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10.09.19

# Hamilton on the mend after kidney transplant

Local man feels 'very blessed' after life-changing procedure

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Sunday, September 22, 2019, began like any other day for Russellville resident William Hamilton. When his phone rang at 8:40 a.m. though, Hamilton's life took an immediate dramatic turn.

It was the call Hamilton had awaited for more than four years. On the other end of the line was an employee of Vanderbilt University Medical Center informing Hamilton he needed to come to Nashville immediately, as a matching kidney was available for transplant.

"I knew we were three hours out, but I agreed to be there by 1 p.m.," Hamilton said. "Sunday afternoon they took me to surgery, and at 7:30 p.m. that evening they

got started.

"That call was very overwhelming and probably the best feeling I've ever felt in my life."

Hamilton, 48, was placed on the transplant list in 2015 after his kidneys deteriorated to the point that daily dialysis was required. Hamilton's kidney problems resulted from hypertension, a condition that went undiagnosed for many years.

"By the time I found out I had hypertension, my blood pressure was already extraordinarily high," Hamilton said. "I went to see Susan [Garner] at Dr. Keith Morrow's office with a nosebleed.

See 'HAMILTON,' Page 9



William Hamilton

# Local artist bringing '80s Country Tribute to Roxy October 17th

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Like Pac-Man video games, Eddie Murphy movies and the Sony Walkman, country music thrived in the 1980s.

And Russellville singer/songwriter Luke "L.A." Shepherd is hosting a night of music that will include some of the most popular songs from the decade when country music was still country.

An '80s Country Tribute with L.A. Shepherd and the Noise is set for Thursday, October 17 at 7 p.m., at Russellville's historic Roxy Theatre. Tickets for the show are \$7 for reserved seats in the front eight rows and \$5 for general admission seating.

See 'COUNTRY,' Page 9



Luke "L.A." Shepherd

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### Tye Walter Daily, age 30

Died Monday, September 30, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

### Otis Leroy Hawkins, Russellville, age 78

Died Saturday, September 28, 2019. Services and burial held in East Peoria, Illinois. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

### Gaye Borden Hester, Tuscumbia, age 80

Died Sunday, September 29, 2019. Graveside service held at Franklin Memory Gardens in Russellville. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

### Martha Campbell Jackson, Tuscumbia, age 77

Died Wednesday, October 2, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

### Edison Earl Potter, Russellville, age 91

Died Wednesday, October 2, 2019. Funeral held at Cherry Hill Baptist Church. Interment in Cherry Hill Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

### Jean Ann Reynolds, Russellville (formerly of Sarasota, FL), age 86

Died Tuesday, October 1, 2019. A celebration of her life will be held at Sarasota National Cemetery in Sarasota, FL at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, October 28. She will be laid to rest with her family.

### William Christopher "Chris" Sparks, Russellville, age 75

Died Monday, September 30, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

### Vicki Steward, Phil Campbell, age 57

Died Monday, September 30, 2019. Memorial service held at Blue Springs Free Will Baptist Church. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

### Wilmer Lee "Shorty" Warhurst, Russellville, age 85

Died Sunday, September 29, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Bethsaida Cemetery.

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# Governor visits RES as part of Bicentennial Tour

Brady Petree  
Franklin Free Press

Making her first public appearance since her recent diagnosis with lung cancer, Gov. Kay Ivey was all smiles inside the Russellville High School auditorium last Wednesday morning.

The appearance was a planned visit to Russellville City Schools as part of a 20-county tour to celebrate the state's bicentennial this year. In addition to visiting the 20 counties on her tour, Gov. Ivey also made sure to visit one school system in each of the 20 counties. Russellville Elementary School was designated an Alabama Bicentennial School of Excellence.

With an auditorium packed with excited Russellville students, Gov. Ivey spoke to how the bicentennial celebration, along with the projects that Russellville students had worked on to celebrate, spoke to the true spirit of Alabama.

"It makes me very proud to see Russellville Elementary School make this [bicentennial] such a high priority," Ivey said. "This project truly embodies the spirit of the Alabama bicentennial."

After giving a speech commending Russellville Elementary School on their fine work in celebrating the state's bicentennial, Ivey was treated to a performance of *America the Beautiful* by some of the elementary students. In addition to the festivities, Gov. Ivey honored fifth-grade history teacher Carol Fretwell with an official commendation for all of her hard work and dedication towards the bicentennial project and celebration.



PHOTO BY BRADY PETREE

Gov. Kay Ivey visited Russellville City Schools last Wednesday as part of a 20-county tour to celebrate the state's bicentennial this year. Russellville Elementary School was designated an Alabama Bicentennial School of Excellence.

# History takes center stage at PCES celebration

Brady Petree  
Franklin Free Press

In today's education system, math, science and reading tend to be the subjects that are prioritized while other subjects may accidentally get left behind. However, at Phil Campbell Elementary School one recent Thursday night, history took center stage.

More than 30 teachers participated in the "Doorways to History" presentation, which allowed for anyone to walk the halls of PCES and learn about different aspects of Alabama and its history.

Each teacher chose a subject or interesting fact about Alabama history and decorated their classroom door with pictures, fun facts and other information about their topic. Some of the topics chosen by the teachers ranged from famous athletes from Alabama to former capitals of the state to even unusual landmarks found throughout the state.

Juliann Riley is the fourth-grade Alabama History and Science teacher and spearheaded the "Doorways to History" project. Riley said she got the idea from a fellow teacher who had done something similar in the past just involving some of the basics of Alabama history. Thinking it was a great opportunity to teach the history of Alabama, Riley wanted to expand the previous project from years ago.

ect from years ago.

"The project from years ago mainly focused on famous people from Alabama, along with some other smaller topics," Riley said. "I thought, 'Why not expand this and do even more with it and do all kinds of Alabama history?' So I ran it by Principal Warhusrt, and she loved it, and from there we

See 'HISTORY,' page 11



PHOTO BY BRADY PETREE

Students and their parents attended a "Doorways to History" program at Phil Campbell Elementary on September 26 as part of the school's Bicentennial celebration.



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# Honey Do List: Mrs. O'Leary's hometown

I just happen to be sitting in Chicago's O'Hare airport waiting for my plane to take me back to "sweet home" Alabama, and since October is National Fire Prevention Month, my thoughts wandered to that famous Chicagoan, Mrs. O'Leary, and her cow, Daisy.

This duo, whether guilty or not, is forever tied to the Great Chicago Fire of 1871--October 8 to be exact. The fire lasted over two days, destroyed more than 3.5 square miles of the city, did more than \$2 million dollars in damage and killed more than 300 people. Hence, October is always the host of a fire safety campaign by the NFSA (National Fire Safety Association).

This year's campaign slogan is "Not every hero wears a cape. Plan and practice your escape." If you have school-age children, they will probably be talking about activities at school revolving around this event. You can access the website [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) to find out more.



Doug Green

**October always hosts an NFSA fire safety campaign. This year's campaign slogan is "Not every hero wears a cape. Plan and practice your escape."**

Over the next few weeks, this column will be dedicated to the same topic and things you can do to prepare and protect your family and get all family members involved in this very important activity.

Statistically, more than 3,500 people will die by fire this year. In 2018, 64 firefighters died on duty. Anyone can be subject to this danger at any time, and preparation and planning is important to every family.

By the way, Daisy was never proven guilty, and many things contributed to the severity of the Chicago fire. For example, the structures were mostly wooden at that time and a far cry from the 36-story hotel I just left.

Next week, elements of a family fire safety plan. Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

113 WASHINGTON AVE. NW  
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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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### Correction Policy

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

### Letters to the editor

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

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## My take Spruce Pine Day will be on this... here before you know it!

Hello friends! Now is the time to mark your calendars for Saturday, October 19 for a day full of food, fun and friendship. It's Spruce Pine Day!

Our community center has a new and relaxing environment because of a new paint job. Bring your appetite for our famous bean dinners, and come and enjoy the transformation. A well deserved thanks goes out to the three men who took the time to work on this project. They are Billy Herring, Zack Motes and Roger Cornelius.

I would like to thank our sponsors this year. We gained a few new ones, and I along with the other members appreciate our loyal sponsors for helping year after year. It's a good feeling in knowing we can depend on your continued support. With your help we are able to keep our center and museum maintained, our grass cut and take care of all the unexpected expenses that occur throughout the year.

Be sure to get in touch if you need a building to rent for birthdays, anniversaries or reunions; we've even had a few weddings performed throughout the year. Please know that how much we appreciate your continued support from the bottom of our hearts.

Shannon Pike and Zack Motes have done an excellent job with our vendors this year, and all of our spots are already filled. The variety is unimaginable for adults and kids. Excitement is an understatement; not just for me, but so many others. Come on out and have some fun and laughter! If that isn't enough for you, then you can enjoy dancing in the street. If you "can't" or "won't" dance, then bring a chair and sit and enjoy the variety of music throughout the

day. Jacob Green will start us off at 8 a.m., and following him will be the gospel trio Three Strong. Also, Phil Campbell's own "Bobcat Band" will perform. So many of you have friends with children or grandchildren in band and are just not able to go see them at the football games, so I decided to bring them to you. Dana Hill is a newcomer to Spruce Pine Day but not to the people of Russellville.

Jerry Martin was one of the singers that came to the center when we had musicians and singers weekly. Those were some fun times! Jerry Martin and Backwood is a band that will be performing. Jerry is well known, but the other members will be a surprise. Buford Parker was invited, and he volunteered his sound system to use throughout the day. I and the bands appreciate that. It will take less time changing bands, and that time can be used for sound checks.

The bluegrass band is bringing their own sound system. They require a few extras where their instruments can be heard. After all, they can only strum so loud! The Hallmark Sisters and Bluegrass Friends will be our final group of the day. The Hallmark Band has been here a few times and performed, but they had a few band members that couldn't make it so they gathered up some friends to participate. I appreciate the inconveniences they overcame to be a part of Spruce Pine Day! Thus, they renamed themselves for that day only!

Just so you know, there will be door prize drawings throughout the day. I hope to see you there!



Gail Motes



Here's why

Dear Dave,  
I've heard lots of different theories and recommendations when it comes to paying off debt. Why do you advise paying off debts from smallest to largest?

Marlee

Dear Marlee,  
A lot of people wonder the same thing when I bring up the debt snowball. Some think paying off the debt with highest interest rate first is the best approach. This may seem to make sense mathematically, but I realized a long time ago that debt is not a mathematics problem—it's a behavior problem.

Personal finance is 80 percent behavior, and only 20 percent head knowledge. Besides, if all those people were so great at math, they wouldn't be up to their eyeballs in debt in the first place!

The reason the debt snowball pays off debt from smallest to largest is that modifying your behavior and providing inspiration to get out of debt is more important than the math. Your probability of becoming wealthy is more closely connected to your behavior than your financial "sophistication" or academic pedigree.

When you pay off a small debt you experience success, and that gives you hope. Then, you move on to the next debt. When you pay that one off, and you've wiped out two debts, it really energizes you. At that point you start to get excited, and you begin to believe in yourself and in the fact you're actually on the road

to becoming debt-free!

Dave

It's not easy money

Dear Dave,  
I'm 35, and I've always wanted to own rental property. I think I've found a deal that would work for me. I want to take \$20,000 out of my thrift savings account to use as a down payment on the property. I could rent the place for \$1,400 a month, and my loan payment would be \$1,100 a month. What do you think about this idea?

Nathan

Dear Nathan,  
I love real estate, so I understand the allure. But what you're telling me is you want to cash out part of your retirement, get hit with a penalty and take on debt to buy an investment property. I wouldn't do it.

I've got a feeling you've never been a landlord before. Bringing in \$1,400 and paying out \$1,100 may seem like a good place to be, but you haven't figured all the risk into your equation. Rental properties just sit there empty sometimes. Other times you have renters who don't pay, repairs and people who just tear up things. In other words, you won't be able to count on an easy \$300 in your pocket every month.

Like I said, I totally get your fascination with real estate. But my advice is to save up and pay cash for one decent rental property to see if this game is really for you.

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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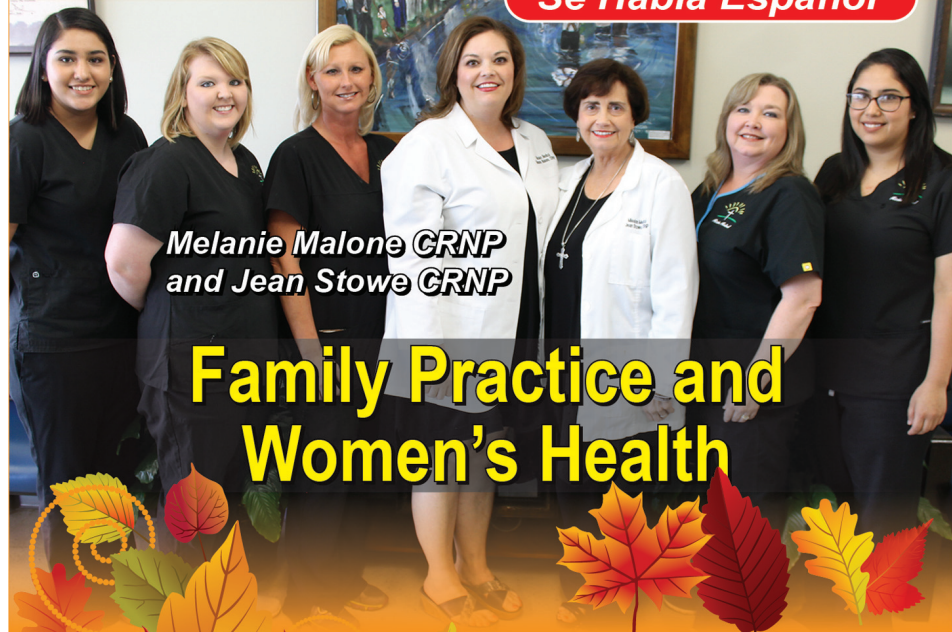
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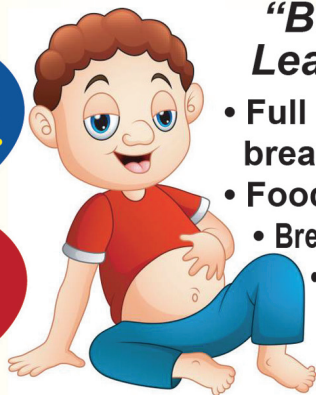
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# What's Happening

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

**R**ussellville 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.

**T**he sixth annual Senior Health Fair is set for this Thursday, October 10 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the A.W. Todd Center (201 South Washington Avenue, Russellville). There will be speakers, a free lunch and exhibitors. Pre-register at the Franklin County Extension office at (256) 332-8880.

**T**he Shoals Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will meet in the Media Room at Park Place (500 N. Montgomery Avenue, Sheffield) this Thursday, October 10 at 2:30 p.m. Wendy Sellers will lead the study "The Holy Spirit - God's Promised Gift" 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.

**A**merican 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.

**T**he Greenhill-Ezzell Cemetery Board will meet this Saturday, October 12 at 9 a.m. at Rustic Youth Camp. All friends of the cemetery are invited and encouraged to attend.

**S**hoals 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.

**T**he Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guest Billy Lawson 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.

**D**ivorceCare, 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.

**Y**ou 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.

**T**his Sunday, October 13, a special afternoon program will be held at 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church (521 College Avenue NW, Russellville, AL 35653) 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.

**S**t. Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will host its fall revival October 14-16 with nightly services at 7 p.m. Guest evangelist will be Rev. Bruce Williams, pastor of Enon United Methodist Church in Birmingham. The church is located at 40 Hamilton Street in Russellville.

**M**y Father's House (104 East Lawrence Street) will have special services with missionaries and evangelists Dr. Cyril Curtis and Adina Curtis from Northampton, England October 15-18 and October 20 and 27. Bible study in the morning and worship services in the evening. Morning service only on Tuesday, October 15 at 10:30 a.m. Services will be held Wednesday-Friday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Services will be held Sunday, October 20 and 27 at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. For prayer and information on upcoming events or church van ride, please call 256-460-1376. My Father's House...where everyone is special and always welcome!

**M**ark 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.

**T**he Alvin Baker Family Reunion will be held on Saturday, October 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Union Community Center (5988 Hwy. 93, Russellville, AL 35654). Friends and relatives are invited to bring a covered dish. Lunch will be served at noon. For more information, call Louise Baker at 256-398-8158 or Leila Moore at 256-460-0849.

**T**he gospel group Purpose will be singing at Gateway Church of God in Russellville on Sunday, October 20 at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is invited! For more information, call 256-627-8784.

**A**ll book lovers welcome! A Fall Book Swap will be hosted by the Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club on Wednesday, October 30 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Helen Keller Public Library Classroom, 511 North Main Street, Tuscumbia. For more information, email nancy537481@yahoo.com.



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# Dale invites listeners to board the Gospel Train

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

You won't hear the whistle blowing through town, but the Gospel Train is up and running again in Russellville.

Rev. Charles Dale restarted his long-running Southern Black Gospel radio show last month on local radio station WGOL-FM 100.7 and AM 920.

Dale hosts the four-hour show each Sunday evening from 5-9 p.m. The show previously aired on WKAX-AM and WGOL-FM for several years before going on hiatus in 2017.

**"There really is an absence of Black gospel music on the radio, and I want to bring this music out and promote it," Dale said.**

For Dale, the Gospel Train is more than just a music program. He hopes to use the time as a way to inform the community about news and events.

"This project is about being a voice for the community. We need to keep people informed of social concerns,

church news, community events and news," Dale said.

The Gospel Train features Black Southern gospel music selected by Dale. Songs includes music by the Canton Spirituals, the Soul Stirrers, the Jackson Southernaires, the late Willie Banks, the Messengers and many more classic songs.

"There really is an absence of Black gospel music on the radio, and I want to bring this music out and promote it," Dale said. "There are a lot of people who enjoy it, and this provides a forum for people to listen and discover they really like it."

Dale said he will regularly update the program with new music for listeners to enjoy.

To submit news or community events or announcements to air on the Gospel Train, email them to [jfp@franklinmediagroup.net](mailto:jfp@franklinmediagroup.net).

The show is sponsored by Emmanuel Furniture and Emmanuel Variety, Tires and More, Homestead Cafe, Freddie Mills Body Shop and Mexico Cakes and Bakery.

For advertising and sponsorship information on the Gospel Train, call 256-332-0214.



Charles Dale



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# Nix pleads guilty to felony charge

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

A Russellville man pled guilty Monday to the felony charge of Assault 2nd degree and agreed to a 15-year sentence.

Damian Lee Nix, 30, entered the plea in Franklin County Circuit Court after reaching a plea agreement with the Franklin County District Attorney's Office. Nix's 15-year sentence will run concurrent with a sentence Nix must serve as a result of a probation violation, to which he also pled guilty Monday.

The felony assault charge was the result of what officials described as a 'violent' incident on March 23, 2019, involving Nix and his former girlfriend.

Nix was arrested on the new charge and held on a probation violation on a previous felony conviction.

As a condition of his plea, Nix agreed not to appeal the sentences.

Franklin County district attorney Joey Rushing said the victim was consulted prior to the plea agreement and she approved of the settlement.

The case was investigated by the Russellville Police Department.

In 2014, Nix pled to Robbery, 2nd degree, after robbing a convenience store on County Road 48. He served a five-year split of a 20-year sentence on that charge before being placed on probation.

Nix will be held in the Franklin County Jail pending transfer back into the Alabama Department of Corrections custody.

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## 'HAMILTON,' from page 1

She traced it to my blood pressure being so high.

"I had just started work with the Russellville Water and Sewer Board, so she set me up with a specialist as soon as my insurance took effect in 2003. At first, my kidneys were fine; some numbers were elevated, but it was okay for nine or ten years. Then the numbers started to go up, and I changed specialists and found one at Vanderbilt. I started going through the steps they had for me, and that included waiting for a donor kidney."

Hamilton remained under the care of nephrologist Dr. Beatrice Concepcion at Vanderbilt as he endured more than four years of daily dialysis.

Fortunately, he was able to continue work, but he admits he would often come home exhausted and drained of energy after working all day in his pipefitter job.

"I stayed optimistic and upbeat and followed my doctor's advice. I was able to keep working," he said. "Even though I was drained at the end of the day, I never missed a day of work because I felt bad. It's a matter of keeping your head up and moving forward."

Three days after his transplant, doctors were ready to send Hamilton home because his recovery was going so well.

"I had to ask to stay another night," he said. "I've felt so many emotions over the past few days. I didn't go to sleep after getting out of surgery at 10:30 p.m. Sunday night because I was so happy. I prayed until after the sun came up. This has truly been life-changing."

Now in his third week since the transplant, Hamilton said he feels great. He is scheduled to have peritoneal dialysis catheter removed this week as the next step in his eight- to 12-week recovery period. He remains off work, but the extensive leave was something he prepared for.

"I knew this day would come, so I've been saving my days. I'll wait to see after the eight weeks how I feel. I'm still going once a week to see my doctor in Nashville," Hamilton said. "I still have my staples in, but I feel good for being two weeks out of surgery. But it feels like something's missing not having to hook up to the machine every night."

Hamilton credited his parents, William Sr. and Mollie, and his sister Detra for providing him a great support staff as he waited for the transplant call to come, as well as many others for their love and support.

"My co-workers have been great. The ladies at the utility office have been great. They fed us a couple times," Hamilton said. "I've had friends call and check on me, as well as to come by. It's been overwhelming. I didn't realize that I have been blessed with so many friends."

Hamilton's advice for other people on the transplant waiting list? Stay upbeat.

"I stayed positive because I'm a God-fearing man. I knew He would take care of me. It just took time," Hamilton said. "I did my part for four years. Admittedly, toward the end I did get tired of doing dialysis, but it was part of the process I had to follow. I'm just trying to get my strength so when I go back to work I'll feel good if I'm able to make it after eight weeks. I'm still adjusting to my medications, but I'm doing well, and I'm very blessed."

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## 'COUNTRY,' from page 1

Tickets are available by calling 256-668-2708 or 256-332-0214, and at WGOL-FM studios, 113 Washington Ave. NW, Russellville. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the show for \$8 and \$6.

Shepherd, 26, grew up around classic country music within his family. He's the great nephew of Earl "Peanutt" Montgomery, who penned 73 songs for the legendary George Jones.

Shepherd's father, Paul, plays keyboard in the band, and his mother, Debbie Nale, also has country royalty in her blood. She's the niece of Melba Montgomery, who had the number one hit *No Charge* in 1974.

Joining Shepherd and his father on stage for the full-band show will be T.J. Beasley on acoustic guitar, former Tharptown football legend Mike Rice on lead guitar, Evan Lane on drums and Nathan Lane on bass guitar.

The 90-minute show will include hit after hit from the decade that most influences the young artist in his music.

"Because it was such an influential decade of true country music, I believe the songs still tell true stories and represent what country music was supposed to be," Shepherd said.

Alabama, George Strait and many other country stars, including the artist that most influenced his music, John Anderson.

"He had a real unique perspective on who he wanted to be as an artist, and I think it not only benefited his career, but it also benefited country music as a whole," Shepherd said.

**The 90-minute show will include hit after hit from the decade that most influences Shepherd in his music.**

**"Because it was such an influential decade of true country music, I believe the songs still tell true stories and represent what country music was supposed to be," Shepherd said. "This will be a fun night of music with songs I hope everyone will know and sing along to. When you're on stage and you see the audience engaged in your music, it really goes a long way to make it a better show for everyone. If you loved country music in the 80s, I guarantee you'll want to sing along to many of the songs we'll play that night."**

Shepherd signed a management contract with Gravel Road Nashville in July in what he believes was a major step for his musical career.

"They represent me on a national basis and act

as my representative to talk to certain venues, particularly out of state," Shepherd said. "They will introduce my music to people and places I don't know about or don't have communication with."

Shepherd has two shows scheduled in Indiana next month through Gravel Road Nashville, but he's thrilled to be playing his first headlining show in his hometown of Russellville.

"It's really cool and different and exciting to play before people in Russellville," he said. "I'm looking forward to seeing some familiar faces and some who maybe haven't heard me play. They all can come to a family-friendly show and enjoy good music in a beautiful theater where so much history has taken place."

Shepherd expressed his appreciation to the Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council for allowing him to perform at the Roxy, and he hopes it will be the first of many future performances.

"This will be a fun night of music with songs I hope everyone will know and sing along to," he said. "When you're on stage and you see the audience engaged in your music, it really goes a long way to make it a better show for everyone."

"If you loved country music in the 80s, I guarantee you'll want to sing along to many of the songs we'll play that night."



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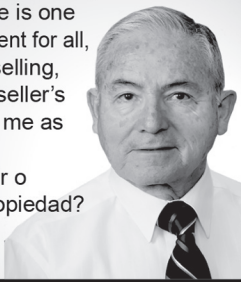
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Multi-Family Yard Sale. Saturday, Oct. 12. 7 a.m.-until. 414 Hillcrest St., Russellville. Follow signs from North Jackson and Oak Street. Clothing, books, TV, bicycles, pic-

ture frames, mirrors, furniture and 2007 Jeep Wrangler.

Yard Sale this Saturday, Oct. 12 from 7am-until at 29065 Hwy. 724 (Old 24 East).

Yard Sale this Saturday, Oct. 12 at 408 Duncan Drive in Cedar Creek Subdivision.

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## Russellville man pleads guilty to felony charges

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Three weeks before his trial was set, a Russellville man pled guilty to two felony charges last Wednesday in Franklin County Circuit Court. James Eric Hines, Jr., 40, of Russellville, entered guilty pleas to Burglary 3rd Degree and Destruction of State Property, both felonies, and received a 25-year sentence. Although the charges would not normally allow for such a lengthy sentence, Franklin County district attorney Joey Rushing said Hines' five prior felony convictions made him a habitual offender and enhanced the prison range on the charges. According to Franklin County Sheriff's Office reports, Hines used a crowbar to break into a woman's home in the Rockwood community last August while she was asleep. When the woman woke up, Hines was on top of her with his pants down as he taped her hands, the woman told officers. Franklin County sheriff Shannon Oliver said Hines attempted to smother

the woman with a pillow, but she was able to fight him off and recognized him as Hines. "She screamed his name and yelled at him. We believe he got scared and then ran off," Oliver said. Rushing said the victim was consulted prior to settlement and consented to the plea agreement for Hines. At the time of his arrest, Hines was also charged with Kidnapping, 1st Degree, a charge that was dismissed as part of the plea agreement. "We are very fortunate there wasn't a serious assault or injury in this incident," Rushing said. "Nonetheless, it was a very traumatic experience for the victim to go through, and a lengthy sentence of 25 years was warranted when you consider the facts." Rushing credited the victim with quick thinking to help avoid a more dangerous result when she was attacked. Hines remains in the Franklin County Jail, awaiting transport to the Alabama Department of Corrections.

# 'HISTORY,' from page 1

talked about it to the other teachers and we got it started.”  
 While Riley’s door creation was focused on the Wright Brothers Flying School that was located in Alabama for a period of time, according to Riley, the teachers were allowed to pick whatever topic they wanted to choose from a list provided to them. The presentation was meant to coincide with the Bicentennial celebration for the State of Alabama and was meant to be a teaching moment for not only the students but for the Phil Campbell community as well.

Riley said that she hopes to see this kind of project be a year-to-year event so that future generations can grow up learning about local and state history.

“We had just recently talked about doing something like this next year and the years after that. We had even talked about next year doing an event focused on Franklin County history maybe,” Riley said. “I really just want this to inspire people to learn about where they live. Alabama history and American history is phenomenal, and people need to learn that our past also represents our present and not to repeat our mistakes from the past.”

Andrea Hogan is the librarian for PCES and also played a vital role in the project coming together. Having seen a presentation on the Tennessee River and its history at Northwest-Shoals Community College, whenever the “Doorways to History” project came up Hogan knew she had to be a part of it. Hogan said she hopes that the people who saw the project make a special connection with history.

“I hope that whoever sees the doorways and the entire project makes a special connection with their history and sees the relationship with history,” Hogan said. “Maybe this will make history kind of personal to them and make them want to learn more about Franklin County, Phil Campbell or whatever it may be that they find interesting.”

Principal Jennifer Warhurst believes that around 75 people showed up for the event. She said she was glad they made the decision to make it a community event rather than limiting the exposure to just those who might see it be the ones who were attending or worked at the school.

“We decided to make it a community event because we really wanted the community to get involved and take an interest in their history, and I’m glad that we were able to make that opportunity a reality,” Warhurst said. “It makes history real to both students and others when they see the pictures and facts from older things. It allows them to visualize things that they otherwise might not have known were actually here.”

Warhurst hopes that maybe this project will help inspire those who have big dreams but might not have had the motivation do act.

“It’s very important to realize that you can be from a small town like ours and still make a big difference in the world,” Warhurst said. “Once they see the history and they see the people who came from small towns just like them, maybe it will help them move forward and be inspired.”

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## Week 7 in the SEC

Last week's record: 3-1  
Year-to-date record: 20-4  
This week's games:

Mississippi State (-6.5) at Tennessee – 11:00 on SECN

Count both of those teams among the many in the SEC who have changed quarterbacks during the course of this season. Garrett Shramer has provided a spark for State with his dual-threat skills, and fellow freshman Brian Maurer threw a couple of early touchdown passes last week to get the Vols off to a surprisingly strong start against Georgia.

Georgia eventually manhandled Tennessee, but MSU is not Georgia. The Vols should be able to hang with these Bulldogs for four quarters.

**The Pick: Mississippi State 28 Tennessee 24**  
Alabama (-18) at Texas A&M – 2:30 on CBS  
A&M is the next team tasked with slowing down Alabama's seemingly unstoppable passing game, and the Aggies have had an extra week to try and figure something out. Good luck with that.

Alabama has won 17 straight regular-season games, topping the 50-point mark in 10 of them. Tua Tagovailoa is on fire, with five-plus TD passes in three straight games and a nation-leading 23 on the season—against zero interceptions.

The only question seems to be which Tide receiver will rewrite the record books this week?

**The Pick: Alabama 42 Texas A&M 20**  
Ole Miss at Missouri (-8.5) – 6:00 on ESPN2

There is good news and bad news for Missouri on the injury front. It appears that QB Kelly Bryant dodged a bullet and won't miss any time with a leg injury that apparently looked worse than it was. But linebacker Cale Garrett (who leads the SEC in tackles per game and already has three defensive touchdowns this season) will be out indefinitely with a pectoral injury.

These may be the two most improved defenses in the SEC. After giving up 5.7 yards per play last season (10th in the league), Missouri is currently allowing just 3.6 (first). Ole Miss, meanwhile, is tied for second in the SEC with 17 sacks and leads the conference with 46 tackles for loss.

We like Ole Miss freshman QB John Rhys Plumlee (274 rushing yards the past two weeks), but we like Missouri's improved D a little better.

**The Pick: Missouri 31 Ole Miss 28**  
Florida at LSU (-13) – 7:00 on ESPN

If Joe Burrow and his receivers light up Florida's elite defense, then there really is no stopping them. The Gators have picked off 12 passes while allowing only four touchdowns through the air, and they lead the SEC with 26 sacks. Burrow, meanwhile, leads the country in completion rate at 78.4 percent while ranking second in passing yards (372.8 per game) and touchdown passes (22). Something's gotta give.

Florida got beat up pretty good last week by Auburn in an extremely physical game. Can the Gators answer the bell again? In Death Valley? At night? That's a tall order—particularly given the strides LSU made last week on defense.

**The Pick: LSU 34 Florida 20**



Mike Self  
Sports Editor

# Time to MAN up



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

**MANLEY MEN** - Jackson (far left) played at C.T. Manley Stadium as a junior defensive back at Russellville in 1985. He and his unbeaten Red Bay squad will pay a visit to the tradition-rich venue this Friday for a critical region game against Colbert County.

Few, if any, local venues can match the mystique of C.T. Manley Stadium. Red Bay will travel to Leighton this week to play there for the first time in 58 years.

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

Michael Jackson's enduring memory of C.T. Manley Stadium is not a pleasant one.

Jackson was a junior defensive back at Russellville High School in 1985 when the Golden Tigers traveled to Leighton on the last Friday in September for their annual clash with rival Colbert County.

Trailing in the final seconds, the Indians ran a double-pass and scored a touchdown on the last

play of the game to steal a 17-12 win—one that ultimately helped propel them to a playoff spot and a Class 5A state championship.

"They wouldn't have made the playoffs if they had lost that game," said Jackson, now in his 18th year overall as a high school head coach and his sixth season at Red Bay. "They lost that year to Hamilton, who had Craig Sanderson and Gary Hollingsworth and those guys, and if they had lost to us it would have been us and Hamilton in the playoffs instead of them and Hamilton."

# Golden Tigers survive, head to Hamilton unbeaten

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

MOULTON - Style points don't mean much to Russellville football coach John Ritter.

It's a good thing, too. Because there weren't many to be found last Friday night in Moulton.

The Golden Tigers survived three turnovers on offense and their least productive passing night of the season to remain unbeaten with a hard-fought 22-14 win over rival Lawrence County.

Russellville (6-0 overall, 4-0 in Class 5A, Region 7) made more than its share of mistakes—including some costly penalties that negated big plays and a couple of dropped passes—in a performance that wasn't very pleasing to the eye, but Ritter has long since learned a truth that all coaches eventually come to embrace.

There aren't good wins and bad wins. There are just wins.

"There's no such thing as a pretty loss and no such thing as an ugly win," said Ritter, who is now 15-2 in two seasons at Russellville and 48-25 in seven seasons overall as a head coach. "If we're gonna be hard on our guys and have a tough reminder week of, 'This is what we do, and this is how we do it,' I'd much rather do that after a win than after a loss. We're happy to get the win. Rich [Dutton, Lawrence County's head coach] and them did a great job of game-planning on both sides of the ball, but we were able to make a few more plays."

The majority of those plays came from a Golden Tiger defense that held Lawrence County (3-3, 2-2) to 252 total yards and forced three turnovers—the last of which was a game-sealing interception by senior linebacker Jamal Hubbard near the goal line with less than a minute remaining.

"That was huge," Ritter said. "They had gashed us on that same route for like a 20-yard gain earlier in the game, and they tried it again when they got down inside the 15. Our guys did a great job of passing it off, and then Jamal was in the right place at the right time."

Russellville's defense held the Red Devils to just 69 rushing yards on 22 carries and put consistent pressure on quarterback Ty Hutto, who finished



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

**HOLD THAT THOUGHT** - Amick (holding) and Flores (kicking) were part of a solid special teams effort last week that helped Russellville remain unbeaten with a 22-14 win at Lawrence County.

the night 14-for-34 for 183 yards. Nearly half of those yards came on a 90-yard touchdown pass to tight end Garrett Lee midway through the second quarter that extended Lawrence County's lead to 14-2.

"Defensively, we had that one busted play where they hit us for 90 yards, but other than that they didn't have a ton of offense," Ritter said. "We limited them to just two first downs, I think it was, in the first half. Our guys on that side of the ball who were responsible for pass coverage did a great job of getting in the right spot and walling off receivers, and the guys we sent after the quarterback did a good job of putting some pressure on him."

"Hutto deserves a lot of credit. He hung in there and made some tough throws even though he knew he was gonna get pelted."

The Golden Tigers supplemented their strong effort on defense with solid special teams play. After linebacker Cameron Gholston picked off a screen pass and returned it 25 yards to the end zone for a Red Devil touchdown midway through the first quarter, Russellville turned the ball over again on a fumbled option pitch. The Golden Tiger D got the ball back with a fumble recovery of their own, however, and junior punter Grayson Eady eventually pinned Lawrence County at its own five-yard line with a 52-yard boot.

On first down, the Red Devils snapped the ball over Hutto's head and out of the back of the end zone for a safety, making it 7-2.

"Defensively and on special teams, I thought we played really good," Ritter said. "We just struggled offensively for whatever reason. They had a good game plan, number one, and number two, we didn't execute what we wanted to do. We struggled as a result. It was a combination of the way they were defending us and a breakdown of protection. A lot of the times, we didn't go through our progressions and get the ball out when it needed to be or where it needed to be."

"But even though things weren't going like we wanted them to and we never seemed to get in a rhythm, we kept battling. The defense played phenomenal and kept us in the game, and the special teams played phenomenal as well. We recovered a fumble on a kickoff, and on the other kickoffs we pinned them deep. I thought Miguel [Flores, the team's sophomore kicker] did a good job on kickoffs, and Grayson did an exceptional job punting."

On Russellville's first offensive play following the 90-yard pass from Hutto to Lee that gave the Red Devils a 14-2 lead, senior quarterback Jacob Bishop was intercepted by Tayi Strickland at the Lawrence County 32. The Golden Tiger defense rose to the occasion by forcing a quick three-and-out, and then Russellville scored on its next two possessions to take the lead.

Sophomore tailback Airreon "Boots" McCulloch broke off a 33-yard run, and Bishop ran for 24 yards down to the three-yard line. McCulloch scored his seventh rushing touchdown of the season on the next play to cut the lead to 14-8 with 2:51 left in the first half.

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### 'UNBEATEN,' from page 14

After another three-and-out and a shanked punt by Lawrence County that officially went three yards, Russellville took over at the Red Devil 18. Bishop ran for 14 yards down to the four-yard line and then scored two plays later, and Flores drilled the extra point to put the Golden Tigers on top 15-14.

Neither team scored in the third quarter, and then Bishop's four-yard touchdown run (his second of the night and seventh of the season) on the first play of the fourth quarter extended Russellville's lead to 22-14. Hubbard's late pick helped the Golden Tigers hold on and remain unbeaten heading into this week's game at Hamilton.

"We didn't panic," Ritter said. "Even when we got down 14-2, our guys never wavered. We kept playing hard, stuck with it and found a way to get it done. That says a lot about the resiliency of our guys and them trusting what we do."

The Golden Tigers now turn their attention to the Aggies (5-1, 3-1), who had been undefeated prior to last Friday's surprising 28-7 loss at Hayden.

"They've had about three or four guys on offense who were injured and sat out," Ritter said. "Their best player [Christian Loving, a 6'2, 225-pound senior], who's a good, physical tight end and a defensive lineman, didn't play, and a couple of their other ones looked to be out. Hayden recovered the opening kickoff and went up 7-0, and it kind of snowballed from there.

"I don't know if they were looking ahead [to the

Russellville game] or not. I'd be shocked if a Rod Stidham-coached team did that. He's a great coach. He's been at Hamilton a long time, and he does a phenomenal job. I'm sure they'll be hungry and angry this week after getting beat by Hayden."

Hamilton, like several of the Golden Tigers' previous opponents, runs a lot of Wing-T on offense.

"They do a good job of hiding the football," Ritter said. "They'll run the traditional Wing-T, the shotgun Wing-T, and then go two-by-two (a four-receiver set) with the same personnel. It's very hard to prepare for a team that does multiple stuff like that without substituting. This will be a huge test for us defensively."

Offensively, McCulloch ran for 122 yards on 20 carries last week and now leads the team with 437 yards and seven touchdowns on 68 attempts. Senior Austin Ashley has run for 425 yards and five scores on 77 carries. Bishop ran for 90 yards and two touchdowns last week on 15 carries and now has 287 yards rushing and seven touchdowns on 41 carries.

Bishop threw for just 28 yards on 4-for-14 passing last week, but the passing game has been a strong suit for Russellville all year. Bishop has thrown for 813 yards and nine touchdowns this season on 45-for-88 passing. Junior receivers Rowe Gallagher (17 catches for 291 yards and six touchdowns) and Cole Barnett (11 catches for 167 yards and a score), along with sophomore H-back Nathan Brockway (six catches for 139 yards and one touchdown), are the team's leading receivers.

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# 'MAN,' from page 13

[Russellville finished 7-3 and missed the post-season, while Colbert County won a rematch with Hamilton in the second round of the playoffs and went on to finish 13-1.]

Given that Jackson was a defensive back, it seems fair to ask—for those who weren't around to see it—if he was the one who got victimized by the Indians' trick play.

"No, they didn't get me," he said with a laugh. "I wasn't the deep guy. The weird thing about that is, the guy who threw the second pass was their tight end, a guy named Eddie Hampton. Three years after that, I played against him in college. I was playing outside linebacker [for UNA], and he was playing at Jacksonville State. We actually talked about that play on the field during the game."

Jackson will get a chance to create a more positive memory at C.T. Manley this Friday, when his Red Bay team travels to Leighton to play at the historic venue for the first time since 1961. The Tigers (6-0 overall, 3-0 in Class 2A, Region 7) are in position to all but clinch their first region title since 2015 with a win over the Indians (5-2, 3-1).

"It's a region championship game for us," said Jackson, whose team rallied from a halftime deficit at Sheffield last week to remain unbeaten with a 30-14 win. "For them, it's a chance to put the region into a tiebreaker. [Addison improved to 5-2 overall and 2-1 in the region with a 44-12 win over Colbert County last week.] It's a big game for both teams."

C.T. Manley has certainly seen more than its share of big games down through the decades as perhaps the most tradition-rich stadium in north-west Alabama.

"I would think it would be at the top of the list," Jackson said. "It's definitely in the top two or three, just because of the things they've done in the past [winning six state championships] and how tough those teams have been. Plus, it's just the makeup of the stadium. It's a stadium... what's the best way to say this? It's really fan-friendly, as far as the fans being real close to the teams. It makes for a great atmosphere."

"You've gotta have the right mindset when you go in there. You've gotta take into account the environment. When you're playing in a venue like that, you know they're gonna play well. The main concern, number one, is the environment. They play really well at home. There's a little mystique to playing at C.T. Manley Stadium. They play really well there, and the crowd is really into the game."



**PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW**  
**CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT** - After running for a career-high 160 yards and a touchdown against Sheffield last week, King now leads the Tigers with 444 rushing yards on the year.

The Indians had won seven straight regular-season games at home before losing 26-14 to non-region rival Deshler on September 27. They followed that up with last week's lopsided loss at Addison, losing starting quarterback Slade Berryman in the process. [Berryman left the game with an injury and did not return. His availability for Friday's game with Red Bay is unknown.]

Despite the two-game skid and the injury to Berryman, Colbert County is still a dangerous and talented team in Jackson's eyes.

"Their skill athletes always pose a problem," he said. "They're a little bit different than Sheffield in terms of makeup. They are still a run-centered team. They still like the old-school run game. Their running backs are their major focus. Sheffield is more receiver-oriented and quarterback-oriented. Colbert County is running back-oriented. They

work their running backs, their run game and then their receivers."

After opening the season with a 34-28 win over Central, the Indians rolled to routs of Cherokee, Tanner, Tharptown and Hatton by a combined margin of 177-13. Those four opponents, however, have a combined record of just 4-19 on the season.

Colbert County has been out-scored 70-26 the last two weeks by Deshler and Addison, two teams who are a combined 10-4 on the year.

"They've had a tough stretch with Deshler and Addison back-to-back," said Jackson, whose team beat Addison 16-10 on September 13. "After you play four teams with a combined [four] wins, to turn around and play Deshler and Addison, two of the toughest teams on the schedule, is a challenge."

"Colbert County mishandled the ball a good bit against Addison. They had multiple turnovers that cost them points. I know they had one pick-six, and they fumbled in their own end zone. They lost another fumble at their own five. They gave up at least 21 points off turnovers, so it was one of those nights where it just wasn't going their way as far as that goes. That's how the game got a little out of hand."

Red Bay, meanwhile, rode a prolific running game and a dominant second half to a critical win over Sheffield last week. The big-play Bulldogs (4-3, 2-2) scored on a 69-yard touchdown pass early in the first quarter and took a 14-8 lead into the locker room, but the Tigers tightened up on defense and held Sheffield to just 54 total yards—and zero points—after the break.

"We had to make some adjustments during the game," Jackson said. "They did a good job of getting their athletes out in space. They have great skill players, so we ended up playing more nickel defense [with an extra defensive back]. Coach Purser [Jamie, the team's defensive coordinator] did a great job of adjusting. We had to use our nickel defense pretty much the whole night."

"Offensively, we had to use our power run game a little more. We got into our run sets to neutralize their skill kids. Their secondary was extremely skilled, and we had a hard time attacking them. They were playing bump-and-run-coverage with their skill guys, forcing us to run the ball. The last few weeks, Arden Hamilton and Mason Holt [Red Bay's top two receivers] had been hurting some teams really bad in the passing game. Sheffield's plan was to take away what we've been doing well and force us to do something else."

The Tigers entered last Friday's game averaging more yards through the air (184.8 per game) than on the ground (167.0), but they ran wild on the Bulldogs. Red Bay completed only two passes in 11 attempts but rushed for a season-high 350 yards on 50 carries.

Junior tailback Hunter King ran for 160 yards and a touchdown on 24 attempts, and senior back Colyn Humphres carried 15 times for 129 yards and two scores.

"Both of them carried the ball really well, and our offensive line blocked the best they've blocked all year," Jackson said. "They did a great job with our run-game blocking, mainly."

Trailing 14-8 at the half, the Tigers got a quick defensive stop and then tied the game on a 39-yard touchdown run by Humphres with 8:46 left in the third quarter. They later took the lead when Humphres capped off an 80-yard drive with another touchdown run, this one from six yards out. He added the two-point conversion to make it 22-14

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# 'MAN', from page 16

with 10:32 left in the game.

"Our defense shut them out in the second half," Jackson said, "and offensively we just kept grinding. There was a big sequence right there at the end of the third quarter. They drove down to our 20-yard line, but we pushed them back and forced them to punt. They punted it into the end zone, and then we ran eight straight Bone plays [out of the team's short-yardage, power-run formation] and drove 80 yards for a touchdown. That pretty much iced the game right there."

"You've gotta have the right mindset when you go in there," Jackson said. "You've gotta take into account the environment. When you're playing in a venue like that, you know they're gonna play well. The main concern, number one, is the environment. They play really well at home. There's a little mystique to playing at C.T. Manley Stadium. They play really well there, and the crowd is really into the game."

Junior quarterback Jalen Vinson added a four-yard touchdown run and two-point conversion with 5:03 remaining, pushing the lead out to 30-14. Vinson finished with 64 yards rushing on nine attempts.

King is the team's leading rusher on the season with 444 yards and three touchdowns on 86 carries. Vinson has run for 370 yards and six scores on 49 attempts while also throwing for 956 yards and five touchdowns on 52-for-101 passing. Humphres has rushed for 268 yards and five touchdowns on 54 carries while also catching eight passes for 102 yards.

Hamilton was held without a catch last week but still leads the team with 507 yards and five touchdowns on 21 receptions. Holt caught one pass for 29 yards against Sheffield and has 15 catches for 279 yards on the season.

Defensively, Red Bay is allowing just 10.0 points and 199.5 total yards per game. Junior linebacker Cam McKinney had 11 tackles against Sheffield and now has 60 total stops on the season, second-most on the team behind fellow junior linebacker Gavin Edgmon (62 tackles). Rover Jake Pounds made a season-high 12 tackles last week and is now third on the team with 36 stops on the year.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Jake Pounds (3) and the Red Bay defense are holding opponents to just 10.0 points and less than 200 total yards per game.

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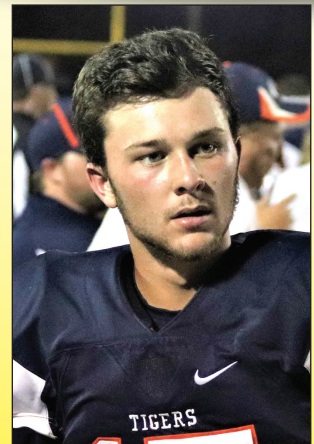
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## Colyn Humphres

Senior RB/WR, Red Bay

Humphres ran for two touchdowns and also had a pair of two-point conversions last Friday, helping the Tigers rally from an early deficit to earn a critical region win at Sheffield.

Red Bay was trailing by six early in the third quarter when Humphres scored on a 39-yard run to tie the game 14-14. Early in the fourth quarter, he capped off an 80-yard drive with a six-yard touchdown run to put the Tigers on top for good. Humphres finished the game with a career-high 129 yards on 15 carries as Red Bay improved to 6-0 with a 30-14 win.



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# The Largest and Freshest Salad Bar in Franklin County!

# Wildcats gear up for critical closing stretch

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

With three games left on the regular-season schedule, Colbert Heights could finish anywhere from region champion to out of the playoffs altogether.

The possible scenarios are many and varying, but head coach Taylor Leathers doesn't want his players thinking about what *might* be. He'd much rather the Wildcats just handle their own business down the stretch and not leave anything to chance.

"Absolutely. Our best course of action is to take care of what we can control—winning the football game," said Leathers, whose team is 4-3 overall and 2-1 in Class 3A, Region 8 heading into Friday's matchup with region rival Lexington. "Try to win each week and take them one week at a time. Then we'll see how the chips fall down the road."

The Wildcats already own a key 27-20 win over Westminster Christian (5-2, 3-1), but they lost 34-7 at Lauderdale County (6-1, 4-0). Westminster and Lauderdale play each other on October 18 in a game that will go a long way toward determining who wins the Region 8 championship.

Colbert Heights, meanwhile, has region games remaining at home against Lexington (1-5, 0-4), at Clements (3-3, 1-2) and at home against Phil Campbell (3-3, 1-2). Those latter two teams are still very much in the mix for a playoff berth and will have plenty to play for.

"Lauderdale still has to play Westminster Christian, and there are some other key games late in the season," Leathers said. "But we can't worry about those things. We have to worry about each opponent we play and then see how we finish out."

The Wildcats have finished as region runners-up each of the past two seasons, and they have a shot to host a first-round playoff game for an unprecedented third consecutive year. To do so, they'll have to take better care of the

football than they did last week against Decatur Heritage, when three costly turnovers in plus territory doomed them to a frustrating 26-20 homecoming defeat.

"Decatur Heritage was 6-0 coming into the game, and they're a very good football team," Leathers said. "Not taking anything away from them, but I felt like we had several opportunities to win the game. We just were not able to get it done because we had too many mistakes. When you don't win the turnover battle...that's the key statistic. The number one stat for winning and losing is turnovers. We had three turnovers, and they played almost a flawless game on their end. Going into the game, I felt like whoever played well and made the least amount of mistakes would win the game, and that was Decatur Heritage. It was definitely not us. We had three scoring opportunities that we didn't take advantage of."

**"Our best course of action is to take care of what we can control—winning the football game," said Leathers, whose team is 4-3 overall and 2-1 in Class 3A, Region 8 heading into Friday's matchup with region rival Lexington. "Try to win each week and take them one week at a time. Then we'll see how the chips fall down the road."**

"It was disappointing and disheartening, especially with it being homecoming. But you try to look for bright spots coming out of it and learn a lesson from the loss as we start looking ahead to the next three huge region games for us. Those will determine how we finish and whether the playoffs are in our future or not."

Aside from eliminating turnovers, priority number one for Colbert Heights this week is reviving a ground game that struggled a bit to get going against the Eagles last week. The Wildcats were held to 183 rushing yards—a solid enough total, but not what Leathers is looking for from his run-heavy double-wing offense.

"We don't want to be limited under 200 yards rushing. That's not good for us," he said. "That's not what I expect out of this team and out of this offense. There's definitely some improvement to be made offensively from last week to this week."

"We've got to do a better job sustaining our blocks. Blocking occurs after contact. We do a good job on initial contact, but we did not finish our blocks last week like we should. We're gonna work on that this week, making sure that when we engage we continue to drive and do the things necessary to sustain a block longer. Decatur Heritage did a great job getting off blocks and making tackles."

Lexington may be winless in region play thus far, but Leathers said the Golden Bears have some size up front that could pose a challenge.

"Lexington has one of the bigger defensive and offensive lines we'll play against this year," he said. "They probably average about 250 on the line. They have some big kids up front."

Leathers served as the offensive coordinator at Lexington under current head coach Jason Lard for several years before leaving to take over the Colbert Heights program in 2016. He knows the Golden Bears well—but not well enough to skip film study, by any means.

"They've changed a lot of what they did when I was there," said Leathers, who is 2-1 against his former team since arriving on The Mountain. "They're more of a spread offense now. When I was there, we ran the triple option. They transitioned to a spread offense last year. Their quarterback is a dual-threat guy who can run and throw. They try to spread the field out. They run a lot of sweeps, they run the jet and they throw a lot of quick passes. They'll run the quarterback on zone option, and they run a lot of counters with their quarterback and their backs. It's definitely a different Lexington team than what I'm familiar with."

"But with Coach Lard still over there and Coach [Michael] Cole on the staff, I know those guys and I love those guys. They're good friends of mine."

After throwing a pair of interceptions and completing just two passes in eight attempts last week, the Wildcats will look to reestablish the ground game on Friday behind junior wing backs Carson Shaw (79 carries for 600 yards and six touchdowns this season) and Gage Pugh (89 carries for 581 yards and six touchdowns). Quarterback Andrew Tedford (80 carries for 292 yards and four touchdowns) has also been a key factor in the rushing attack, along with fullback Blaine Holt (31 carries for 147 yards and three scores).

Like many, Leathers was very much looking forward to the arrival this week of cooler temperatures and more football-friendly weather.

"I really feel like fall weather transitions you into football season," he said on Sunday night. "I'm looking forward to this cold front coming in and this coming week being a football week. We're excited to go out and see that autumn wind blowing, see the leaves turning and feel that little nip in the air. That's football season."

"With Lexington coming to town this week, it'll be good to have that great football climate. We're excited to play in that atmosphere."

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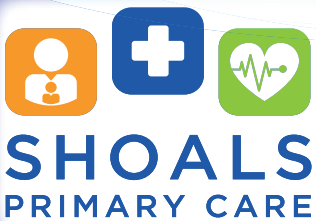
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**BEAT BAILEY IS BACK!** Submit your picks to us each week in one of two ways: Fill out the entry form on this page and mail it to us at 113 Washington Ave. NW, Russellville, AL 35653, or email your picks to us along with your name and number at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. **Picks sent in by mail for Week 7 must be postmarked by Friday, October 11, and picks submitted by email for Week 7 must be received by Saturday, October 12 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 6 winner **MARTY W. HARGETT, SR.**, who correctly picked 9 out of 10 games and also picked Florida to beat Auburn 27-24!

Bedford, Rogers,  
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303 N. Jackson, Russellville  
256.332.2880

No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers

## Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 7: October 12	Bailey's Pick	Your Pick
South Carolina at Georgia	Georgia	_____
Mississippi St. at Tennessee	Miss. State	_____
Alabama at Texas A&M	Alabama	_____
Ole Miss at Missouri	Missouri	_____
Arkansas at Kentucky	Kentucky	_____
Florida at LSU	LSU	_____
Oklahoma vs. Texas	Oklahoma	_____
Michigan State at Wisconsin	Wisconsin	_____
Penn State at Iowa	Penn State	_____
USC at Notre Dame	Notre Dame	_____
Tiebreaker Score:	Alabama _____	Texas A&M _____
Your Name:	_____	
Phone number:	_____	

Mail your pet's Hallo-Win costume photo with your name, phone number and pet's name, to:  
Franklin Free Press, 113 Washington Ave. NW, Russellville, Alabama 35653 or email [jfp@franklinmediagroup.net](mailto:jfp@franklinmediagroup.net)



# FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

P R E S E N T S

# Hallo-Win

## + Pet Costume Contest

Winners will receive a Halloween goodie basket filled with delicious treats for them and a few treats for their pet too. Entries must be received by October 25

Pet's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



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## DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**JOEY RUSHING**  
Franklin County District Attorney  
256.332.8870 • 256.710.4713  
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OTHER WAYS...**

**TO GET  
OUR INK!**

