeting you!

Auditions for next Bay Tree production set for September 15-16

Submitted to the FFP

The Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts in Red Bay announces the productions for its 2019-2020 season.

The first one will be November 7-10, 2019, with *Southern Fried Funeral* by Osborne and Eppler. *Till Beth do us Part* by Jamie Wooten, Jessie Jones and Nicholas Hope will be February 13-16, 2020, with dinner.

April 23-26, 2020 will feature *Cheating Cheaters* by John Patrick, and the final play will be *Leading Ladies* by Ken Ludwig, June 18-21, 2020.

Auditions for *Southern Fried Funeral* will be held Sunday, September 15 at 2 p.m. and Monday, September 16 at 7 p.m. at the Weatherford Centre in Red Bay. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the book, and the play will be directed by Scotty Kennedy.

The cast consist of six females and five males, with older teens being able to play adults. Rehearsals will begin on Monday, September 23 with the production being November 7-10. Tickets will go on sale Monday, October 28 at the Weatherford Centre. You may contact Beth Hammock in advance about group sales at 256-356-9286.



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!

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YARD SALES

Three-Family Yard Sale.
Thursday/Friday, Sept. 12/13. 8 a.m.-until. 707 Madison NE, Russellville. All sorts of items, so come see us!

Yard Sale.
Friday/Saturday, Sept. 13/14, 1330 Duncan Creek Road. 6 a.m.-until. Come see us!

Yard Sale.
Friday/Saturday, Sept. 13/14. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 492 Rustic

Loop in Russellville. Lots of men's items, tools, fans, car parts and more!

Yard Sale.
Friday/Saturday, September 13/14. 7 a.m.-until. 94 UNA Loop, Russellville. Right behind Russellville Fire Station on Hwy. 43. Men's and women's and teen clothing. Other items. Come see us.

Yard Sale this Friday and Saturday, Sept. 13-14 at the entrance to Greg's Trailer Park on Hwy. 48 from 7am-4pm. Misc. items, women's and mens' clothing, some kids's items.

Multi-Family Yard Sale.
Friday/Saturday, Sept. 13/14. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Hwy. 26 in Spruce Pine. Take

43 South to Spruce Pine, left onto Hwy. 22, then 1/2 mile on right turn onto Hwy. 26 and follow signs. Computer, sewing machine, antique table, clothing, household items, comic books, coins, and more!

Yard Sale. EVERY Saturday in September. 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The Living Word Church, Hwy. 24 West, Russellville. Cancelled if Rain.

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Saturday, Sept. 14. 8 a.m.-until. 442 Hwy. 44. Turn right off Hwy. 24 across from Texaco onto Cty. Road 44. Two miles past Southern Energy Homes. 4th house on left. Furniture, strollers, toys, men's and women's clothing, girls size 18M-14. Come see us.

nursing home. Monday-Friday. Please call 256-460-9550.

Help Wanted: Looking to hire someone to do one to two days of yard work, \$8 an hour. Call 256-332-4037. (5)

Help Wanted: I need someone to build handrails on the side of my porch steps. Already have the materials. Call 256-398-8158. (5)



HOUSE FOR SALE.
207 Limestone St. NW, Russellville. Nice 2/3 BR, 2 BA home. Well cared for cottage-style home in downtown Russellville. Ten rooms, 3 car garage, small landscaped yard. \$130,000. Call 256-810-6298. (1)

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Roper Dryer For Sale. \$50. Works good. Call 256-436-2450. (1)

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Tartan Plow, 100 N. Jackson Avenue, Indoor Moving Sale/Benefit Yard Sale, Sept. 16-21 from 9am-5pm.

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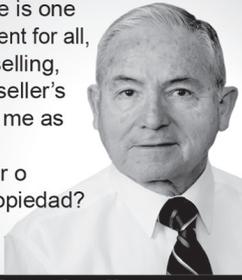
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PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Alabama Code Sections 32-13-1 through 32-13-8, the following motor vehicle will be sold for cash at 9:30 a.m. on September 28, 2019, at M&N Wrecker & Service Center, 11833 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, AL, 35653. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and the right to bid.

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'BYRNE,' from page 1

With that partial Senate term ending next year, Byrne felt strongly that someone should put himself or herself forward to offer what he calls a "better alternative" for the people of Alabama.

"I traveled around the state in 2018 during the time I would have been campaigning," Byrne said. "I took people's temperature I knew around the state and decided that I, or someone like me, needed to run to give people an option they could be proud of."

With that goal in mind, Byrne entered the crowded Republican field for the Senate nomination in March 2020.

Byrne believes his voting record in Congress better aligns with Alabamians' values and beliefs when compared to that of Jones.

"I don't think the incumbent is voting the way most Alabama people want him to vote or that he's fighting for the values most Alabamians have, and I want someone who's going to do that," Byrne said.

Byrne visited Franklin County last Tuesday as part of a swing through northwest Alabama.

A Mobile native, Byrne received his undergraduate degree from Duke University and his law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law. After more than 30 years in practice in Mobile, Byrne entered public service as a member of the Alabama State Board of Education.

He was later elected to the Alabama Senate and he would serve as Chancellor of the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education.

"I spent years cleaning up a very corrupt two-year college system, and if you go back you'll find a track record of someone who didn't just talk the talk but walked the walk," Byrne said. "I cleaned it up and cut spending in a governmental entity without sacrificing essential services. I've done that in Congress, and no one has a proven track record for fighting for things Alabamians care about more than I do."

Byrne describes colleges like Phil Campbell's Northwest-Shoals campus as vital to Alabama.

"We need campuses like Phil Campbell's campus," he said. "The two-year college system was designed to be available to people all over the state, and campuses like Phil Campbell make that happen where education and training are available to everyone."

Byrne sits on the House Committee on Education and Labor, where he says he's worked to restore more control over education policy to the state and local level and he's made workforce training and technical education a top priority.

"We send money at the federal level to each state, and each state sends it out to high schools and two-year colleges," Byrne said. "I'm very familiar with that program [the Carl D. Perkins Career and Vocational Educational Act], having been chancellor of post-secondary education. It's one of 45 different federal programs across nine different departments and agencies. I want to collapse those programs down to two or three across two departments and focus those federal dollars on things that drive the cost of two-year education."

"There are two big things. One is the cost of faculty. The other is equipment, which is very expensive. We must focus less on the administrative part and more on the actual classroom. That way we can grow the money coming through the Perkins Act without having to increase overall funding."

Byrne and his wife Rebecca live in Fairhope. Rebecca is the president and CEO of the Community Foundation of South Alabama. They have four children and two grandchildren. The

Byrne's are members of St. James Episcopal Church.

Although he's a lifelong south Alabama resident, Byrne's daughter lives in Muscle Shoals, and he believes northwest Alabama to be one of the state's top assets.

Byrne served as Chancellor of the Alabama Department of Post-Secondary Education.

"I spent years cleaning up a very corrupt two-year college system, and if you go back you'll find a track record of someone who didn't just talk the talk but walked the walk," Byrne said. "I cleaned it up and cut spending in a governmental entity without sacrificing essential services. I've done that in Congress, and no one has a proven track record for fighting for things Alabamians care about more than I do."

"Northwest Alabama is largely unknown to people in the rest of our state, and I think that's a shame. This part of the state has so much to offer," Byrne said. "Naturally, I'm in this area often because of my daughter, but I believe this is a great part of our state."

"My track record as a Congressman shows I spend a lot of time in every part of my district, big or small. I'm not just going to be here at campaign time. I'll be here the entirety of my term in the United States Senate."

Byrne said there are four issues of focus for rural counties.

"One is helping rural hospitals. We just had a sig-

nificant change in the federal regulation that governs the formula that sends money to hospitals that take care of Medicare patients," Byrne said. "I asked to lead that effort. Starting October 1, Alabama hospitals will receive substantial increases in Medicare funding. That is of particular importance for rural hospitals."

Byrne's other issues of focus for rural counties include the establishment of rural broadband, reserving adequate funding for roads and bridges in rural areas, and helping education in rural Alabama. The issues of border security and illegal immigration are central to Byrne's campaign and are something he describes as an Alabama problem, not just a national problem.

"Border security is national security," he said. "If you've been down to the border as I have and talked to those people about the dangerous elements who attempt to come across, you realize it's an issue that affects all of us."

"A woman was killed in a hit-and-run collision in Mobile a few months ago. The driver was a 19-year-old Guatemalan here illegally. He requested asylum then didn't show up for the hearing. The next time law enforcement heard about him he'd killed someone. There are intentional crimes being committed by illegal immigrants across Alabama."

"We have a disproportionate number of human trafficking cases on I-10 and I-65. The effects of this issue come home to this state and every state."

For more information on Byrne and his Senate campaign, log onto www.bradleybyrne.com.



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Shoals Community Theater
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Week 3 in the SEC

Last week's record: 3-1
Year-to-date record: 7-1
This week's games:
Kansas State at Mississippi State (-8) – 11:00 on ESPN
Grad transfer Tommy Stevens was off to a terrific start at quarterback for the Bulldogs before leaving last week's win over Southern Miss with an injury. Freshman Garrett Shrader took over in relief and will presumably get the start on Saturday against K-State if Stevens is unable to go.



Mike Self
Sports Editor

Tailback Kylin Hill, who has already rushed for 320 yards in two games, also left with an injury against Southern Miss, so the Bulldogs are not exactly entering this game with a clean bill of health. That shouldn't keep them from getting to 3-0, though. Neither of these teams has played a soul yet in non-conference play, so maybe we'll finally learn something about each of them.

**The Pick: Miss. State 27 Kansas State 17
Alabama (-26) at South Carolina – 2:30 on CBS**

This trip to Columbia figures to go much smoother for Alabama than its last one, which ended with a 35-21 loss to Stephen Garcia, Alshon Jeffrey and the Gamecocks back in 2010.

South Carolina scored 72 points last week in its first game with Ryan Hilinski filling in for an injured Jake Bentley, but that was against Charleston Southern. Alabama's defense is bound to present a slightly stiffer challenge.

South Carolina hasn't stopped the run in a while, so maybe this will be a good chance for the Tide to get its ground game rolling. Or maybe Tua will just throw a few more touchdown passes to Jerry Jeudy. That usually seems to work.

**The Pick: Alabama 45 South Carolina 14
Colorado State at Arkansas (-10) – 3:00 on SECN**

How bad must Colorado State be to be getting 10 points from the Hogs, who so far don't look to be much improved from last year's 2-10 debacle? Answer: Pretty bad.

Colorado State beat Arkansas 34-27 at home last year, but the Hogs will get their revenge behind a solid running game. Rakeem Boyd has run for 181 yards in two games, and Colorado State gave up 243 rushing yards (and 52 points) in a season-opening loss to Colorado.

**The Pick: Arkansas 31 Colorado State 21
Florida (-9) at Kentucky – 6:00 on ESPN**

Last year, Kentucky ended the misery of a 31-year losing streak to the Gators. The Wildcats are quietly off to a 2-0 start this season, but they could have major issues moving the football against a Florida defense that registered 10 sacks in its season-opening win over Miami.

Now that Benny Snell and Josh Allen are in the NFL, the talent edge in this matchup has shifted heavily back in Florida's direction. If Feleipe Franks can avoid the crippling mistakes that nearly cost them the Miami game, the Gators should start a new win streak over the 'Cats.

The Pick: Florida 27 Kentucky 13

Carry the load

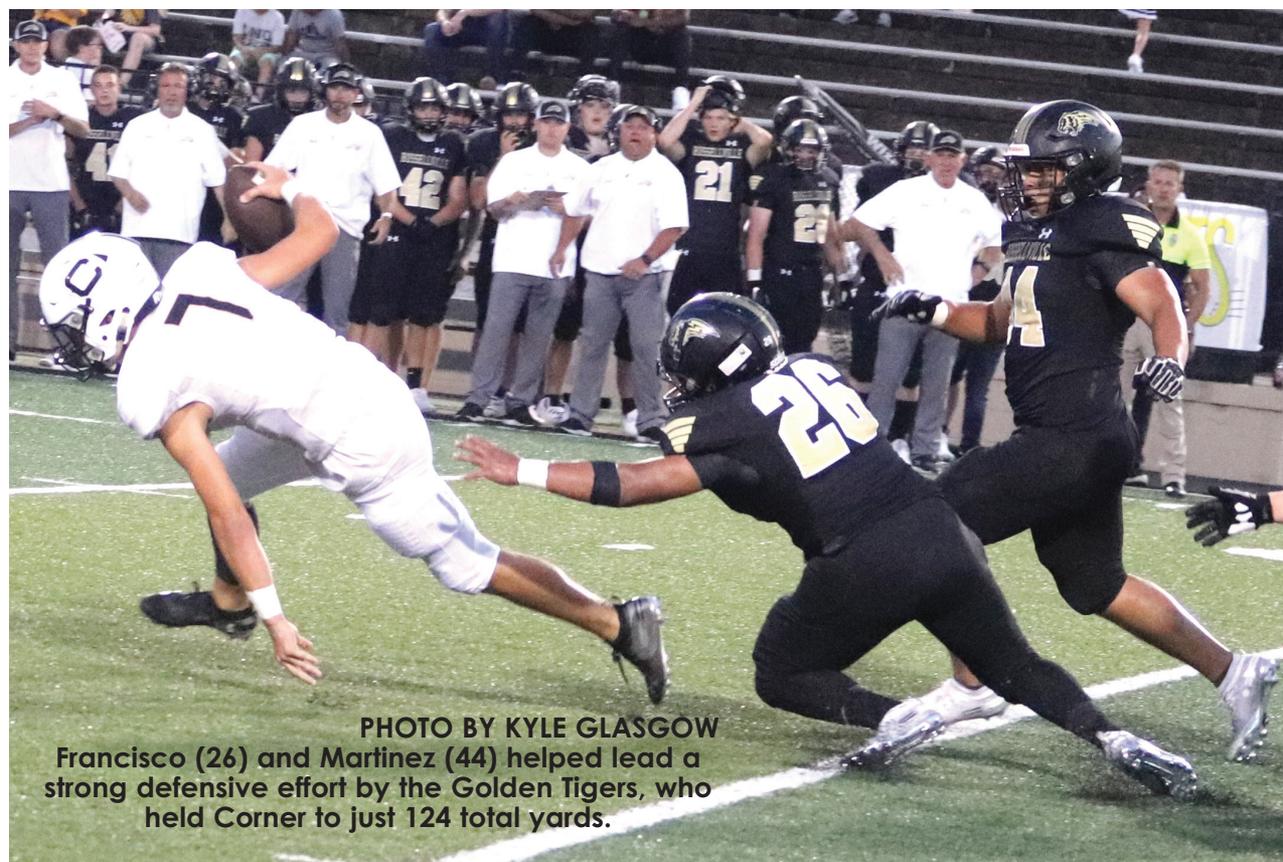


PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW
Francisco (26) and Martinez (44) helped lead a strong defensive effort by the Golden Tigers, who held Corner to just 124 total yards.

Last year, Russellville relied on a big-play offense to compensate for a sometimes shaky defense. Now, the D can more than hold its own.

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - As far as Russellville senior linebacker Jamal Hubbard is concerned, defense is a numbers game. And there's one number he focuses on more than any other when evaluating his team's performance on a given play.

"As long as we've got all 22 cleats getting to the ball," Hubbard said, "we're fine."

The Golden Tigers have been far better than fine on the defensive side of the ball over the last six quarters. After holding rival Deshler to just 33 total yards in a scoreless second half in the season opener on August 30, Hubbard and company were at it again last Friday in the Class 5A, Region 7 opener against Corner, shutting out the Yellow Jackets in the first half and holding them to 124 total yards on the night in a resounding 41-7 win.

"We won a game [against Deshler] on defense for the first time since we've been here," Ritter said after his team stifled Corner. "That was very encouraging, and tonight was kind of the same thing. We got to pin our ears back and do a lot of our zone-blitz stuff that we've been practicing since the spring, and it looked really good."

A year ago, when the defense gave up a few too many points (30-plus on five occasions and 26.3 per game on the season), Russellville had the luxury of relying on an explosive, big-play offense to simply score more. And score more the Golden Tigers did, averaging 40.2 points per game on their way to a 9-2 record in their first year under head coach John Ritter.

Now, a defense that is more experienced, more physical and more comfortable in coordinator

Mountain High: Wildcats stun Westminster

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

What a difference a fortnight can make.

On August 23, Colbert Heights saw its streak of nine straight regular-season wins at home come to a crashing halt with a season-opening 36-0 loss to Red Bay. Fast-forward two weeks to last Friday night, and that same Wildcat team took the field again at Amos Mitchell Stadium, with reigning region champion Westminster Christian visiting The Mountain for the Class 3A, Region 8 opener. Westminster had romped through the 2018 regular season, going 9-0 and winning seven of those games by at least 30 points—starting with a 50-20 rout of Colbert Heights on September 7. Westminster went on to finish 11-1, advancing all the way to the state quarterfinals before losing by a single point to Piedmont.

Having won its six region games last season by an average margin of nearly 38 points, Westminster entered 2019 as the consensus favorite to win the Region 8 championship again. After last Friday's stunning turn of events on The Mountain, that repeat bid now faces a much steeper climb.

Riding a ball-control offense that churned out 289 rushing yards and an opportunistic defense that picked off three passes, Colbert Heights turned heads throughout north Alabama with a 27-20 win over Westminster. Just 14 days after absorbing their most lopsided regular-season home loss in four years, the Wildcats were once again riding high.

Mountain high.

"This was a big-time night on The Mountain," head coach Taylor Leathers said last Friday, less than an hour after his team had recovered an onside kick in the final seconds to seal one of the biggest wins in recent program history. "It's a big win up here. I'm gonna say it's top three since I've been here [Leathers is now 23-14 since arriving at Colbert Heights in 2016, with two playoff wins], just given the situation—coming in this week, knowing they were the reigning champs, knowing we have such respect for their program and their team. For us to be able to come in here and get the win in front of our home crowd was special.

"It's a huge win for us and our program. They were the region champions last year, and we went over there and got destroyed. To be able to bring them here to The Mountain and get the win...all the glory goes to God. He was definitely looking out for us tonight. It was amazing."

"This was a big-time night on The Mountain," Leathers said. "It's a huge win for us and our program. They were the region champions last year, and we went over there and got destroyed. To be able to bring them here to The Mountain and get the win...all the glory goes to God. He was definitely looking out for us tonight. It was amazing."

The win by the Wildcats (2-1, 1-0) was even more impressive given that they accomplished it despite being short-handed. Skyler Gault, one of the team's four seniors and a two-way starter at both safety and tight end, missed the game due to an allergic reaction to a wasp sting.

"Skylar Gault got stung by a red wasp," Leathers said. "Both of his eyes were swollen shut. We were gonna play it by ear to see if he could give it a go, but he called me about five o'clock and said, 'Coach, I would play, but I can't see.'"

Sophomore Skyler Balta stepped in at safety against Westminster's high-powered spread passing attack and played "tremendously," according to Leathers, picking off two passes. Junior corner Gage Pugh also had an inter-

ception, helping offset an otherwise efficient passing night by the visiting Wildcats, who completed 15-of-20 attempts for 182 yards.

The running game was a different story, however, as Colbert Heights held Westminster to just 58 yards on 15 carries. The home team, by contrast, controlled the line of scrimmage—and the clock—with its double-wing offense all night, getting 94 yards and a touchdown from Pugh on 15 carries; 83 yards and a touchdown from junior back Carson Shaw on 15 carries; 80 yards and a touchdown from sophomore quarterback Andrew Tedford on 22 totes; and 32 yards and a touchdown from junior fullback Blane Holt on six attempts.

"It was outstanding. The plan was executed perfectly," said Leathers, whose team put together a 19-play, 10-minute scoring drive in the first half and then drove 10 plays for another touchdown in the third quarter. "We were able to dominate time of possession and hold the football. We definitely wanted to keep it out of their dynamic offense's hands. We didn't have any self-inflicted wounds. We only had one fumble, on the first series, and we had three penalties for thirty yards. We had very clean execution and played a very physical game. I'm super proud of our guys.

"Andrew did an exceptional job. Blane Holt had a good night at fullback, and Carson and Gage played exceptional as well. And a lot of credit goes to our guys up front. Trey Robinson, Gabe Burns (who was making his second start at guard), Ethan Seal, Dayton Wilkinson at tight end, Logan Simpson at guard, Avery Hood and Daniel Folsom filling in some at tight end—all the success offensively can be attributed to those guys up front playing that physical brand of football. I couldn't be more proud of how that looked. The community is proud of it, and I know our school is proud of it."

Leathers knew that few observers were giving his young team much of a chance heading into Friday's game. But he didn't mind.

"We embrace that underdog role," he said. "This was the second week in a row that everybody picked against us [the Wildcats beat Wilson 28-12 the previous Friday night], but our kids embrace that. They embrace the opportunity to protect Amos Mitchell Stadium. Those types of things, the culture of the program and where it is now, are very exciting to me."

Suddenly, just two short weeks after laying an egg in their season opener, the Wildcats will now head to Lauderdale County this Friday night with a chance to win their third straight game and further entrench themselves in the driver's seat for the Region 8 title race.

"Like I said, we're growing up very fast," said Leathers, who would like nothing more than to help Colbert Heights bring a region championship to The Mountain for the first time since 1999. "We're maturing fast. We've improved by leaps and bounds since the Red Bay game. Red Bay is tremendous defensively, but our guys have cleaned up their own mistakes and really bought into the double-wing and this physical brand of football."

The maturity of this young Wildcat team will be tested this week by how quickly they're able to put a huge win behind them and turn their full attention to Lauderdale County (2-1, 1-0), which has bounced back from a season-opening loss to Brooks with consecutive wins over Randolph (40-15) and East Lawrence (32-20). The Tigers, who have dropped the last two meetings with Colbert Heights, will certainly be ready when the Wildcats arrive in Rogersville on Friday evening.

"We've got a 24-hour rule," Leathers said last Friday night. "We'll enjoy this one, and then we'll come in on Sunday ready to go back to work. I just told our guys, 'Everybody that loves you is waiting outside the field house to give you a big hug and congratulate you. Enjoy the win, have a great day tomorrow, and then let's get ready for the next one.'"



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Red Bay ready for rematch with Addison

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

By all accounts, the 2018 season was a good one for Red Bay football. The Tigers went 9-3, finished in a three-way tie atop the Class 2A, Region 7 standings, and won a playoff game before bowing out in the second round.

But, without a doubt, the low point during the regular season came on September 14 at Addison, when the good vibes from Red Bay's 3-0 start were swept away by a humbling 39-12 loss to the Bulldogs.

It's a night Michael Jackson won't soon forget—especially with Addison set to visit Red Bay's Fred Bostick Jr. Memorial Stadium this Friday night for a highly anticipated rematch.

"We went over there last year, and we were totally unprepared for the level of football they were gonna play," said Jackson, who has only lost one other regular-season game [a 35-7 defeat at the hands of Sulligent in 2017] by as many as 27 points in his five-plus seasons as the Tigers' head coach. "I think that was a game for maybe five or six minutes, and then things went south on us. [Addison] already plays really well at home, and they kind of took us out of the game. I think it was an eye-opening game for our guys. We won't be surprised like that this time, because our guys know the level Addison plays at."

The Bulldogs (2-1 and ranked No. 5 in Class 2A) have been impressive thus far in 2019, crushing Curry 37-0 in their season opener before going toe-to-toe with Class 3A No. 2 Piedmont the following week. [Addison led 16-14 before ultimately falling 28-16.] Last Friday night, the Bulldogs rolled to a 36-14 win over a Winston County team that took Red Bay to overtime in a first-round playoff loss last November.

"Addison is one of the best teams we've played against in all the years I've been here," said Jackson, who is now 45-14 since taking over the Red Bay program in 2014. "We've got a really tough team coming in here. They're a very physical team. They can throw the ball, and they can run the ball. They'll have a lot of confidence after going to the third round [of the playoffs] last year. "This will be a really good test for us, two good teams going at it. It'll be one of the biggest games we've played in a while."

The Tigers (3-0, 1-0) are once again off to an impressive start of their own, having already recorded two shutouts while out-scoring their first three opponents 110-20. They won their region opener last Friday at home, holding Hatton to just 82 yards of total offense in a 20-0 win. Red Bay completely bottled up the Hornets' Wing-T rushing attack, limiting them to just 24 yards on 26 carries. "It was a tough, hard-core battle," said Jackson, whose team broke up a scoreless tie early in the second quarter when junior defensive end Logan Scott tackled a Hornet player in the end zone for a safety. "Our defense really shut them down. We

did a good job of keeping them in front of us and never letting their playmakers get out in space.

"Coach [Jamie] Purser and our defensive staff put together a good plan. Coach Purser had them pretty much pegged as to what they were gonna do against us, and our guys were ready for it."

Three games into the season, Red Bay's veteran defense is allowing just 6.7 points and 155.0 yards per contest. The Tigers have already recorded 24 tackles for loss and are holding opponents to just 2.2 yards per carry (215 rushing yards allowed on 96 attempts).

Last year's 39-12 loss to Addison is something Red Bay coach Michael Jackson won't soon forget.

"We went over there last year, and we were totally unprepared for the level of football they were gonna play," said Jackson, who has only lost one other regular-season game by as many as 27 points in his five-plus seasons as the Tigers' head coach. "I think that was a game for maybe five or six minutes, and then things went south on us. [Addison] already plays really well at home, and they kind of took us out of the game. I think it was an eye-opening game for our guys. We won't be surprised like that this time, because our guys know the level Addison plays at."

Junior linebackers Cam McKinney (31 tackles) and Gavin Edgmon (29 stops) are the team's leading tacklers, and the defensive line has been outstanding thus far. Scott (who had 2.5 sacks in a season-opening 36-0 rout of Colbert Heights) and fellow junior end Alex Kennedy have each been in on 18 stops, and freshman tackle Braden Parker had nine tackles against the Wildcats and nine more last week versus Hatton. Sophomore lineman Levi Blanton, who plays alongside Parker on the interior, had six tackles in last week's shutout of the Hornets.

Senior rover Hunter Burks made nine tackles last Friday night and has 19 on the season.

"Our defense has really been lights-out," Jackson said. "Coach Purser has done a good job of getting his guys moving."

Jackson said Red Bay's defense will be tested this week by an Addison team with plenty of balance and big-play ability.

"We have to somewhat limit their big plays," Jackson said, "because they have more than one weapon who can run it and throw it, too."

Red Bay's offense has made major strides this season with regard to both balance and explosiveness in the passing game. Junior quarterback Jalen Vinson and senior receiver Arden Hamilton have teamed up to form a dangerous deep passing combination, hooking up on five touchdown passes already—three of which have covered at least 60 yards.

Hamilton, who prior to this season hadn't played football since middle school, caught four passes for 97 yards and two scores last week against Hatton and now has nine receptions for 261 yards

through three games. His size and leaping ability has provided a new dimension to Red Bay's vertical passing game.

"He played when he was in middle school, and then he took a few years off," Jackson said of Hamilton, who has averaged 48.4 yards on his five touchdown catches this season. "We found the right position to put him in, and he does a really good job with it. He's a big-play kind of guy who can jump really well. At 6'2, 6'3, he's a hard matchup."

Hatton certainly had no answer for him. The Hornets' massive defensive front did a solid job containing Red Bay's ground game, holding the Tigers to 100 rushing yards on 36 carries, but Vinson and Hamilton hooked up on touchdown passes of 10 yards in the second quarter and 62 yards late in the third quarter to break open the game.

"With them having so much size up front, they limited what we were able to do with our running game," Jackson said. "Those guys were hard to move. They had four guys on their defensive front who weighed over 300 pounds. It was tough sledging with that. I'm glad we made some plays in the passing game, and Jalen had some good scrambles, too."

"With them taking away a few things in the run game, they had to give something up, and Arden got over the top of them a couple times. He got behind them twice. It was great that we could do both [run the ball and throw it]. If we couldn't, we would have really been in a desperate situation."

Vinson, in his first season as Red Bay's starting quarterback, threw for 170 yards and two touchdowns on 9-for-19 passing against Hatton. He has completed 52 percent (26-for-50) of his attempts on the year for 487 yards and five touchdowns while also leading the team with 206 rushing yards

See 'REMATCH,' page 17

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Bobcats impressive in rout of Lexington

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Shortly after his team put the finishing touches on a thoroughly dominant 34-7 whipping of Lexington last Friday night at Parrish Field, Phil Campbell coach Kevin Barnwell received a text message from team chaplain Brian Scott.

Scott was checking in to see if Barnwell had heard about the most surprising result of the night in Class 3A, Region 8, a 27-20 win by Colbert Heights over reigning region champion Westminster Christian. According to Barnwell, Scott's implication was clear: *This region is there for the taking. Why not us?*

In reply, Barnwell quoted one of his favorite axioms from noted sports psychologist Kevin Elko: *Be where your feet are.*

"Be exactly where your feet are," Barnwell said late last Friday. "We have to focus on this game we've got coming up against Clements. That's who we've gotta focus on. From a coaching perspective, we can't beat Clements until we start breaking down film of Clements, which I'm about to start doing. Then on Monday we'll get the kids locked in on the game plan and start implementing the game plan so we can work to get better to beat Clements."

"We may be 3-7 or 7-3 [at the end of the year], who knows? We're gonna be where our feet are and play week to week, and then when the season's over we'll go back and look and see where we are."

Where the Bobcats (1-1, 1-0 in region play) are right now is in a pretty good spot. They opened their second season under Barnwell by throwing a brief scare into county rival Red Bay, jumping out to a quick 14-0 lead before a spate of turnovers (five, by night's end, including two interceptions that were returned for touchdowns) doomed them to a 54-20 defeat.

Phil Campbell flushed that loss quickly and bounced back convincingly in last Friday's region opener, dominating Lexington on both sides of the ball. Offensively, the Bobcats were balanced and explosive, rushing for 270 yards on 36 carries, throwing for 157 on 11-for-15 passing and averaging a healthy 8.4 yards per play. They also played lights-out defensively, limiting Lexington to just 125 total yards and six first downs. [The Golden Bears were 0-for-8 on third down.]

"Our guys are winners," Barnwell said. "In the Red Bay game, we turned the ball over a little bit, and they're pretty good. They made us look bad on a few things. But, overall, we have some of the best coaches around. Our coaching staff is really good. They're good at helping our guys make adjustments on both sides of the ball. That's why our kids are improving—because these guys are pushing our kids and making them understand what we're doing. At the same time, we've not really accomplished anything yet. It's Game 2. The main thing is, let's enjoy it for 24 hours, then we've got Clements coming up next. Let's move forward on that."

The result was a one-sided win, Phil Campbell's first in nearly a full calendar year. [The Bobcats had dropped their last seven games since beating Vina 47-2 on September 21, 2018.] Clearly, Barnwell's bedrock principles of tunnel-vision focus and selfless commitment to a shared goal are beginning to take root on a team that is starting to look like a legitimate playoff contender, at the very least.

"We didn't turn the ball over as much, which was key for us," Barnwell said. "We've got some really good skill players. We only had one turnover tonight, and that's the key. We're running the ball a little more, and the kids are able to check us into the right plays, too. That's helping—just them having more understanding of our offense. We have several guys that are taking pride in blocking. There's no glory in stalk blocking from a receiver standpoint, but we have guys who are committed to doing that. That just shows you how unselfish some of our guys are. They're sacrificing for their teammates, for someone else to be successful. Our guys don't care who's successful as long as we're successful as a whole."

"Our guys are winners. In the Red Bay game, we turned the ball over a little bit, and they're pretty good. They made us look bad on a few things. But, overall, we have some of the best coaches around. Our coaching staff is really good. They're good at helping our guys make adjustments on both sides of the ball. I have to give credit to our coaches. That's why our kids are improving—because these guys are pushing our kids and making them understand what we're doing. At the same time, we've not really accomplished anything yet. It's Game 2. The main thing is, let's enjoy it for 24 hours, then we've got Clements coming up next. Let's move forward on that."

Junior quarterback Luke Barnwell and junior tailback Trey Leindecker led



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'REMATCH', from page 15

and two touchdowns on 26 carries.

Senior back/receiver Colyn Humphres has rushed 22 times for 104 yards and two touchdowns while also catching four passes for 55 yards. Junior receiver Mason Holt has 106 yards on six catches, and junior tailback Hunter King has run 33 times for 157 yards.

Jackson said the Tigers will have to be balanced again to be successful on offense against Addison.

"We'll have to find some success in our run game and keep throwing the ball well," he said. "We really have to limit our penalties. We've gotten some untimely penalties the last couple of games that have killed drives, and we have to clean those up in this game."

'BOBCATS', from page 16

the offensive charge against Lexington. Barnwell got things rolling in the first quarter, rushing for a 14-yard touchdown and then hooking up with the speedy Leindecker on an 88-yard scoring toss to stake Phil Campbell to an early 13-0 lead.

Barnwell accounted for two more touchdowns in the second quarter (a 27-yard run and a 21-yard pass to junior receiver Ridge Raper) and finished the night with 157 yards on 11-for-15 passing, 71 rushing yards on nine carries and four total touchdowns.

Leindecker, meanwhile, went over the 100-yard mark both rushing and receiving. He ran 18 times for 137 yards (including a 44-yard touchdown scamper in the third quarter) and also caught four passes for 104 yards and a score.

"For the most part, we were just taking what they were giving us," Kevin Barnwell said. "We probably could have only thrown the ball three or four times, but there were a couple of times at the end where we needed to loosen them up some so we could run the clock out. We saw some things we could attack, some personnel we could attack, and some matchups we liked. Once they made adjustments to that, it's kind of a chess match. We tried to make further adjustments to their adjustments."

"It seemed to work, but it comes down to the fact that we've got guys who can make plays."

In addition to the big nights by Barnwell and Leindecker last Friday, Raper caught three passes for 32 yards and a touchdown (his third of the season in just two games). Austen Baker, yet another junior, totaled 42 yards on six touches, and an improving offensive line continued to make strides—thanks in no small part to solid contributions from defensive starters like lineman Eli Jackson and linebacker Boone Swinney.

"They are. The offensive line is playing together better," Kevin Barnwell said. "We've still got a long way to go, but we're getting better up front. We've got some different guys who have had to step in. Eli Jackson is playing some O-line for us, and Boone Swinney is playing on the O-line. Until we can get some younger guys ready for varsity play, they're gonna have to play there."

On the other side of the ball, Phil Campbell recorded two sacks last Friday and held Lexington to just eight passing yards. Brandon Baker led the way with six tackles, including 1.5 for loss. Austin Douthit had a sack and two tackles for loss, and Raper made 3.5 tackles—including one for loss—from his middle linebacker spot.

"Ridge can play some linebacker, I'll tell you what," Barnwell said. "Defensively, our guys ran to the football really well. We've cut it back a little bit, as far as tackling as much in practice. We're doing more tackling drills. We're going in shells most of the time. We've had three major knee injuries, and we can't afford to have any more, so we're trying to manage our personnel a little better."

"David Palmer [the team's defensive coordinator] does a great job with our defense. All five guys who coach over there do a great job. Jacob Hamilton [who coaches inside linebackers] has been a major asset for us. He's a young guy, he's heady and he understands what we're doing. He understands the nuances of the game. Trevor Allison, he's very in-depth with the defensive line. Jonathan Raper coaches our outside linebackers, and Lucas Gilbert is our secondary coach. Those guys work well together."

"We've got really good chemistry with our defensive staff. Those guys coach their tails off, and the kids respond to it."

Barnwell's first win as head coach last year came against Clements, a 15-7 victory on the road in Week 3. The Colts will visit Phil Campbell on Friday, and Barnwell was already turning his attention in that direction immediately following last week's big win.

"No time to rest," he said late on Friday night. "We'll rest in December and January and February. Right now it's time to focus again. Our focus has gotta be good come Monday. We'll enjoy this one for 24 hours, and then let's come in and get ready to work."

"I saw Clements in 7-on-7 this summer. They have a really talented group of guys. They have a good running back and some good skill players."

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Trey Leindecker

Junior RB, Phil Campbell

Leindecker helped the Bobcats pick up their first win of the season with a big game against Lexington last Friday. Leindecker eclipsed the 100-yard mark both rushing and receiving, gaining 137 yards on 18 carries and catching four passes for 104 yards. He scored on an 88-yard touchdown pass from QB Luke Barnwell in the first quarter and later added a 44-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter to cap off Phil Campbell's 34-7 rout.

Leindecker finished the night with 241 yards from scrimmage on 22 touches.



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'CARRY,' from page 13

Chris Balentine's attacking 3-4 scheme has gone from liability to lynchpin, from weak link to solid rock.

"I'm very, very proud of that bunch," Ritter said after last Friday's win, in which Russellville's D snuffed out a pair of early scoring threats by Corner on an interception in the end zone by junior safety J.D. Bishop and a blocked field goal by junior corner Ashaad Williams. "That's what I told them last week [after the Deshler game]. We won a game on defense for the first time since we've been here. That was very encouraging, and tonight was kind of the same thing. We got to pin our ears back and do a lot of our zone-blitz stuff that we've been practicing since the spring, and it looked really good."

During a four-quarter stretch (plus one overtime possession by Deshler) spanning the second half of the opener and the first half of the Corner game, Russellville's defense allowed a total of just 100 yards and zero points. After driving 60 yards for a touchdown to open last Friday's third quarter, the Yellow Jackets managed just two yards of offense on nine plays for the remainder of the game.

Heading into this Friday's region game at Hayden, a 21-point second quarter by Deshler (which was aided by a pair of Russellville turnovers) in Week 1 remains the only blemish on an otherwise lights-out defensive effort by the Golden Tigers (2-0, 1-0).

"We've been reading our keys a lot, you know," said Hubbard, who made a team-high 119 tackles from his outside 'backer spot as a junior in 2018 and is one of eight returning players on defense with starting experience. "Instead of just going crazy, we've been reading our people and getting to the ball. We try to do that in practice. We work a lot on pursuit. We get to the ball. Everybody gets to the ball. We're not trying to have anybody walking. We try to get everybody to the ball."

That aggressive pursuit helped stifle a Corner offense coming off a 45-point outburst against Oak Grove the previous week in which sophomore quarterback Colin Daniel had thrown for 268 yards and four touchdowns. Russellville held Daniel to 39 yards on 7-for-17 passing and also limited the Yellow Jackets (2-1, 0-1) to just 85 rushing yards on 31 carries.

Meanwhile, Russellville's offense demonstrated some of that familiar quick-strike ability, gashing Corner for three gains of 60-plus yards (two through the air, one on the ground) and totaling 472 yards on 47 snaps (an average of right at 10.0 yards per play).

"I think, on both sides, we were a lot faster, more aggressive," Hubbard said of his team's improvement from Week 1 to Week 2. "We were a lot more

aggressive. The offense was pushing it down the field pretty good, and on defense we were just trying to hold them to zero points."

The Golden Tigers did exactly that until the opening drive of the second half, when Corner moved 60 yards in 12 plays and scored on a one-yard run by Daniel to spoil the shutout and cut Russellville's lead to 21-7.

"You can't really be disappointed," Hubbard said. "Things happen, and you're not gonna be perfect on defense. We've just gotta work off that play and all the other mistakes we made. We put in a lot of work this past summer, and we're still working on a few things here and there. We've still got a long way to go."

The notion that Russellville's defense is only scratching the surface of its potential is a frightening one—particularly if a retooled offense continues to progress the way it did last Friday night. Senior quarterback Jacob Bishop, a Muscle Shoals transfer, had his best game yet as a Golden Tiger, throwing for 194 yards and two touchdowns (both to junior receiver Rowe Gallagher) on 7-for-11 passing while also rushing for 28 yards and a score on three carries.

After misfiring on his first three pass attempts of the night, Bishop connected on his next four throws—including a deep post to Gallagher for a 68-yard scoring strike early in the second quarter and a 64-yard hook-up with sophomore H-back Nathan Brockway on a wheel route for a gain of 64 on Russellville's very next offensive play.

"That was probably the best game he's played," Ritter said of Bishop, who is now 17-for-31 on the season for 335 yards and three touchdowns with one interception. "We didn't do a ton of read stuff, so he didn't miss that many reads. He made the right decisions in the passing game. After we hit the post to Rowe, I was really afraid he might try to force it in there on the next one. We called it to the other side on the next drive, and I was afraid he might try to go for it all. But he went through his progressions and hit the wheel, and Brockway turns a 20-yard ball into a 65-yard gain.

"I thought Jacob did a phenomenal job of reading coverages and getting the ball where it was supposed to be."

The long gainer to Brockway set up a 16-yard touchdown scamper by sophomore tailback Airreon "Boots" McCulloch that stretched Russellville's lead to 21-0 with 5:16 left in the first half. Earlier, on the Golden Tigers' second possession of the night, the fleet-footed McCulloch had bolted down the right sideline for an 81-yard touchdown to start the scoring and make it 7-0 with 7:20 left in the first quarter.

McCulloch, who had rushed for 55 yards and two touchdowns on 10 first-half carries against Deshler before sitting out the entire second half with what Ritter described as a "full-body cramp," had a career night against Corner, rushing 14 times for 147 yards and two scores.

"He took a lot better care of his body this week," Ritter said of McCulloch, who leads the team with 202 yards rushing and four touchdowns on 24 attempts (an average of 8.4 yards per carry) thus far. "He's a young pup. He's just a tenth-grader. Sometimes, it's trial-by-fire. I think, by getting burnt Week 1 [against Deshler] and not being able to finish the game, that showed him what he has to do to take care of his body."

McCulloch's early 81-yard sprint to the end zone set the tone for a night of big plays by the Golden Tigers. In addition to his two 60-plus-yard completions in the first half, Bishop also dropped in a perfectly thrown ball to junior receiver Cole Barnett for a 32-yard gain down to the Corner 10-yard line. Three plays later, Bishop hit Gallagher for a seven-yard touchdown to answer the Yellow Jackets' only scoring drive of the night and restore the lead to three touchdowns at 28-7 with 2:39 left in the third.

"Northside nicked and dined them [in a 20-12 loss to Corner in Week Zero], and Oak Grove didn't score at all," Ritter said. "This was the first offense Corner had seen that was as explosive as we have the opportunity to be. I thought we did a good job of keeping them off-balance. We didn't throw a lot on first down last week [against Deshler], and that was a big tendency we wanted to bust. I think we opened three of our seven drives with a pass, and two of them were big gainers.

"We did some stuff formation-wise to out-leverage them. On the long touchdown run [by McCulloch], we got in our bunched trips package and bounced over and ended up in an overload set. They didn't adjust, and we out-ran them to the end zone."

Russellville finished off the scoring last Friday with a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns, one on an eight-yard run by Bishop and the other on a three-yard run by junior tailback Caleb Matthews. The Golden Tigers will head south this week and take on Hayden in another Class 5A, Region 7 matchup. The Wildcats (1-2, 0-1) lost their region opener 27-14 at Lawrence County last Friday night.

Hubbard said starting off region play with a win over a playoff contender like Corner was big for Russellville.

"It gives us momentum," he said last Friday night. "Now we just have to work on our mistakes from this game and get ready to play next week."



PHOTO/KG

Hubbard raced 43 yards after mishandling a punt snap, but his primary contributions come at outside linebacker, where he is one of eight returning starters on Russellville's suddenly nasty D.



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BEAT BAILEY IS BACK! Submit your picks to us each week in one of two ways: Fill out the entry form on this page and mail it to us at 113 Washington Ave. NW, Russellville, AL 35653, or email your picks to us along with your name and number at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. **Picks sent in by mail for Week 2 must be postmarked by Friday, September 13, and picks submitted by email for Week 2 must be received by Saturday, September 14 at 10 a.m.** Each week, the contestant who correctly picks the most games will win a free T-shirt and the chance to pick in the grand-prize final-week contest. If multiple contestants correctly pick the same number of games in a given week, the tiebreaker score will be used to determine a winner. Contestants are only eligible to win the weekly contest once. No multiple winners allowed. Thanks for playing, and good luck!

Congrats to Week 2 winner **RODNEY MCCARLEY**, who was our only contestant to correctly pick 8 out of 10 games last week!

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Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 3: September 14	Bailey's Pick	Your Pick
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Alabama at South Carolina	Alabama	_____
Colorado State at Arkansas	Arkansas	_____
Florida at Kentucky	Florida	_____
Washington St. at Houston	Washington St.	_____
Pittsburgh at Penn State	Penn State	_____
Stanford at UCF	UCF	_____
Iowa at Iowa State	Iowa State	_____
Arizona St. at Michigan St.	Michigan St.	_____
Clemson at Syracuse	Clemson	_____
Tiebreaker Score:	Alabama _____	S. Carolina _____
Your Name:	_____	
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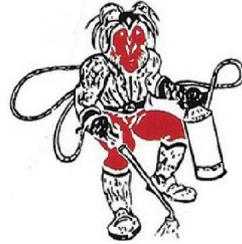
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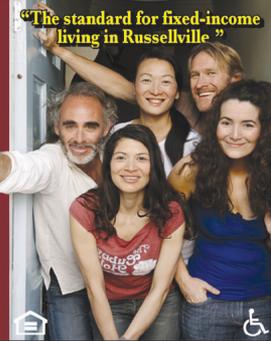
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