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ALDOT puts safety measures in place at 43/Gandy intersection



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

What was once proposed as a concrete barrier was installed last week as a temporary barrier, in order to determine whether the changes actually work to make the intersection safer, according to Russellville Police chief Chris Hargett.

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

After a request from the Russellville City Council and mayor David Grissom, the Alabama Department of Transportation recently completed improvements at the Highway 43/Gandy Street intersection designed to make the intersection safer.

A woman was killed earlier this year after a car that had been hit at the intersection was pushed into the 43 Grill parking lot, where the woman was struck. After that incident, Grissom contacted ALDOT engineer Mark Dale and asked for assistance in making safety improvements to the intersection.

An assessment by ALDOT determined that installation of a barrier to prevent eastbound traffic on Gandy from turning north onto 43 would be the best plan to make the intersection safer.

What was once proposed as a concrete barrier was

See 'SAFETY,' Page 9

Bicentennial Committee plans cemetery tour, birthday dinner

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

Historic Sadler Cemetery will come alive this Saturday, but don't look for any ghosts.

Instead, the Franklin County Bicentennial Committee will host a cemetery tour of Sadler Cemetery, located on North Jackson Avenue near downtown Russellville.

There will be portrayals of some of the historic citizens buried at Sadler, including two former probate judges of Franklin County.

The free event will take place this Saturday, October 5 at 5 p.m. Russellville Street Department manager Shannon Wilson will serve as the cemetery tour guide.

There will be presentations about several citizens

See 'TOUR,' Page 9



Franklin County Archives director Chris Ozborn researches the history of Sadler Cemetery in preparation for Saturday's cemetery tour.



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Raymond Lee Frederick, Hackleburg, age 76

Died Wednesday, September 25, 2019. Funeral held at Hackleburg First Baptist Church. Interment with military honors at Cedar Tree Cemetery. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.

Otis Leroy Hawkins, Russellville, age 78

Died Saturday, September 28, 2019. Funeral arrangements had not been announced at press time. Pinkard Funeral Home was assisting the family.

James "Jim" Curtis Myrick, Russellville, age 83

Died Wednesday, September 25, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Gargis Cemetery.

Peggy McMurray Smith, Russellville, age 78

Died Friday, September 27, 2019. Graveside service held at Franklin Memory Gardens. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

James L. Stone, Muscle Shoals (formerly of Russellville), age 76

Died Wednesday, September 25, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville.

Martha Russell Vandiver, Russellville, age 80

Died Wednesday, September 25, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

Wilmer Lee Warhurst, Russellville, age 85

Died Sunday, September 29, 2019. Funeral arrangements had not been announced at press time. Pinkard Funeral Home was assisting the family.



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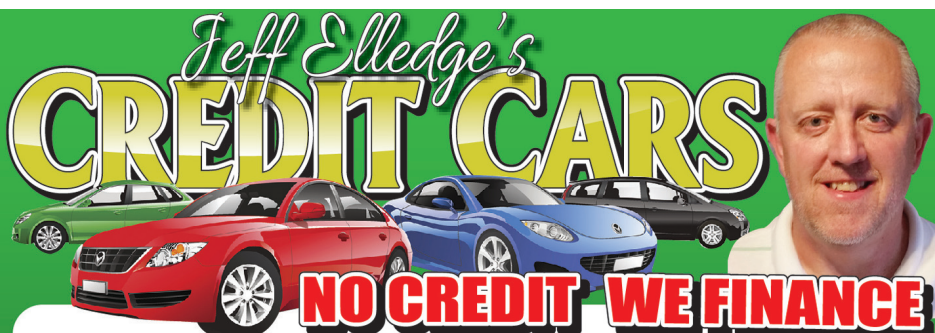
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Commission approves \$14 million budget

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission approved a \$14.05 million budget for the new fiscal year at a special meeting held September 27.

The budget reflects an increase of approximately \$300,000 from the previous fiscal year.

The county budget is comprised of three separate budgets: Franklin County Highway Department, Franklin County Solid Waste Department and the General Fund. The general fund includes the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Franklin County Jail, Franklin County Courthouse, Franklin County Animal Control and the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency.

Both the Highway Department and Solid Waste Department are self-supporting budgets, according to Franklin County probate judge Barry Moore.

The FY 2019-20 budget does not include across-the-board pay raises for county employees, but it does include any step raises due to employees in the next fiscal year.

The budget also absorbs a 4.9 percent increase in health insurance premiums for employees. Single coverage is provided as a benefit to all full-time employees, while employees are responsible for family coverage.

The general fund portion of the budget is \$7,124,361.73, compared to \$7,000,564.53 last year. The Highway Department also sees an increase in its budget to \$4,242,683.44, as com-

pared to \$4,199,603.71 in FY 2018-19. The Solid Waste Department budget is \$2,687,320.87, compared to \$2,625,915.41 in FY 2018-19.

Moore expressed his appreciation to all those who worked to prepare the new budget.

"I want to thank Leah [Mansell] for all her work. She's done everything we've asked her to do and more," Moore said. "And I appreciate all our department heads and all they do in getting our budget prepared, and all our employees and the job they do for our county. I also appreciate all our commissioners' work on this budget."

The commission also approved the FY 2019-20 reappraisal budget in the amount of \$719,746.39. That budget will now be sent to the Alabama Department of Revenue for approval.

Five local eateries earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Five of the six Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of September 16-20 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.

Five of the six Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfacto-

ry compliance range.

Jack's #148, 13640 Hwy. 43, Russellville, received a below satisfactory score of 83. Violations included: several dirty dishes/pans stacked with clean ones, sliced tomatoes and chopped lettuce on the line being held at 49-53 degrees, beyond time limit and two pans of green beans being held at 122 degrees, pan of grilled chicken at 118-124 degrees.

The high score was 98, received by two businesses in Russellville.

Other inspection scores and violations of Franklin County businesses included:

- Subway 37464, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 94. (Items in sandwich cooler out of temperature).

- Walmart #0403 Market, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.

- Walmart #403 Deli, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.

- Little Tigers Preschool, LLC, 1003 East Lawrence St., Russellville, 99.

- Walmart #403 Bakery, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.

Of the 13 inspections done in Colbert County from September 16-20, all received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 99 went to Lawlers Barbecue #1, 808 Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals.

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

BCDA raises rates for permits, camping fees

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Bear Creek Development Authority Board of Directors recently approved increases in permits and camping fees for BCDA facilities.

The new schedule of fees is as follows:

- Permits: Annual permit \$30. Daily permit \$6.

Three-Day permit \$10. Lifetime permit \$300. The last increases in any permit fees was in fiscal year 2014-15 prior to this change.

- Camping: 58 sites at Slickrock, Elliott Branch and the 50-AMP water front at Williams Hollow \$300/month. The six 50-AMP sites at Horseshoe Bend are now \$230/month. The last increase in camping fees came in FY 2015-16, according to

BCDA manager Shannon McKinney.

- Cabins: One bedroom cabin peak season \$105/night. Two bedroom cabins rent for \$140/night. McKinney said this is the first increase in cabin rates.

The Tanglewood sewer monthly fees for the Tanglewood subdivision increased to \$30, the first increase for sewer users.

Council receives grant for *Christmas Spectacular*

Submitted to the FFP

The Franklin County Arts Council Board was recently notified by Representative Jamie Kiel that the council had received a \$4,200 grant from the Alabama Council on the Arts for The Roxy's Christmas Spectacular.

This grant enables the Arts Council to provide the highest quality programming and foster community development. The musical will be the Arts Council's Christmas holiday show for 2019. It begins Thursday, December 5 and runs through Sunday, December 8.

The Spectacular's cast consists of over 70 individuals, with many playing more than two roles. Avery Guinn plays the main character Fred, with Gunner Lane playing the supporting role of the conductor. Practice begins next week for the cast.

The story centers around the mischievous elf whose name is Fred. He accidentally boards the North Pole Express that travels from city to city in North America. Fred gets involved with each city's holiday celebration through dancing and even singing. The music will be upbeat Christmas favorites such

as "Hot Chocolate," "It's a Marshmallow World," "Frosty the Snow Man," "Cool Yule," "Felize Navidad" and others.

Being an elf, Fred has always believed that Christmas was all about Santa. But in the end he learns the Reason for the Season. The production's closing number is a Nativity Scene that features the song "Holiest of Nights," written and performed by Denise Davis Arnold.

Hillary Hall is writer and director of the musical, with Susan Crittenden and Kaylee Brannon as choreographers.

Tickets for schools may be reserved on Wednesday, October 9 starting at 7:30 a.m. by calling 256-277-5083. Seats are reserved on a first-call basis and are located only on the main floor of the Roxy. School children's tickets are \$6.

General admission tickets are \$15 for the orchestra section and \$10 for the mezzanine. They may be purchased by calling 256-810-2711 or 256-460-8988.

For more information on this year's production, follow the Facebook page The Roxy's Christmas Spectacular.



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by Dave Ramsey

How much emergency fund?

Dear Dave,
I know you talk about having an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses set aside. My husband and I are having a difficult time agreeing on exactly how much we should set aside for emergencies. How do you determine the exact amount?

Erin

Dear Erin,
The exact you amount you have in your emergency fund—whether it's three, four, five or six months of expenses—is really more about peace of mind than anything else. Still, there are a few practical things to consider.

If you both have very stable jobs, you'd probably be okay saving three or four months of expenses. But if one of you is self-employed, makes most of their money through commissions, or only one of you works outside the home, it would make more sense to have five or six months of expenses set aside.

Of course, you can always compromise while leaving room for growth. There's nothing wrong starting out with three months of expenses saved, then adding more as time goes by. The main thing is that you're both in agreement and you both feel safe with the amount of money in your emergency fund!

Dave

Understand your investments completely

Dear Dave,

I'm new to investing, and recently I began putting money into growth stock mutual funds inside a Roth IRA. On my last statement, it said that my investment had grown. Can you explain how it grew?

Matt

Dear Matt,
In most cases, you'll have anywhere from 90 to 200 different company's stocks in a growth stock mutual fund. Over a period of time, some of them will go up and some will go down. If the overall effect is that the group is worth more now than it was before, you made money. The value of that overall group of stocks went up, in other words.

Okay, now pay close attention to what I'm about to say next. I love the fact that you're investing and thinking about the future. It shows wisdom and maturity to be able to grasp the need for a good financial plan now and in the years ahead. However, I'd advise you to not put any more money into that investment until you understand *exactly* what it is and how it works.

Talk to your financial advisor immediately, and let him or her know you're not clear on things. A quality investing professional has the heart of a teacher. Someone like this will take as much time as necessary to better explain your investment, your options and answer other questions so you can become an informed investor and, over time, make your own wise investing decisions.

Never put money into something you don't fully understand!

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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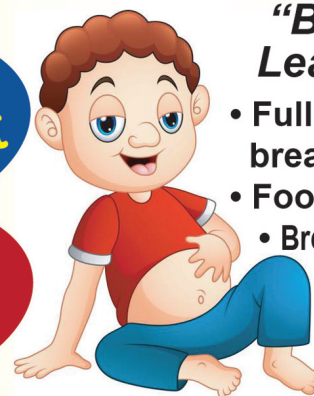


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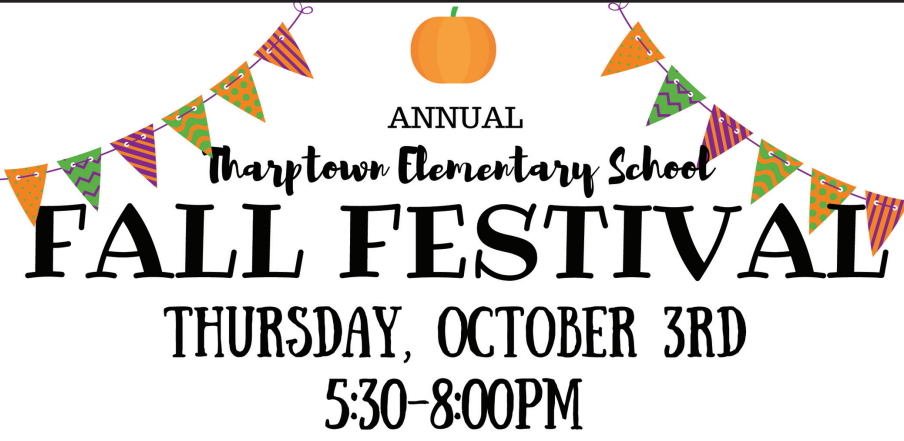


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Russellville Masonic Lodge #371 is selling Boston butts for \$30. Pre-order by calling 256-810-1970. Pick-up will be Saturday, October 26 from 8-10 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge on Coffee Street.

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. Long-sleeve are \$20. Pre-order forms can be picked up at either Russellville fire station. Thanks for your support!

Tharptown Elementary will host its annual Fall Festival this Thursday, October 3 from 5:30-8 p.m. The event will feature food, friends, games and fun, with Cake Walk Bingo, Toy Walk, Silent Auction, Inflatables and Raffles. FREE admission. Great prizes! All tickets are \$1. Also, for two nights, there will be a Haunted Gym, October 3 from 5:30-10 p.m. and October 4 from 7-10 p.m.

Belgreen High School will host a Fall Festival this Thursday, October 3 from 6-8:30 p.m. Admission is free! There will be concessions available, along with Bingo, Haunted House, Toy Walk, Cake Walk, Hayrides, Costume Contest, Fun Games and Great Prizes! Don't miss it!

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 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.

The Reedtown Back To Basics Skill Center (old Reedtown High School) will have a white bean dinner this Friday, October 4 from 11 a.m. until sold out. Dinners are \$8.00 and consist of white beans with ham, coleslaw, cornbread and a drink. Beans can be purchased by the pint for \$3.00 and by the quart for \$5.00. For more information, call 256-324-0515.

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, Tuscumbia, AL. For more information, call First Colbert Heights at 256-383-8016.

You are welcome to all services at Pleasant Ridge Missionary Baptist Church (Hwy. 48 in Russellville). Sunday service times: Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m., Sunday night service at 6 p.m. Wednesday night Bible Study is held at 6:30 p.m. Pastor is Bro. Roger Bond.

This Sunday, October 6, First Baptist Church (521 College Avenue NW, Russellville, AL 35653) will present "Bad Girls of the Bible" at 6 p.m. at the Chucky Mullins Center. On Sunday, October 13, a special afternoon program will be held at 3 p.m. at the church to celebrate the 134th Church Anniversary. Guests will be pastor Rev. Green Davidson III and congregation from St. James Missionary Baptist Church in Leighton. Rev. B.J. Bonner and the congregation at First Baptist Church cordially invite you to attend.

There will be a meeting of the Franklin County Democrats on Tuesday, October 8 at 7 p.m. at the Russellville Library at 110 Lawrence Street East. All interested persons are encouraged to attend!

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!

American Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, October 10 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

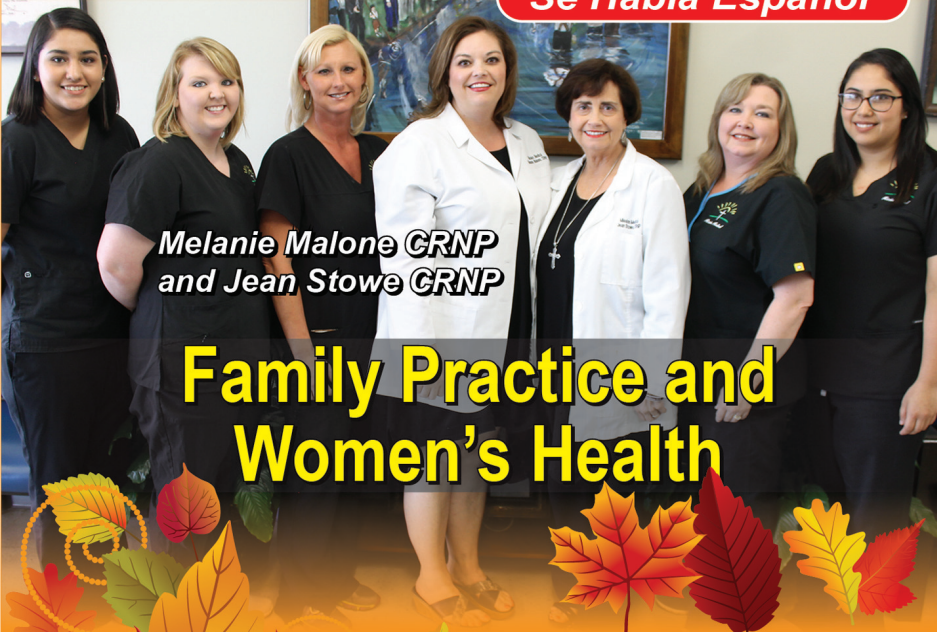
Shoals Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will have a prayer workshop led by Rev. John Rice on Saturday, October 12 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Sheffield First United Methodist Church. Topics will be "The Ministry of Blessings, Releasing God's Goodness and Grace" and "Praying with Jesus's Power and Authority." \$15 registration includes lunch. Registration needed by October 4. Please make checks payable to Shoals Chapter of OSL. Mail to Sheffield F.U.M.C., 701 N. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield, AL 35660. For more info, call 256-383-6153.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre in downtown Russellville on Saturday, October 12 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.

Mark A. Johnson's "An Irresistible History of Alabama Barbeque" will be discussed at the October 16 10 a.m. meeting of the Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club. The club meets at Coldwater Books, 101 West Sixth Street, Tuscumbia. For more info, email nancy537481@yahoo.com.

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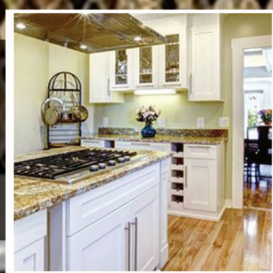
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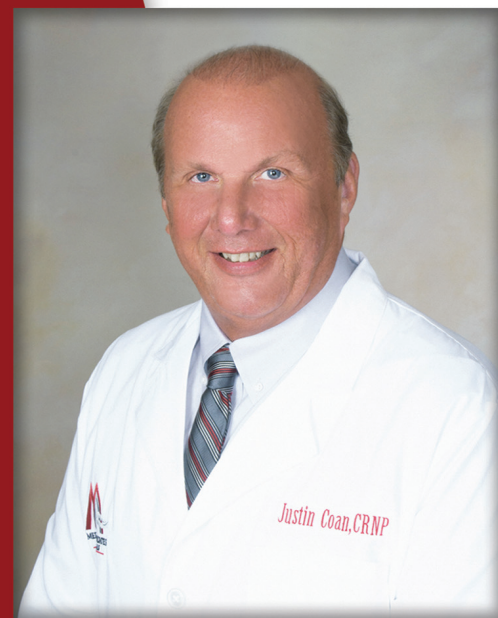
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County Commission authorizes purchase of new garbage cans

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Franklin County residents are closer to receiving garbage cans from the Franklin County Solid Waste Department after the Franklin County Commission voted to solicit bids for a loan to finance the purchase of 6,500 new heavy duty plastic cans.

Commissioners approved the measure at a special meeting held September 28. They voted to authorize Franklin County probate judge Barry Moore to solicit quotes on a \$354,000 loan to finance the new cans.

Franklin County Solid Waste manager Gene Ward received the \$354,000 quote for the cans that would be compliant with the one-armed garbage trucks like the ones purchased by the City of Russellville. County officials plan to eventually purchase the trucks that can be operated by a driver and don't require employees to ride on the back of the truck.

As far as a schedule of when county residents will receive their new trash cans, Moore described that as "a work in process," saying they will be distributed in phases once they are purchased.

The heavy duty cans would have a different color lid than the cans issued to Russellville residents, Moore said.

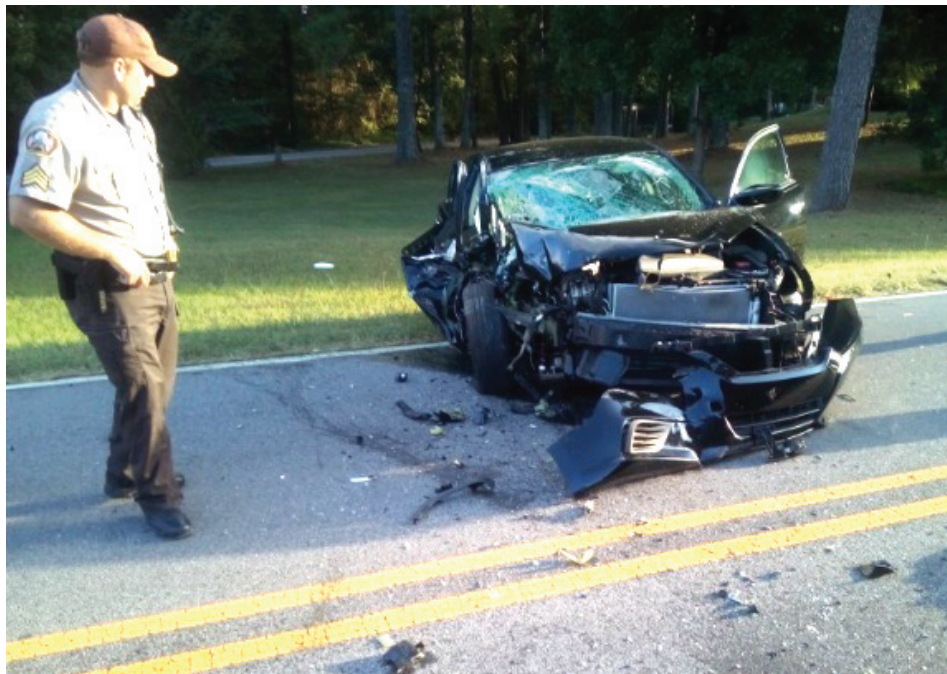
The loan will be paid back out of the Solid Waste Fund, Moore said. The quotes received by the county will be for a 60-month loan.

As far as a schedule of when county residents will receive their new trash cans, Moore described that as "a work in process," saying they will be distributed in phases once they are purchased.

Commissioners cited safety concerns about riders on the back of trucks. A vehicle slammed into a county garbage truck last week on Highway 48. Commissioner Rayburn Massey said it was a blessing there were no injuries in the accident.

"\$354,000 is a lot of money, but when you look at that accident last Monday, the guy who rides on the truck was off to the side of the road and not on the truck, fortunately," Massey said. "This is a pretty big expense, but the liability and potential harm we're getting away from is worth three times that. I'm excited we're moving in this direction."

Bids for the financing of the loan will be due on or before October 11, 2019, at 2 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Franklin County Commission authorized the purchase of new garbage cans that are compliant with the mechanized one-armed garbage trucks county officials hope to purchase. The trucks cut down on the manpower needed on the garbage trucks and are believed to be safer. The vehicle pictured above collided into a county garbage truck last week on County Highway 48.

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'TOUR,' from page 1

buried at Sadler.

William Rose Sadler, Jr., married Emily Owen. Owen's father, David Owen, who is buried at Sadler, divided his land at his death among his children, and Emily received the land where Sadler Cemetery is located, according to Franklin County Archives director Chris Ozbirn. When the Sadler's son died in 1832, the child was buried there and the location was named Sadler Cemetery. Sadler, Jr., who was a physician, is also buried there.

Ozbirn said that when fellow committee member Doris Hutcheson came up with the idea for the cemetery tour, Ozbirn didn't know much of the history of the cemetery, so she began doing research.

"I've been amazed since I started doing this research," Ozbirn said. "As small as it is, that cemetery has doctors, judges, state representatives all buried there. And David Owen was a Methodist minister who founded the Methodist church in Russellville. There are at least four Confederate soldiers up there and two probate judges."

The probate judges are Sidney Stokes Anderson and James Harvey Trimble. Anderson, who served as probate judge from 1866-1876, died in office. He was a Confederate soldier in the 27th Alabama Infantry, and he lost an arm in the war. Anderson was known as the 'one-armed judge.'

Trimble, who died in 1877, served the people of Franklin County from 1850-1862. They will be among the citizens portrayed on Saturday.

While there are many different families represented at Sadler, Ozbirn found something interesting while doing her research.

"Everybody in that cemetery is somehow connected to each other," Ozbirn said. "The Sadlers and the Owens are connected. The Scotts, Bendalls and Trimbles—there's a connection running through the people there."

Sadler Cemetery is owned and maintained by the City of Russellville today. "Shannon and his staff do a real good job keeping it clean and maintaining the cemetery," Ozbirn said.

'SAFETY,' from page 1

installed last week as a temporary barrier, in order to determine whether the changes actually work to make the intersection safer, according to Russellville Police chief Chris Hargett.

Eastbound traffic on Gandy now must turn south onto 43, or, if the driver wants to travel north on 43, he or she must turn north onto the access road in front of Russellville Hospital. Northbound traffic on 43 can still turn west onto Gandy, and traffic exiting the AT&T store parking lot has a south exit that allows it to enter the turn lane to travel west onto Gandy.

There is also a turn lane for southbound traffic on 43 to turn east into the AT&T store parking lot.

Some confusion has been seen by drivers due to the fact that the turn lanes are at the front end, rather than the far end, of the former median. Alabama law requires vehicles entering a median to turn into the far portion of the median in order to make a left turn and not block traffic.

Some drivers have complained that the turn lanes allow for limited sight distance because their view is obstructed by vehicles wanting to turn the other way.

Hargett said officers monitored the turn lanes this week and stopped vehicles who went through turns the wrong way. He said no tickets were written. Rather, the officers explained to drivers what they did wrong.

"We haven't written any tickets there yet. Not that we won't, but we haven't yet," Hargett said. "We're just trying to give people a chance to get familiar with the changes at the intersection."

"Most of our wrecks there result from people darting from Gandy or the other side coming out from the AT&T store. If we alleviate that, we hope to drastically reduce the number of crashes."

Hargett said the confusion about the turn lanes comes from drivers misinterpreting the turn lanes as a median.

"It's no longer a median, so median rules don't apply. These are turn lanes now," Hargett said. "People are confusing themselves by saying it's a median. Just observe the markings and signage, and there should be no problem."

As for the limited sight distance to cross 43, Hargett said he understood the problem and he encouraged patience.

"That's the biggest issue right now, is complaints about not being able to see," Hargett said. "We recommend just being patient and letting the larger vehicle that can see over you go first. A lot of it is just a patience issue."

Hargett said ALDOT officials will return later this year and install a 170-foot turn lane on the south side of 43 to allow vehicles an easier way to approach the intersection.

"The turn lane should help and move people a little further in on the turn," Hargett said.

Police will continue to monitor the intersection to help determine if the temporary improvements should be made permanent or be removed.

Ozbirn said that people attending the cemetery tour should park their vehicles in the Franklin County Courthouse parking lot on Limestone Street.

Saturday's cemetery tour will be the penultimate event related to the Bicentennial, which celebrates the 200th birthday of Franklin County, the City of Russellville and the State of Alabama. The final event, a 200th Birthday Banquet, will take place Thursday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the A.W. Todd Centre.

As the committee brainstormed ideas for events, Hutcheson came up with the cemetery tour. Her great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Dixon, is buried there, and Hutcheson will portray her on Saturday.

Dixon's husband Joseph is also buried at Sadler, as is his father, Michael Dixon, recognized as the first white man to come to Tusculumbia and settle in Franklin County. He would later come to Russellville and operate a hotel, Ozbirn said.

Tickets for the birthday dinner are \$15 and include a full, historically representative dinner of smoked chicken, pinto beans, turnip greens, potato salad, cornbread and a fried pie. There will be door prizes given away as well as a drawing for the centerpieces on each of the 30 tables.

There will also be a winner drawn for a large gift basket from among all citizens who have completed the Franklin County Passport tour.

"We want this to be a night everyone will remember," Ozbirn said. "We're not only celebrating Russellville's 200th birthday but also the county and our state. That's three birthdays of 200 years, and to me that is a big deal."

Tickets for the November 21 dinner may be purchased by calling the Franklin County Archives at 256-332-8827.

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Yard Sale. Fri./Sat. Oct. 4/5. 7 a.m.-until. 1545 Hwy. 56, Russellville. Home décor, furniture, bedding, clothing, shoes, lots of misc.

Estate Sale October 4-5. Friday from 8am-4pm, Saturday from 8am-2pm. 10465 Hwy. 75 Russellville. Tools, furniture, clothes, kitchenware, books, rugs, Christmas items, lots of misc. items.

Yard Sale. Fri./Sat. Oct. 4/5. 368

Glenwood Ave., Russellville. One mile out Underwood Road, left on Glenwood Ave. 10th house on right. Couch, desk, lamps, adult, kids clothing. Toys, books, hunting clothes and more!

Union Community Annual Yard Sale. Fri./Sat. Oct. 4/5. 7 a.m. Union

Community Center, 5988 Hwy. 93. Part of a 15-mile sale from Union Community Center to Pebble School. Includes Hwy. 81, 93 and 79.

Breakfast, lunch and craft items for sale. Free spaces available for Sellers. For more information, call Stanley Champion at 256-332-0602.

You're invited to the annual 15-Mile Community Yard Sale on Friday & Saturday, October 4 & 5. More than 100 families participating! \$10 per space per day at Pebble Community Center. \$12 per campsite per night at Pebble

Community Center. Restrooms and concessions available at Pebble and Union Community Centers. Contact Margaret Crane at Pebble Community Center 205-486-

3285 or Carla Waldrep at 205-269-7443.

Huge yard sale this Saturday, Oct. 5 at 10821 Hwy. 43 South. Last driveway on the right before Franklin Homes.

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'PROGRAMS,' from page 4

WIOA funds the One-Stop Career Centers (managed by DOL) and also provides Rapid Response teams to affected plants that are closing. Their goal is to keep as many workers working and retrain, through financial assistance and scholarships, those workers that need new skills to remain viable employees.

The **AWC or Alabama Workforce Council** is an advisory council whose main mission is to facilitate the strategic workforce agenda across Alabama to ensure that the goals are achieved. The AWC, made up of business and industry leaders, routinely advises and promotes legislative matters to continually improve the workforce system in Alabama.

AlabamaWorks is the overarching brand that was a product of the AWC and serves as a net-

work of interconnected providers of workforce services, including all of the governmental, educational and private sector components that train, prepare and match job seekers with employers.

The **RWCs or Regional Workforce Councils** (7) focus their attention on a more local level. Each council is made up of business and local leaders from their respective counties and are directed to help identify issues in the workforce and plan strategically for how to overcome any obstacles.

Then there is the **Alabama Office of Apprenticeship or AOA**, originally created by legislation in 2016 as Apprenticeship Alabama. New legislation in 2019 created a state apprenticeship agency that will now serve as the central hub for certifying and managing apprenticeships

here in Alabama.

AOA will now be able to certify not only Registered Apprenticeship Programs but also the new Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPS). The new IRAPs are for apprenticeships in more non-traditional business sectors such as tech companies or healthcare.

We have taken these five feeder roads and merged them into our "Workforce Superhighway" that ultimately leads the state to the goal of "Success Plus," Governor Kay Ivey's plan to have more than 500,000 credentialed workers in Alabama by 2025.

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Week 6 in the SEC

Last week's record: 4-0
Year-to-date record: 17-3
This week's games:
Utah State at LSU (-27.5) –
11:00 on SECN



Mike Self
Sports Editor

With only three conference games on the docket for a light first Saturday in October, we'll add this one into the mix as well. At the very least, it gives us a chance to mention LSU's passing numbers, which are insane.

Joe Burrow leads the nation in completion rate at 80.6 percent and ranks second in yards per game at more than 380. His 17 touchdown passes are tied for third, and he's the second-highest rated passer in the country behind only Jalen Hurts.

Burrow is spreading the ball around to a group of receivers that could give Alabama's guys a run for their money. Ja'Marr Chase, Justin Jefferson and Terrace Marshall, Jr. have already combined for 61 catches for 1,093 yards and 16 scores. Not a bad month's work.

The Tigers (who lead the nation in scoring at 57.8 points per game) have home dates later this month against Florida and Auburn, plus that trip to Tuscaloosa on November 9 you may have heard about, but no amount of looking ahead could make this one close.

The Pick: LSU 52 Utah State 21
Auburn (-3) at Florida – 2:30 on CBS

Auburn gets a chance on Saturday to add to what may already be the nation's best body of work to this point.

The offensive lines and quarterbacks will be in the crosshairs in a game featuring two elite defenses. Expect points to be at a premium, but the strides made by Bo Nix last week in a rout of Mississippi State were noteworthy. [The freshman drastically improved his down-field accuracy and threw for 335 yards and two touchdowns.]

Nix is also supported by a much better running game that Florida counterpart Kyle Trask. [The Tigers average a yard more per carry and 110 yards more per game on the ground than the Gators.] That, combined with another dominant effort from the D-line, should be enough to keep Auburn unbeaten.

The Pick: Auburn 24 Florida 20
Georgia (-25) at Tennessee – 6:00 on ESPN

The Bulldogs are on the short list of best teams in the country, ranking third nationally with 6.9 yards per carry and sixth in points allowed at 10.0 per game. Tennessee is in disarray.

If you can't beat Georgia State, you're probably not beating Georgia. Nothing to see here. Move along.

The Pick: Georgia 41 Tennessee 10
Vanderbilt at Ole Miss (-7) – 6:30 on SECN

Ole Miss quarterback John Rhys Plumlee looked dynamic at times while rushing for more than 100 yards against Alabama. He's a perfect fit for the Rich-Rod offense. The Rebels should get their second—and most likely their last—SEC win of the year.

The Pick: Ole Miss 34 Vanderbilt 27

Zero-sum game



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Hollimon (52) and Ashley (7) have helped lead an offense averaging better than 40 points and 400 total yards per game, while Hubbard (15) and Gaspar (45) are spearheading a defense that just recorded Russellville's first shutout since October of 2015.

With their first shutout win in four years, the Golden Tigers secured a 5-0 start for the second straight season. Up next: A trip to Moulton to take on the rival Red Devils.

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - Ever since taking over the Russellville program in the spring of last year, John Ritter has fully immersed himself in the history and tradition of Golden Tiger football. His singular purpose is to see to it that he and his players meet—and ultimately exceed—the lofty standards set by the coaches and players who came before them.

With that in mind, Ritter understood better than anyone the significance of what his team—and, in particular, second-year coordinator Chris Balentine and his defense—accomplished last Friday night at Golden Tiger Stadium. That defense picked off a pair of passes and held Haleyville to a meager 121 total yards of offense in a 35-0 rout, Russellville's first shutout win since a 6-0 victory over Cullman on October 30, 2015.

“It was very important. We’ve been wanting a shutout all season,” said Brooks Scott, a junior inside linebacker. “We’ve been so close and so close, and we finally pulled it all together and got it done. It feels amazing to be a part of the team that finally got one after four years.”

“That’s something we’ve talked about since Week One—breaking a four-year streak,” said Ritter, whose team secured a 5-0 start for the second straight season. “That’s a bunch of football games and a bunch of wins between 2015 and 2019 without a shutout. We wrote a zero on the board before the game started. We wanted to have zero turnovers, zero mistakes and give up zero points. I thought we played really fast and physical on defense and limited an offense that’s unconventional in today’s football because you just don’t see it that much.”

Unbeaten Tigers open big two-week stretch with showdown at Sheffield

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Balanced on offense and dominant on defense, No. 10 Red Bay is off to a 5-0 start for the first time since 2016 and the third time in six seasons under head coach Michael Jackson.

The next order of business for the Tigers (2-0 in Class 2A, Region 7) is to zero in on their first region championship since 2015, and they can take a significant step toward that goal with a win at Sheffield on Friday night.

Preparing for a high-stakes meeting with the Bulldogs (4-2, 2-1) is nothing new for Jackson, whose 47-14 record at Red Bay includes a 1-2 mark against Sheffield.

"I've watched a lot of Sheffield over the last few years," Jackson said on Sunday night. "We've had some big games with them. They are extremely athletic, especially in the secondary and at the offensive skill positions. They're as good as anybody around in those spots. Their quarterback [senior Khori Bowling] has been starting over there for a while now, and he's a really good player. They have a couple of tall receivers [sophomore Devin Doss and junior A.J. Cherry] on the outside, and they throw the deep ball as well as anybody.

"They like to play that 7-on-7, and they do it really well."

Bowling helped the Bulldogs rally from an early 16-0 deficit to beat R.A. Hubbard 34-22 last Friday, throwing for 271 yards and three touchdowns while also rushing for a pair of scores. He'll now face a Red Bay defense allowing an average of just 9.2 points and 178.0 total yards per game on the season.

The Tigers have held their first five opponents to an average of just 81.4 passing yards per game. Phil Campbell has been the only team to move the ball through the air on Red Bay, throwing for nearly 200 yards and three touchdowns in Week 1.



PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW

Holt had four catches for 84 yards last week in a rout of Belmont and is a key cog in the Tigers' explosive passing attack. Meanwhile, Red Bay's defense (below) is allowing just 9.2 points per game on the season.

But the Tigers also had four interceptions (including pick-sixes by corner Elijah Luster and linebacker Cam McKinney) in that game, cruising to a 54-20 rout.

The strength of coordinator Jamie Purser's veteran unit is a big, physical front six led by ends Alex Kennedy and Logan Scott (both juniors) and tackles Levi Blanton (a sophomore) and Braden Parker (a freshman). That foursome has already totaled 100 tackles on the year, and they're backed up by a pair of outstanding linebackers in McKinney (49 tackles this season) and fellow junior Gavin Edgmon (team-high 56 tackles, including 15 last week in a 43-16 rout of Belmont).

It will be the job of that defensive front to put pressure on Bowling and make sure he doesn't have time to sit back in the pocket and dial up those deep down-field throws that define the Bulldogs' attack.

"Even if we don't sack the quarterback, we can limit their passing game by getting pressure on him and getting in his vision," Jackson said. "We have to force him to get rid of the ball and make some of those timing throws rather than letting him sit back there and choose who he wants to throw

it to."

On the other side of the ball, the Tigers will enter Friday's game on a roll after racking up a season-high 507 yards of total offense against Belmont. They rushed 40 times for 260 yards (including a career-high 104 yards and two touchdowns on 19 carries by junior tailback Hunter King), and junior quarterback Jalen Vinson threw for a career-high 247 yards on 11-for-18 passing.

Red Bay dominated the 'chunk-plays' category, finishing the night with 16 plays of 10-plus yards compared to just two for Belmont—one of which was a 65-yard touchdown pass late in the fourth quarter.

"We played well on both sides of the ball," said Jackson, whose team broke open the game with three third-quarter touchdowns and led 36-0 going to the fourth. "We threw the ball well, and we had a big game running the ball. We were able to do some good things, especially in that third quarter. Our offensive line did a good job in pass protection and in the run game, too. That was probably the best game our offensive line has played."

The solid work up front by center Dylan Hester, left guard Dakota Vinson, right guard Levi Raper, left tackle Dominick Brown and right tackle Preston Sides, along with that of H-back Caleb Seeley, allowed the Tigers' skill players to flourish. King had a pair of touchdown runs early in the big third quarter, and Vinson had plenty of time to exploit the seams deep down the field in Belmont's Cover 2 defense.

Senior receiver Arden Hamilton had another big night, catching six passes for a career-high 146 yards, and junior receiver Mason Holt added four grabs for 84 yards.

"A lot of times on offense, it's just about taking what the defense gives you," said Jackson, whose team is now averaging 33.8 points on the strength of a balanced attack (184.8 passing yards per game, 167.0 rushing yards per game). "The passing game we had on Friday was completely different than the one we had against Addison [in a 16-10 win on September 13] because of the defense Belmont was playing. They were in Cover 2, and we were able to get the ball into the seams and throw some deep balls on the outside."

When Vinson wasn't finding Hamilton or Holt for big plays down the field, he was hurting Belmont

See 'SHOWDOWN,' page 17



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COURTESY PHOTO

The Belgreen High School varsity volleyball team won its second straight championship at the Jenna Memorial Invitational, held recently in Cherokee. The Lady Bulldogs scored wins over Colbert Heights, Tharptown, Mars Hill, Cherokee and Covenant Christian. They were 10-0 in set play and improved their season record to 24-9.

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Leindecker leads short-handed Phil Campbell past rival Phillips

Staff reports

In the wake of the previous week's late-game brawl with Vina, Phil Campbell was without 17 players and head coach Kevin Barnwell (all serving suspensions handed down by the AHSAA) for last Friday night's home game with Phillips.

But the Bobcats *did* have Trey Leindecker. And that, along with an inspired defensive effort, was more than enough. Leindecker, a junior tailback, gashed the Bears for a pair of 80-plus-yard touchdown runs and finished the night with a career-high 327 yards on just 16 carries, leading short-handed Phil Campbell (which dressed only 14 players) to a 29-0 win.

Leindecker entered the night with 372 yards on 55 carries through the first four games, and he nearly matched that total last Friday. The speedy junior got the scoring started late in the first quarter with an 86-yard touchdown run, staking the Bobcats (3-2) to a 6-0 lead.

Senior Ben Williams added a three-yard touchdown run with 8:26 left in the first half, and Leindecker ran in the two-point conversion to make it 14-0. Leindecker's second touchdown run of the night, a 13-yarder, came with 31 seconds left in the half and made it 20-0.

Williams, who finished the night with 85 rushing yards on 17 carries, found Blain Goodson for the

two-point conversion to send Phil Campbell into the locker room with a 22-0 lead.

Leindecker ripped off another long run midway through the third quarter, scoring from 82 yards out to make it 29-0.

Phil Campbell's defense took care of the rest, holding Phillips (0-6) to 119 total yards on 41 plays and recording its second straight shutout. The Bears threw for 91 yards on 11-for-23 passing and managed just 28 rushing yards on 18 attempts.

Sophomore defensive end John Randle Herring led the charge defensively for the Bobcats, recording five solo tackles (including three for loss) and a sack. Leindecker added four solo stops (one for a loss), and Goodson also had four tackles. Gage Baker had 1.5 tackles for loss, and Austin Douthit recorded one sack and 1.5 tackles for loss.

Aside from the two-point conversion from Williams to Goodson, Phil Campbell did not attempt a pass all night. The Bobcats rushed for 429 yards on 42 attempts, an average of 10.2 yards per carry. Leindecker averaged 20.4 yards on his 16 rushing attempts.

For the season, Leindecker now has rushed for 699 yards on 71 attempts, an average of 9.8 yards per carry. His eight rushing touchdowns have covered an average of 43.8 yards. Phil Campbell (1-1 in Class 3A, Region 8) will return to action Friday with a region game at Westminster Christian.

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Local Tang Soo Do students bring home awards



Pictured above are: Front row - Susanne Belew, Jennifer Hogan; Back row - Maye Kinard, Stephen Strickland, Deryll Banning, Tom Jones, Cade Parker, Joy Brown, Hannah Aycock.

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

Students of the Russellville Tang Soo Do martial art studio recently traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana to compete in the World Tang Soo Do Association Region 6 tournament.

The tournament included students from various studios located in Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama.

Students who participated in the tournament could medal in different aspects of Tang Soo Do ranging from weapons forms to empty hand forms and even sparring.

After the tournament was finished, seven students from the Russellville Tang Soo Do studio brought home hardware. The students and their awards are:

•Deryll Banning: 3rd place in weapons form, 3rd place in empty hand form.

•Susanne Belew: Senior Female Grand Champion, 1st place in weapons form, 1st place in empty hand form, 1st place in sparring.

•Joy Brown: 2nd place in sparring, 3rd place in weapons form.

•Hannah Aycock: 1st place in empty hand form, 2nd place in weapons form, 2nd place in sparring.

•Jennifer Hogan: Adult Female Grand Champion, 1st place in weapons form, 1st place in sparring, 2nd place in empty hand form.

•Stephen Strickland: 3rd place in weapon form, 3rd place in empty hand form, 3rd place in sparring.

•Cade Parker: 3rd place in weapon form, 3rd place in empty hand form, 3rd place in sparring.

Studio owner and instructor Tom Jones said that classes are held in Russellville at American Health and Fitness on Monday and Thursday, with the basic/youth class from 3:30-4:30 p.m. and the adult/advanced class going from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Students may enroll for classes anytime beginning at age 6.



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Wildcats prep for homecoming test from 6-0 Eagles

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Colbert Heights head coach Taylor Leathers was at church on Sunday morning when an elderly lady approached him to find out who the Wildcats were playing this week for homecoming.

Leathers informed the woman that Decatur Heritage would be paying a visit to The Mountain on Friday, and she responded with a follow-up question.

"She said, 'Are they any good?' And I said, 'They're undefeated.' Her next question was, 'Why in the world are ya'll playing them for homecoming?'"

Leathers couldn't help but laugh on Sunday night as he recalled the conversation—and the way in which he defended himself.

"I told her, 'At the time we scheduled the game, we didn't know they were gonna be undefeated,'" he said with a smile. "It's not like I chose them as our homecoming opponent last week."

The Eagles (6-0 and ranked No. 9 in Class 1A) have indeed been flying high this season, topping the 50-point mark in each of their last two games and averaging 43.5 points per contest on the year.

"I guess most coaches probably won't say this, but usually for homecoming you try to schedule a game you think will be an easy win," Leathers said.

"That's definitely not gonna be the case this week. This will be a very big challenge for us. Decatur Heritage is undefeated, and they've got a solid win [28-20 on September 13] over a very good R.A. Hubbard team.

"They're a spread team that's pretty balanced with the run and pass, similar to Westminster Christian. They like to spread the ball around, throw some screens, get the ball to the perimeter. They use the quarterback run a lot, and their skill guys are impressive. They have four receivers out there who can catch the ball. They play three different quarterbacks, so we'll have to do a good job of knowing who's on the field, getting lined up right, reading our keys and being where we're supposed to be."

Colbert Heights (4-2) has bounced back nicely from a 34-7 loss at Lauderdale County on September 13, shutting out East Lawrence for the first three quarters of a 28-14 region win and then blanking county rival Cherokee 56-0 last Friday. The Wildcats also played a solid game defensively in their most impressive win to date, a 27-20 victory over Westminster Christian on September 6. In that game, Colbert Heights used a chain-moving, ball-control approach on offense to chew up the clock and limit scoring opportunities for Westminster's high-powered attack. Leathers said a similar approach could be in order on Friday against Decatur Heritage.

"We've been playing really well defensively the last couple of games," Leathers said, "and the best way we can assist our defense in this game is to control the football and keep their offense off the field. We have to eliminate turnovers, move the chains and control the football."

The Wildcats certainly possess the running game to get the job done. They rushed for 283 yards and seven touchdowns on just 21 attempts in the rout of Cherokee, averaging a stellar 13.5 yards per carry in their old-fashioned double-wing attack. Junior backs Carson Shaw (60 yards and a touchdown on three carries) and Gage Pugh (57 yards and two scores on four carries) made the most of their limited work in the blowout win, helping Colbert Heights build a 49-0 lead by halftime. Sophomore quarterback Andrew Tedford ran twice for 45 yards and a touchdown, and freshman Tyler Wagnon added 31 yards and a score on two carries.

Skylar Balta (three carries for 30 yards), Dakota Vaughn (a 25-yard touch-

down run on his only carry) and eighth-grader Braxton McDaniel (five carries for 35 yards and a score) also contributed to the big rushing night.

For the season, Shaw leads Colbert Heights with 571 yards and six touchdowns on 71 carries. Pugh is close behind with 513 yards and four scores on 77 attempts, and Tedford has chipped in with 67 carries for 243 yards and four touchdowns.

If the Wildcats need a little extra incentive on Friday, they need look no further than last year, when they bounced back from an 0-3 start to win six of their final seven regular-season games. Their only stumble during that closing stretch was a 23-22 loss to Decatur Heritage in Week 6, when an inability to finish drives and a failed two-point conversion attempt in the final minute proved too much to overcome.

"We turned the ball over on downs twice inside the ten-yard line, and we had an untimely turnover," Leathers said. "We scored late, and instead of kicking the extra point we decided to go for two and try and end the game right there. We came up short. The official in the back of the end zone called it a completed pass, but the side official said we trapped it."

"Our players might have overlooked them last year because they're a 1A school. That won't happen again. We know how big of a challenge this will be for us."

Friday will be the Wildcats' final non-region game of the year. Their last three games (home to Lexington, at Clements, home to Phil Campbell) will determine where they finish in the Class 3A, Region 8 race. [Colbert Heights is currently 2-1 in region play.]

"We need to win out," said Leathers, who has led the Wildcats to the playoffs in each of the previous two seasons. "We've got four games left, and we need to win 'em all. The Decatur Heritage game could be big for us in a tiebreaker situation. They could end up with nine wins. Then we've got those three big region games to finish out the season."

"Every time we step on the field from here on out, we need to win."

'SHOWDOWN', from page 14

with his legs, rushing for a pair of touchdowns in the first half and finishing the night with 59 yards on just four carries. For the season, Vinson leads the team with 306 rushing yards and six touchdowns on 40 attempts, an average of 7.7 yards per carry. He's also closing in on 1,000 yards through the air in his first season as the starter, having thrown for 924 yards and five touchdowns with just one interception on 50-for-90 passing.

Hamilton has posted back-to-back 100-yard games and now has 21 catches for 507 yards, putting him on pace for a 1,000-yard season. His five touchdown catches include long gainers of 74, 62 and 60 yards. Holt is second on the team with 14 catches for 250 yards.

Senior back/receiver Colyn Humphres has accounted for 241 yards from scrimmage and three touchdowns. King, meanwhile, has rushed for 284 yards and two scores on 62 carries.

After traveling to Sheffield this week, Red Bay will head to Leighton next Friday to take on Colbert County at C.T. Manley Stadium. The Indians (5-1, 3-0) are playing at Addison (4-2, 1-1) this week. The next two Fridays will go a long way toward determining how the Region 7 race shakes out this season.

"This is a big two-game stretch coming up for us," Jackson said.

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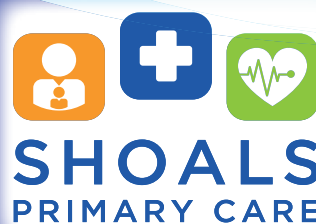
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'ZERO,' from page 13

"I don't what they had," he added with a smile, "but I know they had zero points on that scoreboard."

Rest assured, Ritter's players knew it, too.

"It was very important. We've been wanting a shutout all season," said Brooks Scott, a junior inside linebacker. "We've been so close and so close, and we finally pulled it all together and got it done. It feels amazing to be a part of the team that finally got one after four years."

The streak of no shutouts nearly reached its 41st game midway through the first half last Friday when the visiting Lions (2-3) put together a long drive and earned themselves a first-and-goal from the Russellville three-yard line. Scott and company stuffed 210-pound quarterback Eli Musso for a gain of one, and then Haleyville started moving in the wrong direction.

A pair of penalties left the Lions facing third-and-goal from the seven, and they lost 12 yards on a fumbled option pitch. Finally, the 15-play drive ended with no points when a bad snap prevented kicker Jacob Lolley from trying a 36-yard field goal.

"We had our heads down when they got down there," Scott said. "Then they called timeout, and we all got together. Jamal [Hubbard, a senior outside linebacker] got us all up, and we were like, 'We're not letting them in.' Finally, they got some penalties, and we stopped them."

Haleyville would run only four plays in Golden Tiger territory the rest of the night. The last of those plays was an under-pressure fourth-down pass by Musso that junior corner Caden Watts picked off and returned 54 yards all the way to the Lion 26 early in the fourth quarter. It was Russellville's second interception of the night [Hubbard had one in the first quarter], and both led directly to Golden Tiger touchdowns.

"Any time you can create turnovers and give yourselves more possessions, the odds are in your favor," Ritter said. "In a game like this, you're lucky to have the ball six times. If you score on three out of six, that's 21 points. They're gonna have it six times, too. The key in a game where the other team is playing ball-control and huddling and taking the whole 40 seconds [on the play clock] is to create more opportunities to score."

"When you block a punt [as junior corner Ashaad Williams did against Haleyville, setting up another short touchdown drive by the Golden Tigers] and create two turnovers with interceptions, that gave us the ball three more

times."

The Lions, who primarily operate out of the Wing-T, finished the game with 62 rushing yards on 38 attempts—an average of just 1.6 yards per carry. That continued an early-season trend that has seen Russellville hold its first five opponents to an average of just 93.4 yards per game on the ground and 2.7 yards per carry.

"Read your keys, go to the ball and hit people," Scott said of his team's defensive approach against Haleyville. "Hit people is the main key. They weren't the most physical team we've played, but they were pretty physical. We were more physical than them, though. That was one of the keys for us—keep hitting them, keep pounding, keep pounding and make them quit."

Russellville's undersized yet feisty defensive front (led by senior Jose Gaspar and juniors Angel Moreno and Angel Martinez) held its own against Haleyville's massive offensive line, allowing linebackers like Hubbard, Scott and junior Cody Logan (who blind-sided Musso for a sack and a loss of six yards on the play immediately prior to Watts' interception) to fly around and make plays.

"They're probably the best people on the field," Scott said of Russellville's D-line rotation, which also includes juniors Will Calhoun and Omarion Jackson. "They take up all the blocks and let me have tackles and stuff. I love every one of them."

The Golden Tiger defense set the tone early, forcing a quick three-and-out, and the offense wasted no time in finding its rhythm. Sophomore tailback Airreon "Boots" McCulloch got things rolling with back-to-back runs of 10 and 12 yards, and senior quarterback Jacob Bishop hooked up with junior receiver Cole Barnett for a gain of 32 down to the Haleyville nine. Three plays later, on third-and-goal from the seven, Bishop rolled to his right and found senior receiver J.D. Price in the end zone for his first career varsity touchdown catch, making it 7-0.

"That was actually the first time we've scored on the first drive," said Ritter, whose team is now averaging 40.4 points per game on the season—a shade better than the 40.2 points per game put up by last year's squad. "We had been 0 for 4. We couldn't score on the first drive, for whatever reason. We would get close, but it would fizzle out. Tonight we started extremely fast."

On the first play of Haleyville's next drive, Hubbard snatched a deflected pass out of the air for an interception, and McCulloch broke loose again for a gain of 15. Four plays later, on third-and-12 from the Lion 28, Bishop fired a screen pass to junior receiver Rowe Gallagher, who picked up a block on the left edge and blazed to the end zone for the first of his two touchdowns on the night to make it 14-0 right out of the gate.

Bishop made a pair of big plays on Russellville's final possession of the half, picking up 21 yards on the ground and then finding Gallagher behind the defense on third-and-25 for a gain of 46 yards all the way down to the Haleyville one. McCulloch scored his sixth rushing touchdown of the year on the next play, and the Golden Tigers took a 21-0 lead in the locker room.

Pretty much the only drama the rest of the way came on Russellville's second drive of the third quarter, courtesy of a Saban-esque sideline rant by the fiery Ritter. Following back-to-back 14-yard runs by McCulloch and senior Austin Ashley, Barnett appeared to make a diving catch of a Bishop pass at the Haleyville one-yard line. After the play, senior center Trenton Hollimon and a Lion defender got tangled up with one another in an apparent scrum near the Golden Tiger sideline.

Meanwhile, after several seconds had elapsed, officials ruled Bishop's pass incomplete. [As it turned out, the play would have been negated anyway by

See 'ZERO,' page 19

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Rowe Gallagher Junior WR, Russellville

Gallagher recorded his third two-touchdown game of the season last Friday, helping the Golden Tigers improve to 5-0 with a 35-0 rout of Haleyville. Gallagher caught scoring passes of 28 and nine yards and also had a 46-yard reception down to the one-yard line that set up another Russellville touchdown. He finished the game with four catches for 99 yards.

On the season, Gallagher leads the Golden Tigers with 15 catches for 292 yards and six touchdowns. He has a team-high six receptions of 20-plus yards.



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Congrats to Week 5 winner OXTEN YOUNG, who correctly picked all 10 games and also picked Auburn to beat Mississippi State 38-24!

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Week 6: October 5

Bailey's Pick

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Georgia at Tennessee	Georgia	
Vanderbilt at Ole Miss	Ole Miss	
UCF at Cincinnati	UCF	
Iowa at Michigan	Michigan	
Texas at West Virginia	Texas	
Michigan State at Ohio State	Ohio State	
California at Oregon	Oregon	
Washington at Stanford	Washington	
Virginia Tech at Miami	Miami	
Tiebreaker Score:	Auburn	Florida
Your Name:		
Phone number:		

'ZERO,' from page 18

a penalty against Russellville for an illegal man downfield.] Ritter was displeased with the call of an incomplete pass, and he was downright incensed when the officials assessed both teams with offsetting personal fouls as a result of the apparent scrum involving Hollimon.

"I was upset they called it incomplete," Ritter said after the game, "but their guy was laying on the ground and had Trenton Hollimon by the face mask and was jerking him down, so it looks like Trenton is kind of jumping on him when the boy wouldn't let him up. We get a 15-yard penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct when we're trying to get off of him. It happened right there in front of us, and I kind of lost my cool.

"There were some other things that happened throughout the game that were kind of questionable on Haleyville's part, but if that's the way they do things then that's the way they do things."

Ritter's rant—which included a long-distance hat toss that probably had Scott, an accomplished discus thrower, taking notes—was directed at the officials, but it served another purpose as well.

"I think we had hit a lull," said Ritter, whose team had driven all the way to the Haleyville one-yard line on its first possession of the second half only to come away empty after missing a short field goal. "I kind of showed my tail, and I think our kids fed off that. I don't want that to become a habit for our team, but sometimes they need a spark. Sometimes they need to see their head coach fighting for them, and that's what I was doing—making sure they knew how intense the moment should be because of the situation. We needed to punch it in. They responded well, and I think we turned it on and finished the game strong."

So the hat-chucking tirade was a calculated move on the coach's part?

"A little bit," Ritter said with a smile.

If so, it seemed to work. Three plays later, Bishop found Gallagher on a corner route for a nine-yard touchdown, and Miguel Flores added the extra point to make it 28-0 with 1:55 left in the third. The Lions' ensuing drive ended with the Logan sack and the Watts interception, and Ashley capped off the scoring with a one-yard touchdown run—his fifth of the season—midway through the fourth to make it 35-0.

Bishop matched his season-high with three touchdown passes, throwing for 172 yards on 7-for-12 passing. He had four completions of 20-plus yards, including a 34-yarder to junior H-back Peyton Ray. Gallagher recorded his third two-touchdown game of the season and finished with four receptions for 99 yards.

"Like I told our kids," Ritter said, "if they can't be focused this week, if they can't come out and have a good week of practice, then they might be wearing the wrong colors. If you're in black and gold and you know Moulton is on the schedule, it's time to turn it up a notch."

Russellville ran for 206 yards as a team on 37 carries. Junior Caleb Matthews led the way with 71 yards on just six carries, all in the fourth quarter. McCulloch ran for 57 yards and a touchdown on 13 attempts, and Ashley carried 10 times for 56 yards and a score.

The Golden Tigers (3-0 in Class 5A, Region 7) will return to region play this Friday when they travel to Moulton to take on rival Lawrence County. The Red Devils (3-2, 2-1) are coming off a 27-25 win over Decatur last week.

Russellville and Lawrence County have waged more than their share of fierce battles in recent years. They've split the last two meetings (both at

RHS), with the Red Devils winning 25-6 in 2017 and the Golden Tigers bouncing back with a 53-32 win last year.

Highly anticipated showdowns with fellow unbeaten Hamilton (October 11) and top-ranked Jasper (October 18) are looming, but Ritter expects his team's full and undivided attention to be on Lawrence County this week.

"I want to see us play better each week," he said last Friday. "We played our best football of the first five games tonight. Our goal is to play better next week. Like I told our kids, if they can't be focused this week, if they can't come out and have a good week of practice, then they might be wearing the wrong colors. If you're in black and gold and you know Moulton is on the schedule, it's time to turn it up a notch."

At the regular season's halfway point, Russellville is averaging 413.4 yards of offense per game and 7.5 yards per play. The Golden Tigers are rushing for 253.8 yards per game and 6.4 yards per carry.

Ashley leads the team with 416 yards and five touchdowns on 71 attempts, and McCulloch has run for 315 yards and six touchdowns on 48 carries in four games. Matthews has rushed for 257 yards and two touchdowns on 38 attempts, and Bishop has carried 26 times for 197 yards and five touchdowns. All four of those players have rushed for 100-plus yards in at least one game this year.

The passing game has clicked as well, with Bishop throwing for 785 yards and nine touchdowns on 41-for-74 passing. Gallagher leads the team with 15 catches for 292 yards and six touchdowns, and Barnett has added 10 catches for 158 yards and a score.

Defensively, the Golden Tigers are allowing just 10.8 points and 145.0 total yards per game.

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