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**FranklinFreePress.net**

**11.06.19**

# Council, RCS Board move forward on bond measure

## City to borrow \$15.5 million for capital project at RHS

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Schools Board of Education and the Russellville City Council have both approved a Memorandum of Understanding that calls for the city to borrow more than \$15.5 million for a capital project at Russellville High School.

The RCS Board approved the measure at its October 24 meeting, which came three days after the Russellville City Council did the same.

The *Free Press* has obtained a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding, which outlines details of the school system's proposed capital improvements as well as the projected cost.

As a municipal school system, Russellville City Schools

can not enter the bond market on its own. It must do so through the city council.

**As a municipal school system, Russellville City Schools can not enter the bond market on its own. It must do so through the city council.**

The memorandum provides that the City of Russellville shall consolidate the school's obligation on the new bond as well as what remains owed on a 2016 bond. The total amount projected to be paid from Russellville City Schools back to the City of Russellville is \$24,065,425, which includes \$15,545,000 principal, \$7,832,095 interest and \$688,329 on the Series 2016 bond warrants.

The funds will be used to construct a 14,400-square-foot addition at Russellville High School, to be used for

See 'BOND,' Page 9

# Local qualifying numbers still low as deadline nears

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

With a few days remaining until the end of the political qualifying period, only a handful of Franklin County residents have filed paperwork to declare themselves as candidates.

The qualifying period for local and state offices runs through 5 p.m. this Friday, November 8 for both Democratic and Republican candidates.

As of Monday, November 4, no Democratic candidates had qualified for any of the four county commission seats, revenue commissioner, Franklin County Board of Education District 3, Franklin County Superintendent of Education or constable positions.

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Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee chairman Eddie Britton remains confident that will change before Friday afternoon.

"I firmly believe we will have several candidates qualify for multiple offices," Britton said.

The challenge for Democratic candidates is twofold. First, Alabama's political climate, all the way down to the local level, continues to trend Republican. Second, with

See 'QUALIFYING,' Page 9



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**Danny Harris Clark,**  
Russellville, age 72

Died Thursday, October 31, 2019.  
Graveside service with military honors held at Franklin Memory Gardens. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

**David Lee French,** Russellville (formerly of Kankakee, IL), age 70  
Died Monday, October 28, 2019. A celebration of life gathering was held at the American Legion in Aroma Park, IL. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.

**Robert "Bob" Edward Johnson,** Russellville, age 91  
Died Wednesday, October 30, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel Interment in Duncan Creek Cemetery.

**Artie Vee Gorham Kiser,** Russellville, age 84  
Died Friday, November 1, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in East Franklin Cemetery in Phil Campbell.

**Norene Bankston Raper,** Phil Campbell, age 93

Died Sunday, November 3, 2019. Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment will be in Shady Grove Cemetery at Liberty Hill.

**Clara Pepper Rivers,** Phil Campbell, age 87  
Died Monday, November 4, 2019. Visitation will be from 11 a.m.-noon on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville, with the funeral immediately following. Interment will be in Shady Grove Cemetery.

**Josephine Scott,** Russellville, age 94  
Died Sunday, November 3, 2019. Funeral held at First United Methodist Church. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

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# Sharp joins Pinkard Funeral Home family

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

For more than four decades, Rex Pinkard has been involved in the funeral business. He opened Pinkard Funeral Home in Haleyville in 1994 and followed two years later with his Russellville facility.

While Pinkard will remain active in the day-to-day operations of his business, he has added a new employee, Tammy Sharp, to assist families with funeral planning and at-need services.

Pinkard was familiar with Sharp and her reputation in the funeral business, so when he decided he needed to add an employee, he reached out to Sharp.

"I am having some health issues and needed someone else to come in and take over when needed," Pinkard said. "From hearse calls to the cemetery, Tammy can handle it all."

Sharp is a 2003 graduate of Jefferson Sate Community College. She was most recently employed at Colbert Memorial Gardens, where she worked for 12 years.

Pinkard said Sharp brings not only years of experience to Pinkard Funeral Home but also expertise in restorative art and cosmetics.

"We're so excited to have her as part of the Pinkard family," Pinkard said. "I used to make all the death calls. Now she will handle some of that. I'll still



Tammy Sharp

work 98 percent of all funerals, but Tammy or one of our part-time staff can handle the death calls."

Sharp, who started with Pinkard three weeks ago, is in the process of relocating to Russellville so she will be readily available 24 hours a day.

Pinkard serves as president and general manager of his business, and he runs the day-to-day operations at the Russellville facility. His son, Tim, is the vice-president of Pinkard Funeral Homes, Inc., and manager of the Haleyville facility.

Pinkard Funeral Homes has thrived by providing quality funeral services, with 24-hour service from local people who serve as the funeral directors, embalmers and employees.

"That's what we do," Pinkard said. "We're family-owned and operated and always available 24/7. You'll never talk to an answering service. We strive to give the best service possible to the families we service."

Pinkard Funeral Home's Russellville staff includes Pinkard, Sharp, Benny Ballard, Larry Franks, Dusten Pounders, Waymon Fike, Johnny B. Smith, Sammy Mitchell, secretary and treasurer Bertha Pinkard, and secretaries Jane Cooper and Judy Pounders.

The Haleyville staff includes Tim and Vanessa Pinkard, Mike Glasheen, Shannon Lollar and Sandi Weiler.

"Our goal has always been to provide professional, compassionate service to families before, during and after the funeral of their loved ones," Pinkard said. "We are proud of the dedicated local staff we have in Russellville and Haleyville, and Tammy will fit right in as part of our team."

For more information on Pinkard Funeral Home, log onto [www.pinkardfh.com](http://www.pinkardfh.com).

# RCS Board approves five Parks and Rec hirings

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education approved the hiring of five new part-time employees in the Russellville Parks and Recreation Department at the board's October 24 meeting.

Those part-time hirings include Ally Oliver, Braden Williams, Cody Logan, Brody Logan and Autumn Logan, and each hiring was retroactive to October 1, 2019.

The board also approved the retirement of John Johnson, teacher at Russellville High School, effective November 1, 2019, and leave of absence requests from LeJoy Winston, West Elementary

teacher, from November 6, 2019 through March 6, 2020, and Jennifer Lindsey, pre-K auxiliary teacher at WES, from November 4, 2019 through January 6, 2020.

In other action, the board:

- Selected board member Greg Batchelor as delegate to the Alabama Association of Schools Boards for the coming year and Jerry Groce as alternate delegate.

- Accepted a bid of \$60,892 from Quality Paving for parking lot renovations at RHS and WES. Bids were opened on September 24.

- Approved an RHS Band Parent Program contract with Leann Strickland for stadium cleanup for the 2019-20 school year, and approved a contract

with the Learning Tree for behavioral analytic service from November 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

- Approved a trip request from RHS cross country teams to travel to the 5A Sectional Meet at Scottsboro High School on October 30-31.

- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Russellville in regard to the city's pursuit of a rate for a bond that would include funding for a capital project at Russellville High School.

The next regular meeting of the RCS Board of Education will be Thursday, November 21 at 8 a.m., with work session on Wednesday, November 20 at 3:30 p.m.

# Tickets selling quickly for 'Christmas Spectacular'

Submitted to the FFP

Believe it or not, The Roxy's Christmas Spectacular is only one month away! Practice has begun, the cast has been assigned costumes, choreography has been completed, characters' lyrics to songs have been memorized, and finishing touches to music have been finalized.

This musical (with public shows at the Roxy Theatre in Russellville set for Thursday, December 5 at 7 p.m.; Friday, December 6 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 7 at 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, December 8 at 3 p.m.) will certainly be spectacular in many ways. The characters and dancers are exciting, the music surely will put everyone in the Christmas spirit, and it will spotlight the true meaning of the season.

The Nativity segment will feature the song "The Holiest of Nights" written by Denise Davis and her writing partner Christian Strignano. The idea for this song originated when Denise and Christian were in Denise's office on Music Row a while ago during the Christmas season. They started lamenting on how the Christmas season had turned into such a busy and hectic time.

Denise was wondering what to purchase for a friend for Christmas, and Christian was wondering how he was going to get home to New York for the holidays to be with his family. As they had done many times before, personal stories started flowing. Denise was telling Christian about one of her favorite Christmases when she sat most of the day on Christmas Eve reading the Book of Luke in the Bible. She said she read the whole story of Jesus's birth to his resurrection.

Christian shared that when he was a kid his dad would sit him and his sib-

lings by the fire and read the Bible to them as well. They both decided that those were some of the best times of their lives. Then, as would often happen, Denise started doodling around on the piano in her office, and soon a melody and title came together.

"Holiest of Nights" was born that evening in the office upstairs in an old house on Music Row in Nashville. Christian and Denise wrote the song thinking that one day it might inspire someone else to remember or be reminded of what Christmas was really all about.

A Russellville native, Denise is very familiar with the Roxy. As she was talking to Hillary Hall and Susie Malone, she mentioned this Christmas song that had a sweet story and asked if it would be good for The Roxy's Christmas Spectacular. She went into the recording studio with her past producer and co-writing friend Cliff Downs to record the song just for the show. She has worked with and known Cliff for almost 40 years.

Cliff is a native of Birmingham and has lived in the Nashville area for 40-plus years. Cliff has had several number one recordings and also won several awards, including an Emmy.

Denise and Cliff are both excited to present their production for The Roxy's Christmas Spectacular this year.

"I just hope it reminds us all what Christmas is really all about," Denise said.

Two shows have been added for the schools, and general admission tickets are selling quickly. They may be purchased at the historic Roxy Theatre on the following days: November 7 from 5:30-7 p.m.; November 12 and 14 from 5:30-7 p.m.; November 17 from 1:30-4 p.m.; November 18, 19 and 21 from 5:30-7 p.m.

# Honey Do List: Leaves

Aren't they beautiful? One of the most beautiful times of the year in our area is when the leaves change color and fall to the ground. It's nature's annual process of removing the old and recycling matter back into the ground to secure the promise of new life in the spring.

Even though it is a natural process, we humans can't stand for our lawns and yards to be littered with these discarded tree parts. So, what do we do with all these leaves? Do we leave them alone, cut them up or haul them away?

There really are several options for removing leaves, including burning, raking and mulching.

If you live in the city, burning is not a very neighborly option, especially on these mild days when folks may have their windows open. Consider raking them up and piling them by the street. The city is out everyday with their leaf collection truck, and they will vacuum them up and haul them away. Pile them in such a way that they won't blow into the street or hinder traffic.

If you really want a clean yard, invest in a mower with a bagger system. This will chop up the leaves as it picks them up, and you can dump the leaves by the street for

city pick-up.

How about being more environmentally conscious and letting nature take its course? You can rake the leaves up and allow them to rot and decay in garden areas, where they become great mulch that will enrich the dirt. Over the winter, mix in food waste and coffee grounds, and soon you will have a very nice start to a mulch pile. In the process you will also be creating a small eco-system where lots of beneficial small animals and insects can thrive.

Another way to handle this problem is to leave the leaves laying in the yard or mulch them into the yard to provide nutrients to your lawn. Leaves will not kill the grass, unless there is a pretty thick layer. You can always rake down the areas that accumulate deep piles and level it out over your property.

Use great care when using power equipment to remove leaves. Engines and mufflers get very hot very fast, and it's very easy to start a dangerous fire.

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



Doug Green



## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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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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by Dave Ramsey

### Teaching the value of work...and money

Dear Dave,  
Is it okay to give very young children an allowance?

Christie

Dear Christie,  
Teaching kids there's an emotional connection between work and money is one of the best things you can do as a parent. Once your kids are old enough to do a few simple chores around the house, they're old enough to earn a little money doing them. In my mind, there's absolutely nothing wrong with putting kids who are three or four on a basic commission system.

If they do the jobs you assign them, they get paid. If they don't do the jobs, they don't get paid. We put a little dry-erase board on the refrigerator and listed the jobs they had to do during the week with a dollar amount next to each one.

Keep in mind, kids shouldn't get paid for every little thing they do around the house. Some jobs are just a necessary component of being part of a family. And there are some things kids should do simply because mom or dad asked them to. Some jobs should have a higher purpose in

mind, too, because as a parent you should want to find as many teachable moments for your kids as possible. Once they've earned their money, sit down with them and divide it into three separate envelopes—saving, spending and giving. That way, they get to learn about the uses for money while they're learning how to work!

Dave

### As safe as a neighborhood bank?

Dear Dave,  
How do you feel about online banks? Are they as safe as traditional, neighborhood banks?

Jeanna

Dear Jeanna,  
Sure, if they're guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The FDIC is one of two agencies that provide deposit insurance to customers in America's depository institutions. The other is the National Credit Union Administration, or NCUA, which insures and regulates credit unions.

If you're seriously considering using an online bank, there are a few things I'd advise checking out before making the move. Look into the bank's track record, and see how long it has been open. Also, if the bank you're considering doesn't have a name-brand you recognize, find out the amount of its deposits.

Online banks don't worry me today like they did 10 years ago. And almost everyone does some form of online banking these days, anyway. If the bank in question has a good reputation and sufficient deposits to have some strength in its FDIC guarantee, I wouldn't worry about it.

Dave

\*Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. Follow Dave on the web at [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com) and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

# November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

A cancer diagnosis is never a good thing. But a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer is often a death sentence, as pancreatic cancer patients have the lowest survival rate among all major cancers.

November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, with Thursday, November 21 designated as World Pancreatic Cancer Day, designed to increase awareness of the risks and symptoms of pancreatic cancer as well as the urgent need for early detection.

The pancreas is an organ located between the stomach and backbone in the upper part of the abdomen. It's surrounded by the liver, intestine, spleen and stomach.

The juices made by the pancreas contain enzymes that help break down and digest food. The juices flow through a series of ducts to the main pancreatic duct and then to the duodenum.

The pancreas also makes insulin and other hormones that help the body use or store energy from food and to control blood sugar. Pancreatic cancer occurs when there is uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells in the pancreas, usually concentrated in the pancreatic ducts, according to [www.pancreatic.org](http://www.pancreatic.org).

Pancreatic cancer is the only major cancer with a single-digit five-year survival rate, which ranges from two to nine percent of patients, depending on the country in which the patient resides.

More than 1,250 people are diagnosed daily with pancreatic cancer, and of those, an estimated 1,184 will die from the disease.

Although the cause of pancreatic cancer is not known, research has identified several risk factors that can increase the likelihood that someone will develop the disease. They include inherited genetic mutations, family history of the disease or other cancers, diabetes, pancreatitis, smoking, obesity, age and a high-fat diet.

Treatment for the disease depends on the stage of the cancer at the time of diagnosis, as well as the patient's overall health. Surgeons, if possible, will remove the cancer through an operation called the Whipple procedure, and follow up with chemotherapy.

## ABOUT PANCREATIC CANCER

Pancreatic cancer is the **3RD** leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States

Pancreatic cancer has the lowest five-year survival rate of any major cancer, at **ONLY 8%**

**MORE** patients will die from pancreatic cancer than breast cancer in 2016

For patients whose cancer has spread to other parts of the body, the treatment usually consists of chemotherapy and occasionally radiotherapy.

As with all cancers, if pancreatic cancer is found early, there are more treatment options and the survival rate is higher.

Symptoms of the disease often don't appear in the early stages, and some symptoms may be caused by other issues and not mean a diagnosis of cancer. Pancreatic cancer symptoms may include: Abdominal and mid-back pain, unexplained weight loss, yellow skin or eyes, change in stool, new-onset diabetes, digestive problems, loss of appetite and mood change.

Throughout November, there will be public awareness campaigns to inform and educate people about pancreatic cancer, as well as to provide an occasion to celebrate pancreatic cancer survivors and honor loved ones who have battled the disease.

For more information on Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, log onto [www.pancreatic.org/november/](http://www.pancreatic.org/november/).

For news updates throughout the week, don't forget to check us out on the web at [www.franklinfreepress.net/](http://www.franklinfreepress.net/)!

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# What's Happening

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

Once again, the City of Russellville is "Helping Santa" with toys for all the boys and girls of Russellville this Christmas. Toy Drive sign-up dates will be November 1-21, and completed paperwork will be accepted until November 27. Pick-up dates will be December 18 (inside the city), December 19 (in the county) and December 20 (for those who sign up late on November 22-27). Our goal is that no child in the city of Russellville will go without Christmas gifts this year. During these rough economic times, we are seeing more and more children that will go through Christmas without food, clothing or toys. We are asking that those who can help please do so. If you would like to donate, we will be accepting new or slightly used toys for age groups between newborn and 15 years old. Monetary donations may be made at any bank listed below. All money raised will be used to purchase toys and clothing for needy children. Please don't miss the blessing you will receive by making a donation to a child's Christmas. Last year, your donations allowed more than 350 children to have a more enjoyable Christmas! There will be donation boxes throughout the city at participating businesses. If you or your family would like to help, please donate in any way possible. We would all like to thank you and your family and wish you a Merry Christmas! Donation boxes will be at the following locations: Russellville Fire Dept. Stations #1 and #2, Russellville City Hall, Russellville Parks and Rec (Bishop and Mullins Center), Russellville Police Department, Russellville Street Department, Family Pharmacy Group locations in Russellville, Alabama Central Credit Union, First Metro Bank, Valley Credit Union, Miller's Affordable Furniture, CB&S Bank locations in Russellville, Valley State Bank locations in Russellville, Listerhill Credit Union in Russellville, Green's Dependable True Value, Country Cottage, Auto Zone, Speedy Pig, O'Reilly Auto Parts, 43 Grill, CVS, American Health & Fitness, Jack's Restaurant, Goody's, Hibbett Sports, Community Spirit Bank, Dollar General, Gold Kist, State Farm Insurance and El Patron Restaurant.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833 will meet Thursday, November 7 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center on Ash Avenue. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For more info, call 256-324-2317. Everyone welcome!

The Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts in Red Bay announces its first production for the 2019-2020 season, *Southern Fried Funeral* by Osborne and Eppler, directed by Scotty Kennedy. The performance dates are Thursday-Saturday, November 7-9, 2019 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at the Weatherford Centre in Red Bay. You may call or go by between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. weekdays to reserve or purchase your tickets at \$8.00 each. For group sales, contact Beth Hammock at 256-356-9286.

Gateway Church (15988 Hwy. 43 North in Russellville) will have a special service this Saturday, November 9 at 6 p.m. with special guests Hank and Rhonda Davis and special singers the Dora Church of God choir. For more information, call pastor Nick McSpadden at 256-627-7935.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guest Avery Guinn at the Roxy Theatre this Saturday, November 9 at 7 p.m. General admission seating. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. 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.

Come join us for a Gospel Singing, featuring Resound, this Sunday, November 10 at 5 p.m. at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 305 Bethlehem Road, Russellville.

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, November 14 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The Shoals Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will meet in the Media Room at Park Place (500 N. Montgomery Avenue in Sheffield) on Thursday, November 14 at 2:30 p.m. Wendy Sellers will lead the study "Baptism and the Holy Spirit" 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.

The second annual Gospel Singing featuring the Primitive Quartet and Heaven's Mountain Band will be held Friday, November 15 at 7 p.m. at Pebble Community Center (100 County Road 3423, Haleyville, AL 35565). Master of Ceremony will be Jerry Edgil from WBTG. Admission is \$10. Children under 12 get in free. Concessions go to support the Community Center. Campsites available for \$12/day.

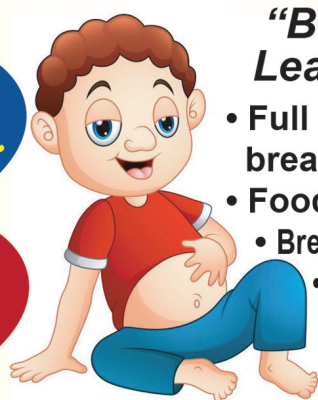
The group "Still Here" will celebrate its ninth anniversary on Sunday, November 17 at 5 p.m. at New Freedom Fellowship Church, 15312 Highway 43 in Russellville (located between Subway and Sonic Drive-In). Everyone is invited to be part of this celebration. All groups, soloists and choirs are welcome. If you are unable to attend this event, your love offering will be greatly appreciated.

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# What's Happening

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

**T**ruman Capote's *The Thanksgiving Visitor* and *A Christmas Memory* will be discussed at the November 20 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 Russellville and Franklin County Bicentennial Committee invites you to attend the grand finale Bicentennial Birthday Celebration on Thursday, November 21 at 6 p.m. at the Todd Centre in Russellville. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased from committee members or by contacting Chris Ozbirn at 253-332-8827 or by email at archive@hiwaay.com. Ticket sale deadline is Thursday, November 14. No tickets will be sold at the door. Attendees are encouraged to dress according to any period of history of their choosing. The menu will consist of smoked chicken, pinto beans, turnip greens, potato salad, corn bread and fried pies. Music will be provided by the Athens Dulcimer Jam Group.

**Y**ou are invited to gather in Red Bay's Bay Tree Park and be a part of your **FIRST EVER** Live Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, December 1 at 5 p.m. Enjoy the sounds of the season as our children's choir (directed by Mark Gajewski) and our community adult choir (directed by Phoebe Harrison) fill the night with familiar Christmas carols. Bask in the joy of the Christmas season as our local businesses offer special discounts, good food, door prizes and much, much more in downtown Red Bay on Sunday afternoon, December 1 during open house. Then, on Monday evening, December 2, enjoy the annual Red Bay Christmas parade. Don't forget that Red Bay Bucks winners will be announced after the parade. Also remember to get your Punch Card punched between November 18 and December 1 to be eligible for a gift basket drawing. This is a "Vintage Christmas in the Bay" you won't want to miss!

**S**pruce Pine Historical Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Next meeting is December 3. All members and friends are urged to attend.

**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.



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**Pictured on this page are some of the winners of this year's *Free Press* Pet Costume Contest! Each winner (and their owner) received a gift basket courtesy of the *Free Press*. Congrats to all who participated! Check out next week's edition for more winners!**



Cooper (owner Paige Bowen)



Pepper (owner Sandra Bragwell)



Dixie (owner Amanda Herring)



Myles (owner Kellie Calderon)



Opal (owner Shelby Hovater)



Rosie & Tabitha (owners Cecil & Tresa Holt)



Sophie (owners Rocky & Cindy Hudson)



Sluggo (owners Gene & Linda Graham)



Cooper (owner Bridget Jefferies)



Millie (owner Chloe Littleton)



# Eight years later, PCHS student still giving back

Brady Petree  
Franklin Free Press

For residents of northwest Alabama, April 27, 2011 is a day that will remain in the back of their minds for the rest of their lives. In the midst of the worst tornado outbreak the state of Alabama had ever seen, Phil Campbell was reduced to shambles after an EF-5 tore through the town.

Although that tragic day was more than eight years ago, the town and its people are still attempting to pick up the pieces and push forward. One of the people impacted by the events of April 27 was Katie Smith. Smith, now a senior at Phil Campbell High School, lost the town that she had grown to know and love, along with two of her closest friends in Ethan Knox and Edgar Mojica. Also destroyed in the events of that day was the campus of the Phil Campbell High School and Elementary School.

Smith, who was only nine years old during the tornado outbreak in 2011, knew she wanted to help restore the town and school in any way possible; she just wasn't quite sure how to do that. Then the idea came to her. Smith had seen on TV how kids would make lemonade stands to raise money for a variety of different causes. Whether it be to raise money for a bicycle, a family vacation, or essentially anything else a child might need money for, it felt like a lemonade stand was the way to go.

So that's exactly what Smith did.

She and her grandmother began developing the idea for a lemonade stand that would generate enough money to help benefit the most beloved place in the Phil Campbell community: The schools.

Smith said that the main reason behind starting the annual lemonade stand was to honor her former classmates who perished in the storms.

"Personally, I think that as a kid you don't really know how to process that you've just lost two young friends," Smith said. "So at the time I just felt like that was the best way to represent them and who they were."

Smith would set up her lemonade stand every year at the Phil Campbell Hoedown, where she charged \$1 for a cup of lemonade. Of course, running a lemonade stand at nine years old requires a bit of help, and Smith gives credit to her father, along with her grandparents, for helping her and giving her the opportunity to help others.

After this year's Hoedown, once the last cup of lemonade was poured and the last dollar was earned, Smith had raised more than \$700 off of just one day of selling. The money that was raised from the stand, as it is every year, will be donated right back to the school system so that Smith, along with her classmates and other generations of students, can reap the benefits.

Over the course of the past nine years, Smith has been able to raise more than \$2,000, which has all been donated back to the school. The funds raised by Smith went towards the new playground at the Elementary School, benches outside of the school and even to help pay for the sound system for the school.

While the money that Smith has raised has gone to the school, she hopes that the message behind the lemonade stand reaches beyond the campus grounds and has an impact on the citizens of Phil Campbell.

"I hope that they understand that no matter where they go, whether they stay here or if they go off to a big city, there's always something that they can



PHOTO BY BRADY PETREE

PCHS senior Katie Smith was nine years old when an EF-5 tornado destroyed the school and claimed the lives of two of her friends. Each year since, she has sold lemonade at the Phil Campbell Hoedown to raise money for her school. Above, Smith presents this year's funds to PCHS principal Darit Riddle.

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## 'BOND,' from page 1

classrooms, laboratories and administrative offices, as well as the remodeling of and additions to the Career and Technical Education Building.

The bonds will bear interest semiannually on June 1 and December 1 of each year, expected to commence December 1, 2020. The Russellville City Council has contracted with Joe Jolly & Company of Birmingham to work the bond market to find the lowest available rates for the loan, which may also include more than \$1 million borrowed by the city for a major street paving and renovation project.

The memorandum provides that "issuance of the Series 2019-B Warrants is dependent upon favorable conditions in the public debt market, and that circumstances beyond the control of the city (e.g. financial crises, extreme interest rate fluctuations or volatility, etc.) may cause issuance of the Series 2019-B Warrants to be delayed or suspended."

The agreement also provides that the city may withhold amounts it has budgeted for appropriation to Russellville City Schools and use them for payment in the event the RCS Board doesn't make payments as provided in the agreement.

A proposed debt service schedule calls for RCS to pay \$671,897 toward its debt service in 2020, with amounts increasing to more than \$857,690 in 2031.

The debt service would be satisfied by Russellville City Schools in 2049, according to the preliminary agreement.

RCS superintendent Heath Grimes has previously said he hopes to break ground on the RHS capital improvement by August of 2020.

## 'QUALIFYING,' from page 1

President Donald Trump on the ballot next year, Democratic candidates will have to overcome what is expected to be a large straight party vote for the Republican ticket in Franklin County.

On the Republican side, commissioner Rayburn Massey filed his paperwork last week to seek another term representing District 3 on the Franklin County Commission.

Political newcomer Joe Fike, the Phil Campbell police chief, has qualified to run for District 1 against incumbent Chris Wallace in the Republican Primary.

And Pat Cochran, the incumbent Franklin County Board of Education District 3 member, has filed to run as a Republican. When Cochran was elected in 2014, he ran on the Democratic ticket.

Other candidates to qualify as Republicans include incumbent commissioners Chris Wallace, Jason Miller and David Hester; Franklin County Revenue Commissioner Veronica Stancil; Stratt Byars for revenue commissioner; and Joseph Baldwin for commission District 3.

Superintendent of Education Greg Hamilton, an Independent, will run again in the general election as an independent candidate and will file the petition with the required number of signatures before the deadline next year, Hamilton said.

Primary elections are set for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 as part of what is called "Super Tuesday" nationally due to the large number of states holding Presidential primaries that day.

Residents wanting to run for office as Republicans may submit their declarations of candidacy and the qualifying fee to Franklin County Republican Party chairman Jerry Mays or in Russellville at 500 North Jackson Avenue at the Republican Party headquarters. You can contact Mays at 256-810-2551 or Lowell Moore at 256-324-8698 for more information.

You can contact Britton at 256-436-8330 to qualify as a Democrat or for more information or questions related to running for public office.



# Classifieds

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**LOST AND FOUND**

Lost Wedding Ring. I lost my diamond wedding ring Friday, September 6th, sometime after 5 p.m., at Tharptown High School football game, or at Subway in Russellville. If found, please contact Donna at 256-566-8864. Reward for return of ring. Thank You! (5)

**YARD SALES**

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Saturday, November 9. 7 a.m.-1 p.m. In front of M&N Towing at 11833 Highway 43 South in Russellville. Plus sized clothing, shoes, purses, household items, books, cookbooks and much more! Rescheduled in event of rain.

**HELP WANTED/LOOKING FOR WORK/LOOKING TO BUY**

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## 'GIVING,' from page 9

do for others," Smith said. Phil Campbell High School principal Darit Riddle praised Smith for her work and efforts in helping both the school and the community of Phil Campbell push forward. "Katie is top-notch," Riddle said. "She's a hardworker, a great kid, and she's just the kind of kid you want to teach. She's really just one of the best students we have here. The public has come to expect Katie and her lemonade stand every year. Other students see what she's done, and they've been able to take from that and learn from what she's been able to do." Riddle said that the school has benefited greatly from Smith and her donations over the years and confirmed that this year's donation would go towards improving the school's sound system. While the town has been moving forward every

day for nine years, Riddle believes that Smith and her annual lemonade stand have been a large morale boost to the community and its rebuilding efforts. "After the tornados came through, everyone in the community wanted to help," Riddle said. "They just really weren't sure how to do so. And Katie comes out here with her lemonade stand, kind of like a light in the dark for everyone to see. It showed people that they can help no matter how big or small of a contribution it is. It helps. The \$400 or \$500 that she donates year to year might not look like a lot, but it has a much larger impact, and we've been able to help our students tremendously with that money. "We are very thankful for Katie and the work she's done over the years." From a personal aspect, Smith believes that she

has learned a lot over the past nine years and credits her experiences for being the reason she is the person she is today. "I matured a lot in a very short amount of time during all of this," Smith said. "It really threw me forward in a sense, but I really wouldn't have it any other way. I realize how much more fortunate I am, and things like that make me very grateful." While Smith will graduate in May with hopes of pursuing a degree at the University of Montevallo, she hopes to be able to continue the lemonade stand if possible. "As of right now, this has been my last year to do it," Smith said. "However, as I go through college and start doing different things, I would love to find ways to give back to the school. If we're able to continue running the lemonade stand for years down the road, that would be awesome."

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ALABAMA ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, ALABAMA CODE SECTIONS 32-13-1 THROUGH 32-13-8, THE FOLLOWING MOTOR VEHICLE WILL BE SOLD FOR CASH AT 9:30 A.M., ON NOVEMBER 30, 2019, AT M&N WRECKER & SERVICE CENTER, 11833 HWY. 43 SOUTH, RUSSELLVILLE, AL, 35653. SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BID AND THE RIGHT TO BID. SELLER WILL ACCEPT SEALED BIDS THROUGH 5 P.M., NOVEMBER 29, 2019, AT THE LOCATION DESCRIBED ABOVE. BIDS WILL BE OPENED ONSITE AT M&N WRECKER & SERVICE CENTER ON NOVEMBER 30, 2019, AT 9:30 A.M.

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## Six local establishments earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Each of the six Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of October 21-25 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.

All six Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range. The high score was 99, received by Piggly Wiggly Deli, 3625 Broad St., Phil Campbell.

Other inspection scores and violations of Franklin County businesses included:

- Gas Mart West, 23791 Hwy. 24 West, Russellville, 87. (Prep cooler holding eggs, sliced tomatoes and lettuce at 52 degrees, mold on fountain nozzles, dishes not being sanitized).

- Campbell's Texaco, 3075 Hwy. 237, Phil Campbell, 92. (No available toilet paper in the restroom).

- Jack's #148, 13640 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 94. (Dirty chicken rack pans stored with clean dishes).

- Piggly Wiggly #87, 3625 Broad St., Phil Campbell, 96.

- Daisy Grocery, 125 North Jackson Ave., Russellville, 97.

Of the 26 inspections done in Colbert County from October 21-25, all received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 99 went to Momma P's To Go, 414 North Montgomery, Sheffield.

Health ratings are available at [www.foodscores.state.al.us](http://www.foodscores.state.al.us) and may be viewed by city or county.



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

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at [franklinfreepress.net](http://franklinfreepress.net)!

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## Week 11 in the SEC

Last week's record: 4-0  
Year-to-date record: 33-7  
This week's games:  
Vanderbilt at Florida (-25) –  
11:00 on ESPN



**Mike Self**  
Sports Editor

The Gators are bound to be a bit deflated after last week's loss to Georgia, which knocked them out of the playoff hunt and dealt a huge blow to their SEC East title hopes.

Still, they should have plenty of juice to handle Vanderbilt, which really struggles to stop the pass. Vandy's D has allowed a league-worst 8.5 yards per attempt and 18 touchdowns through the air while picking off just three passes.

**The Pick: Florida 34 Vanderbilt 10**  
LSU at Alabama (-6) – 2:30 on CBS

These two titans have been on a collision course since it became apparent that LSU had genuinely embraced a new approach on offense after years of merely paying lip service to the idea. Here's some keen insight for you: The quarterbacks will be key. All signs certainly point to Tua playing on Saturday afternoon in T-Town, but will he be limited in any significant way? The Tide better hope not, because this one is setting up as a shootout. [As of Sunday, the Vegas over-under was 65, unheard of for an Alabama-LSU game.]

As high as the score is likely to be, the stakes are even higher. Everything—including the SEC West title, a playoff berth and quite possibly the Heisman Trophy—is on the table. While Tua and Joe Burrow—along with their respective receiving groups, both of which are fantastic—have been hogging all the headlines and lighting up scoreboards, both teams have steadily improved in the run game and on defense.

That being said, it seems fair to suggest that whichever quarterback plays better will likely come out on top. But don't underestimate the fact that Alabama will have two advantages on Saturday that LSU won't—home field and Nick Saban on the sidelines.

**The Pick: Alabama 37 LSU 34**  
Missouri at Georgia (-14.5) – 6:00 on ESPN

Jake Fromm reminded everybody last Saturday in Jacksonville that he's pretty good, throwing for 279 yards and two touchdowns on 20-for-30 passing in a 24-17 victory over Florida. The return of Lawrence Cager (seven catches for 132 yards and a score) from a one-game injury absence was huge for the Bulldog passing game.

Now Georgia faces the challenge of answering the bell emotionally after such a huge win. The good news for the Bulldogs is that Missouri's rush defense (217.0 yards allowed per game the last three weeks) and offense (21 total points in losses to Vanderbilt and Kentucky) are slipping.

**The Pick: Georgia 31 Missouri 13**  
Tennessee at Kentucky (-2.5) – 6:30 on SECN

The Vols have lost to Kentucky before when the Wildcats had a receiver playing quarterback...but not this time. Tennessee is finally on a legitimate roll for the first time under Jeremy Pruitt.

**The Pick: Tennessee 24 Kentucky 17**

# Playoff time



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

From left, seniors Jamal Hubbard, Jose Gaspar, Austin Ashley and Trenton Hollimon will look to extend their high school careers and help Russellville reach the second round with a win at Scottsboro on Friday.

After righting the ship with a pair of late-season wins, the Golden Tigers will open the playoffs against a Scottsboro team that rode a prolific ground game and a stingy defense to an 8-2 record. Sound familiar?

*Mike Self*  
Franklin Free Press

Heading into Friday's first-round matchup in the Class 5A playoffs, Russellville and Scottsboro have at least two things in common.

Both teams like to run the football, and both defenses enter the postseason playing very well.

"Offensively, they like to run," Russellville coach John Ritter said of the Wildcats, who finished the regular season 8-2 and went 6-1 in Region 8 to earn the No. 2 seed and the right to host Friday's game. "Their quarterback is a good, hard-nosed player, and their running back is a speedy back. They're gonna run, run and run some more."

Scottsboro did exactly that on October 11 against Arab, rushing for a season-high 482 yards in a 56-42 win. Senior running back Cam Bass

and junior quarterback Jacob Manning became the first pair of teammates in the program's 103-year history to each rush for more than 200 yards in the same game. Bass ran 28 times for 253 yards and three touchdowns, while Manning carried 20 times for 221 yards and five scores.

**"Offensively, they like to run,"** Russellville coach John Ritter said of the Wildcats, who finished the regular season 8-2 and went 6-1 in Region 8 to earn the No. 2 seed and the right to host Friday's game. **"Their quarterback is a good, hard-nosed player, and their running back is a speedy back. They're gonna run, run and run some more."**

Both players have rushed for well in excess of 1,000 yards on the season, presenting a stiff challenge for a Russellville defense that prides itself



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Veteran Lady Bulldogs look to take next step

Mike Self Franklin Free Press

As of earlier this week, Belgreen girls coach Chad Green and his players had not yet taken the time to verbalize their specific goals for the upcoming season, which tips off next Friday, November 8 with a home game against Lindsay Lane.

"No, we haven't set our individual or team goals yet this year," said Green, now in his fifth season at Belgreen and his 14th year overall as a varsity head coach. "We'll sit down and do that some time soon. You always want to do the best you can do regular season-wise, and then the real season comes with area tournament play."

Truthfully, though, the focus for Green and the Lady Bulldogs lies beyond the area tournament, a little deeper into the postseason. They've had 20-win seasons. They've been area tournament champions. They've been to Hanceville—three times, in fact, in Green's first four years on the job.

The next step, the one that has remained frustratingly out of reach thus far,

is to win a game in Hanceville and advance to play for a regional championship.

The Sweet 16 is, well, sweet. But the Elite Eight? That's...elite. And Green thinks he has a team that's capable of getting there.

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The first thing that jumps off the page about the Lady Bulldogs (who went 23-8 last year and lost to Falkville in the regional semifinals) is their experience. They will start four seniors (guards Gracie Dempsey and Autumn Bragwell, versatile forward Katie Dempsey and post player Ansley Tate) and a junior (post player Emma Dempsey) who have a combined 12 full seasons of varsity experience among them.

"This is probably the most veteran team I've ever coached, just because of [having] four seniors and a junior in Emma having so much experience," said Green, who was head coach at Tharptown for nine years prior to his arrival at Belgreen. "Katie's been on the varsity since the end of her eighth-grade year. Autumn, Gracie and Ansley have been on the varsity since the end of their ninth-grade year. And Emma has started on the varsity since her eighth-grade year, so good Lord willing this will be her fourth year on the varsity as well."

"That kind of experience gives you a great advantage. When you go into practice, the kids know what you want. They've been with you before, and they understand the preseason routine and what to do going into different matchups during the season. They already have a basic knowledge of what's expected of them."

With that experience comes tremendous balance. Emma Dempsey topped the 20-point mark five times last year as a sophomore, with a season-high of 26. Bragwell put up a pair of 20-point games, scoring a season-high 27 in a December win over Brilliant. Katie Dempsey scored a career-high 29 points in a January win over Pickens County, and Tate had back-to-back games of 28 and 22 points in late-season wins over Hackleburg and Red Bay.

Gracie Dempsey put up high games of 19 points at Vina and 18 against Winston County, coming up just short of giving the Lady Bulldogs five returning players who scored 20-plus on at least one occasion last season.

"This is a very unselfish team," Green said. "A very unselfish team. Any of those five girls right there could have 20-plus any night."

Belgreen is balanced in another key regard as well—the ability to hurt teams inside and out. Emma Dempsey, a 6'1 center, led the team in scoring last year with 12.4 points per game while also averaging 6.2 rebounds, 1.9 steals and 1.8 blocks per contest. Tate (7.6 points per game) did virtually all of her damage on the low block and also led the team in rebounding at 7.0 per contest.

Bragwell (9.0 points per game) and Gracie Dempsey (8.8) combined to make 89 threes between them last season and provide plenty of perimeter firepower. Katie Dempsey (7.7 points per game) bridges the gap from the paint to the perimeter, knocking down the occasional three [she made a career-high 10 last season] while also scoring in the post and pulling down 6.3 rebounds per game.

"The balance we have is really good," Green said. "We've got good speed, and we've got some length and athleticism. We've got some shooters on the outside, and we've got some good post play inside. It's a well balanced group."

The Lady Bulldogs ran much of their half-court offense last season through Emma Dempsey, who was especially effective catching the ball in the high post, facing up and attacking the basket. She scored in double-figures 21 times in 31 games and was also a solid playmaker, handing out 54 assists.

Dempsey has already scored 993 career points, but—with two full seasons

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# Murr, Lindsay Lane bound for Belgreen on Friday

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

Get your popcorn ready, Franklin County basketball fans.

The Tommy Murr Show is coming to Belgreen.

Murr is a 6'2, 165-pound senior guard at Lindsay Lane Christian Academy, a Class 1A school in Athens. He also happens to be one of the most prolific scorers in high school hoops in all of America.

As a sophomore in 2017-18, Murr put up 39.7 points per game—the highest scoring average in the country for players who played at least 30 games. Murr was even better last season as a junior, averaging a career-high 45.1 points per game, good for second in the nation according to MaxPreps.

Entering his senior season at Lindsay Lane, Murr ranks third in AHSAA history with 4,210 career points. He's just 15 points—one good quarter, in other words—away from moving into second place on that list and 346 points—a couple of weeks, give or take—away from surpassing former Parkway Christian star Jeremy Monceaux (4,555 career points) as the state's all-time leading scorer.

It's unclear as to which task is more difficult—containing Murr on the court or putting his mind-boggling numbers in perspective. The latter seems virtually impossible, but here goes: A handful of select high school players are honored—and rightfully so—by their respective schools each season for reaching the prestigious 1,000-point mark in their prep careers. Last season *alone*, Murr (who committed to David Lipscomb last month, choosing the Bisons over Troy and Samford) scored a state-record 1,442 points—including a season-high 61 in a game against Sheffield and 59 against R.A. Hubbard.

For the typical basketball fan in Franklin County, that's essentially what Murr is: A collection of eye-popping numbers and jaw-dropping YouTube highlights. That all changes next Friday, November 8, when Lindsay Lane rolls into Belgreen to open the 2019-20 season against the Bulldogs.

So what can local fans expect to see from the man, the myth, the legend that is Tommy Murr? Can he possibly live up to the hype?

Scott Whittle, Murr's AAU coach with the Alabama Fusion, says the answer is most definitely yes.

"He's known for his scoring, but he's more than just a scorer," said Whittle, a 1990 graduate of Deshler High School who has worked in player development for two NBA franchises, the Boston Celtics and the Orlando Magic. "He's a gifted passer. He's a leader. He does things on the floor, like with his pick-and-roll reads, that are really pro-like. Having been on that level, I can compare him at that young age to guys at that level in that regard.

"He's only known for his scoring, but that really doesn't do justice to his game. He's much more than a scorer, and people are gonna see that when he plays for Lenny Acuff at Lipscomb in Nashville. He probably will average double-figure assists. That wouldn't surprise me at all."

Whittle raised more than a few eyebrows when he was quoted in a *USA Today* article as comparing Murr's passing ability to that of LeBron James.

"When I said he was at a LeBron James skill level in passing, I got laughed at," Whittle said earlier this week. "But the more people start to notice him, they're starting to see that I was right."

But let's be honest. The fans who will undoubtedly flock to Belgreen High School next Friday night won't be there to see Murr pass the basketball. They'll be there to watch him put it in the hole—which he can do in a seemingly infinite number of ways.

"He does a lot of getting to the rim, drawing contact and getting to the line," Whittle said of Murr, who set single-season state records as a junior with 346 free throws made and 487 field goals made. "He's a 50-40-90 guy. He'll shoot 50 percent from the field, 40 percent from three and 90 from the line. It's nothing for him to shoot twelve to eighteen free throws in a game. He knows how to draw fouls when he drives, and he finishes a lot of them. He's good at finishing through contact.

"He'll pull up at the free throw line or the free throw line extended, and he'll probably take seven to ten threes a game. He'll make some mid-range shots, but most of what he gets will either be from three or around the rim."

Murr put up a dozen games of 50-plus points last season—a feat made all the more impressive when you consider that virtually all of Lindsay Lane's opponents made it their express goal to keep Murr from going bonkers on them.

Trying to slow him down and actually *succeeding*, however, are two different things. You know what they say about the best-laid plans.

"I remember walking into the gym one night," Whittle said, "and one of R.A. Hubbard's coaches told me, 'Your boy's not gonna have his average tonight.' Tommy was averaging around 42 a game at the time. He had 59 that night. So I guess [the coach] was right. He didn't have his average. He had much more than that."

R.A. Hubbard's strength-in-numbers approach [the Chiefs tried surrounding Murr with three or four defenders for much of the night] clearly didn't work, so how does a team go about slowing him down? Does Whittle have any secrets he's willing to share?

"You're not really trying to stop him. It's moreso trying to contain him," Whittle said. "You can try to disrupt his ability to drive. Teams that try to take one thing away as opposed to trying to take everything away have a lot more success. Teams that try to double- and triple-team him, they tend to get those guys in foul trouble. You're better off trying to take away one or the other.

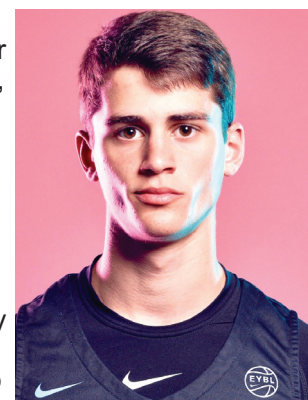
"You can try and push him off the three-point line.

You can have your help defense step up to try and keep him from driving to the goal. But you can't take away everything. He's too smart and too heady a player for that. He has good foot-speed and a good handle. You just try to take one thing away and stop everybody else. If you can do that, you can beat Lindsay Lane."

Murr, a first-team All-State selection last season and a finalist for Class 1A Player of the Year, plays for his father, Steve Murr, at Lindsay Lane. According to Whittle, Murr is even more impressive on the AAU circuit.

"The better players he has around him, the more his game can shine," Whittle said. "He's able to make passes to guys who can finish above the rim. He can draw those double-teams on dribble-drives and kick it out to shooters. He did that a lot on the [Nike] EYBL circuit this summer. [The EYBL] is known for having the best of the best in amateur athletics, and Tommy actually averaged the most points per minute played of anybody on that circuit. It was impressive."

After reading all the headlines, digesting the numbers and watching the highlights on social media, Franklin County fans will finally get to immerse themselves in the full Tommy Murr Experience next Friday at Belgreen.



Tommy Murr

See 'MURR,' page 17

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**Jacob Bishop**  
Senior QB, Russellville

Bishop started Senior Night off with a bang last Friday against Central, throwing a 54-yard touchdown strike to T.J. King on Russellville's first play from scrimmage. Bishop later scored on a highlight-reel 36-yard run and finished the night with 54 rushing yards on 10 carries to go along with 114 yards on 7-for-11 passing in the Golden Tigers' 27-8 win.

Heading into this week's first-round playoff game at Scottsboro, Bishop has thrown for 1,063 yards and 10 touchdowns while also rushing for 543 yards and nine scores.



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# 'STEP,' from page 14

remaining—the best may be yet to come. “She’s gonna score inside most of the time, but she can step up and shoot that little jump shot,” Green said. “She gets a lot of her touches right around the free throw line. She’s getting better and better at getting fouled and getting to the line. The next step for her is just being aggressive every night, and I think that will come this year.

“She’s a veteran, and she’s more experienced. She’s been around for a while. There were several games last year where she went out there and was very aggressive and did really well. I expect more of that this time, just because she’s such a veteran player.”

With Dempsey preferring to attack opposing defenses off the bounce from the foul-line area, the 5’7 Tate provides the perfect low-post complement. She shot 45 percent from the floor last season and was a major factor on the offensive glass—particularly down the stretch.

“Ansley is hard to handle,” Green said. “Man, she turned it on late toward the end of last season. She really upped her game. And when she did that, it upped our game as a team.”

In addition to her versatility on the offensive end,

Katie Dempsey also provides athleticism and toughness on the defensive end, where she often guards the opposing team’s top threat.

“Katie’s just an all-around great player,” Green said. “She’s a great help defender and a good rebounder. She’s smart on the floor. She’s really improved as an outside shooter, and she can go inside, too.”

Gracie Dempsey knocked down a team-best 47 threes last year, followed by Bragwell with 42. Both are much more than spot-up shooters, though. Bragwell, who averaged 3.0 rebounds per game last year and also shot 68 percent (47-for-69) from the foul line, continues to improve her all-around game, and Dempsey—whose 75 assists last year ranked second on the team—will be shifting full-time to the point to replace Gabbie Moore.

“They can make outside shots. They’ve both shot the ball well in the past,” Green said. “Autumn had a great summer. She’s much more confident attacking the basket. She’s always been a set shooter and a knockdown three-point shooter, but this summer she worked on being more aggressive shooting off-the-dribble jump shots and taking the ball inside, using her body.

“Gracie, she’ll be moving roles this year from the wing to the point. She’s athletic, and we want to give her some freedom. She pushes the ball down the floor well. She’s got the ability and the speed to get in the lane. It’ll be a different role for her, but I think it suits her well. She’s very unselfish. She doesn’t mind to dump it off to a post player or kick it out to other shooters.”

Providing depth for the Lady Bulldogs beyond that experienced starting unit will be junior Whitney Turbyfill, sophomores Kaley Chandler, Nora Castillo and Dulce Donagustin, and freshman Noelle Willingham.

“Kaley is another good outside shooter,” Green said. “She gets in the lane well. I was really pleased with how she played this summer and how she gelled with the other varsity girls. We expect big things from her. Noelle plays some point guard. She’s just a great athlete who runs fast, hustles and plays good defense. She’s got a good little free throw line jump shot.

“Dulce and Nora and Whitney are gritty players and good team players. They’re good kids, and they’ve been doing well in practice.”

Once again, Belgreen’s primary obstacles to reaching that elusive regional final will be area opponent Phillips—which added Haleyville transfer Ali Temple to the returning inside-outside duo of Ally McCollum and Gracie Hallman—and Mars Hill, the team the Lady Bulldogs beat last year in sub-regional play. Belgreen also added a home-and-home with Russellville (girls only) to an already challenging schedule that includes Deshler, Phil Campbell, Red Bay, Tharptown and Lindsay Lane, among others. The Lady Bulldogs will once again compete in the Winston County Tournament at Christmas while also facing Decatur Heritage in a game at Wallace State.

They hope to be back in Hanceville again come February. And this time, they plan on sticking around a little longer.

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# Unbeaten Red Bay faces first-round challenge

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

Red Bay's reward for going 10-0 for just the fifth time in the last 28 years and winning its first region title since 2015 is a date with quite possibly the toughest No. 4 seed in all of Class 2A.

Cedar Bluff (7-3, 4-3 in Region 8) spent six weeks this season ranked in the Top 10 and won five games by a margin of at least 26 points. The Tigers have been perennial contenders for a quarter-century, missing the playoffs just once (2013) in the last 24 years and playing for a Class 1A state championship as recently as 2015.

Now in its second year at the 2A level, Cedar Bluff has an impressive 115-52 record in 14 seasons under head coach Jonathan McWhorter.

"Cedar Bluff is a power team with a physical offensive and defensive line. They play in a very good region," Red Bay coach Michael Jackson said. "All three of their losses came against Top 10 schools [North Sand Mountain, defending state champion Fyffe and Collinsville]. They put up a lot of points, and they're solid on defense."

The same can be said, of course, for Jackson's Tigers as well. Red Bay (10-0, 6-0 in Region 7) hit the 50-point mark three times during the regular season and averaged 35.8 points per game, with an offense that was balanced and explosive.

Despite losing leading rusher Colbie King to a season-ending injury in the opener, the Tigers still averaged 200.9 yards per game on the ground and 5.3 yards per carry. The passing game, meanwhile, was more productive than it's been at any point in Jackson's six-year tenure, with junior Jalen Vinson (a first-year starter at quarterback) completing 53 percent (84-for-158) of his attempts for 1,491 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Red Bay's offense has produced 107 plays of 10-plus yards, with many of those chunk gains coming through the air. Senior receiver Arden Hamilton (31 catches for 727 yards) has been a game-changer on the outside, averaging 23.5 yards per reception and a staggering 49.3 yards on his six touchdown grabs.

Junior receiver Mason Holt (24 catches for 402 yards and two scores) and senior slot man Colyn Humphres (16 catches for 248 yards and two touchdowns) give Vinson two more dangerous targets in the passing game.

Taking over for his injured older brother, junior tailback Hunter King has rushed for 839 yards and seven touchdowns on 152 carries, and he closed the regular season with back-to-back 100-yard games. Humphres has added 480 yards on 90 carries and has been extremely effective near the goal line, with 10 of his team-high 12 rushing touchdowns coming from inside the 10-yard line. Vinson has also been a major factor in the ground game, rushing for 455 yards and 10 scores on 64 carries.

That Red Bay offense will face a Cedar Bluff defense that was hit-or-miss during the regular season. In their seven wins, the Tigers allowed an average of just 7.4 points per game; in their three losses, they gave up 45.0 points per game.

## 'MURR,' from page 15

Whittle says it will absolutely be worth the price of admission.

"As a scorer, Tommy is fun to watch," Whittle said. "He's flashy, but he's controlled. That's hard to say, but it's true. He's gonna do the no-look passes and make plays you wouldn't think you'd see at the high school level—especially at 1A. But he's really under control with what he does. The flashiness he displays is not out of control. He's really fun to watch. He's a difference-maker, and people like to watch him."

"It's gonna be fun for Franklin County to get to watch him play. I think it will be a good game, too. Will Bonner [Belgreen's sophomore point guard] will get a chance to show what he can do against a guy at that level. Will is a good and gifted player in his own right. That's a good matchup, and it'll be fun to see."

The Bulldogs will be playing their first game under new coach Marty Cooper, who spent 21 seasons as a head coach at the junior college level in Mississippi. Bonner, who averaged 11.3 points, 5.9 assists and 4.7 rebounds per game as a freshman at Russellville last season while helping the Golden Tigers win 20 games, transferred to Belgreen this summer along with his brother Collin Bonner (3.7 points per game as an RHS freshman last year) and senior post player Bryant Hubbert.

That trio of transfers will join returning starters Scout Bragwell (a smooth-shooting guard who averaged 13.0 points per game for the Bulldogs as a sophomore last season while making 66 threes and shooting 51 percent from the floor and 81 percent from the foul line) and Isac Willingham (a rugged forward who averaged 5.6 points and 5.2 rebounds per game as a sophomore last season) to give Belgreen a strong nucleus in Cooper's debut season.

"Their front and their linebackers are the strength of their defense," said Jackson, whose team averages right at 350.0 yards per game and 6.6 yards per play. "The keys for us on offense are being able to run the football and throw it on our terms."

Offensively, Cedar Bluff averages 25.1 points per game but has the capability of putting up bigger numbers. The Tigers topped the 40-point mark three times during the regular season and scored at least 35 in two others—despite losing projected starting quarterback Luke Hampton to a season-ending injury in the spring.

**"Cedar Bluff is a power team with a physical offensive and defensive line. They play in a very good region," Red Bay coach Michael Jackson said. "All three of their losses came against Top 10 schools [North Sand Mountain, defending state champion Fyffe and Collinsville]. They put up a lot of points, and they're solid on defense."**

Samuel Cosby (a 6'2, 210-pound senior) moved from receiver to quarterback and has done an admirable job filling in for Hampton.

"Their quarterback is a power runner with the ability to throw the ball on the run," Jackson said. "He's a big kid. Defensively, we'll have to contain the quarterback and limit big plays."

Defensive coordinator Jamie Purser's veteran unit has done an excellent job of that this season, allowing only 48 plays of 10-plus yards—an average of less than five per game. Red Bay's D gives up only 10.9 points and 172.8 total yards per game, excelling against both the run (76.0 yards allowed per game and 2.6 yards allowed per carry) and the pass (96.8 yards allowed per game with four interceptions returned for touchdowns).

Junior linebacker Cam McKinney has one of those pick-sixes and also leads the team with 88 total tackles (including 57 solo stops).

Like Cedar Bluff, Red Bay has been a fixture in postseason play for more than two decades. The Tigers are in the playoffs for the 20th time in the last 21 years and the fifth time in six seasons under Jackson, who has a record of 52-14 since taking over the Red Bay program in 2014. That includes a 29-5 record at Fred Bostick, Jr. Memorial Stadium, where the Tigers have won 13 consecutive home games dating back to October of 2017.

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## 'PLAYOFF,' from page 13

on shutting down opposing ground games. The Golden Tigers (8-2, 5-2 in Region 7) allowed just 105.6 rushing yards per game and 3.0 yards per carry during the regular season, with D-linemen Angel Moreno, Angel Martinez and Jose Gaspar clogging things up at the point of attack and veterans Jamal Hubbard and Brooks Scott piling up tackles as the leaders of a deep and aggressive linebacking crew.

It's a group that will be tested by a Scottsboro offense that topped the 40-point mark three times during the regular season and averaged 27.9 points per game.

"Defensively, we'll have to play gap-sound, play fast and be physical," Ritter said. "We have to tackle 28 [Manning] and 23 [Bass]. We can't afford to miss tackles."

Defensive coordinator Chris Balentine's hard-hitting unit specializes at flying to the football, which should come in handy against the Wildcats' potent rushing attack.

The Golden Tigers have been rather prolific on the ground themselves this season, averaging 233.0 yards per game and 5.9 yards per carry. They split the workload fairly evenly three ways between senior tailback Austin Ashley (752 yards and eight touchdowns on 131 carries), sophomore tailback Airreon "Boots" McCulloch (674 yards and seven touchdowns on 107 carries) and senior quarterback Jacob Bishop (543 yards and nine touchdowns on 88 carries).

**"Offensively for us, we have to have no turnovers," said Ritter, whose team averaged 26.7 points and 340.6 total yards per game during the regular season. "We have to stay on schedule with down and distance and make plays when we get an opportunity."**

All three shined last week in a 27-8 win over Central-Florence, with McCulloch rushing for a team-high 111 yards on 14 attempts, Ashley adding 75 yards and two touchdowns on 19 carries, and Bishop breaking off a high-light-reel 36-yard touchdown run late in the first half.

Behind an offensive line featuring sophomore Will Calhoun, juniors Edgar Amaya, Dakota Andres and Luis Domingo, and senior center Trenton Hollimon, Russellville has excelled at creating chunk plays in the running game. Ashley leads the team with 33 runs of 10-plus yards this season, followed closely by McCulloch (25) and Bishop (20).

Those big plays on the ground may be harder to come by against a Scottsboro defense that has allowed only 19 total points over the past three weeks in wins over Madison Academy (21-12), Brewer (35-0) and Class 6A playoff team Hartselle (10-7). In the Brewer game on October 24, the Wildcat D did not allow a first down and held the Patriots to zero total yards.

"They play a very aggressive 3-3 scheme," Ritter said of Scottsboro, which allowed an average of 17.1 points per game during the regular season. "Their D-line is very athletic, and their linebackers run good and are aggressive. They play a lot of man in the secondary."

The Golden Tigers may look to exploit that one-on-one coverage with a passing game that started to rediscover its rhythm last week in the win over Central. Bishop hit freshman receiver T.J. King in stride with a deep ball down the left sideline for a 54-yard touchdown on the first play from scrimmage, continuing a recent trend that saw King catch a 34-yard pass against Jasper in Week 8 and a 41-yarder against Dora in Week 9.

For the season, King has caught six passes for 169 yards (an average of 28.2 yards per reception) and two scores. Bishop threw for 114 yards on 7-for-11 passing last week, pushing him over the 1,000-yard mark on the season. He has completed 63-of-136 attempts for 1,063 yards and 10 touchdowns with nine interceptions.

Junior receiver Cole Barnett caught a season-high four passes last week and now has 17 catches for 210 yards and a touchdown on the year. Rowe Gallagher, another junior receiver, leads the team with 19 catches for 314 yards and six scores. Sophomore tight end/H-back Nathan Brockway has added 10 grabs for 174 yards and one touchdown.

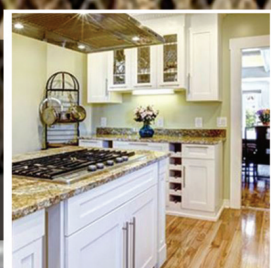
The Golden Tigers struggled to score some down the stretch but still finished the season averaging 26.7 points and 340.6 total yards per game. Ritter said that taking care of the ball will be paramount on Friday. After turning the ball over nine times in a two-week span against Lawrence County and Hamilton, Russellville did not commit a turnover in Weeks 8 and 9 against Jasper and Dora. The Golden Tigers relapsed, however, last week against Central, losing a pair of fumbles and a muffed punt.

"Offensively for us, we have to have no turnovers," Ritter said. "We have to stay on schedule with down and distance and make plays when we get an opportunity."

The only previous meeting between Russellville and Scottsboro also occurred in the playoffs, with the Golden Tigers going on the road to beat the Wildcats 48-13 in the second round in 2003.

The winner of this Friday's game will advance to face either Etowah or Center Point in round two.

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**HWY 43 • Littleville**

**BAILEY finished all of her picks and still had time to take a nap. Don't sleep on your chance to BEAT BAILEY!!**

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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 11 must be postmarked by Friday, November 8, and picks submitted by email for Week 11 must be received by Saturday, November 9 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 10 winner **RAYMOND MCNATT**, who correctly picked 9 out of 10 games and also picked Georgia to beat Florida 28-10!

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## Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 11: November 9

Bailey's Pick

Your Pick

Vanderbilt at Florida	Florida	_____
LSU at Alabama	Alabama	_____
Missouri at Georgia	Georgia	_____
App. State at South Carolina	South Carolina	_____
Tennessee at Kentucky	Tennessee	_____
Penn State at Minnesota	Penn State	_____
Kansas State at Texas	Texas	_____
Baylor at TCU	TCU	_____
Wake Forest at Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	_____
Iowa at Wisconsin	Wisconsin	_____

Tiebreaker Score: LSU \_\_\_\_\_ Alabama \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_



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# A public notice from the Russellville Gas Board

**RUSSELLVILLE GAS BOARD**  
1296 Walnut Gate Road  
Russellville, AL 35654

The Russellville Gas Board is required by Federal Law to implement and maintain a Damage Prevention Program and a Public Awareness Program. The following information is provided in compliance with those requirements.

## **I. Damage Prevention Program**

A. The Russellville Gas Board (RGB) is to notify parties who periodically excavate in areas where RGB's natural gas lines are located and to inform those parties to request that RGB's natural gas lines be located. Requests for line locations may be made by calling Alabama Line Location Center at 1-800-292-8525 or the Russellville Gas Board at 1-256-332-2020. A 48 hour notice is required.

## **II. Public Awareness Program**

A. Natural gas has no odor, therefore, in order to identify possible leaks, the Russellville Gas Board (RGB) adds a foul smelling substance to natural gas. If you detect a foul smell near appliances, apparatus, equipment or at any other location near natural gas lines call the RGB at 1-256-332-3850 or after hours at 1-256-332-2230.

If the odor is strong, proceed as follows.

- 1) Leave the structure.
- 2) Do not flip light switches.
- 3) Do not use electrical equipment.
- 4) Do not create a spark or flame.
- 5) Notify the RGB.

B. Repairs or alterations to any natural gas facility should be performed by a licensed and bonded pipefitter.

C. It is unlawful to attempt to repair or alter natural gas pipelines or facilities owned by RGB.

D. The RGB's natural gas pipelines are located underground throughout the area of service. In order for the public to identify the approximate location of underground pipelines, the RGB incorporates the following measures:

- 1) Bright yellow markers identify the existence of underground natural gas pipelines.
- 2) Above ground facilities are painted silver. Fences have signs attached identifying RGB facilities.
- 3) An on-site location of natural gas pipelines is available by calling Alabama Line Location Center at 1-800-292-8525 or the RGB at 1-256-332-2020.
- 4) Detail maps are available at the RGB office located at 1296 Walnut Gate Road, Russellville, AL, 35654.

E. In the event of damage to RGB's natural gas facilities the affected public should leave the area and the party causing the damage should:

- 1) Leave the equipment and premises immediately.
- 2) Do not create a spark or flame.
- 3) Notify the RGB immediately.

Natural gas is a safe and reliable form of energy. By implementing the Damage Prevention Program and Public Awareness Program, the Russellville Gas Board is committed to ensuring that it stays that way.

Russellville Gas Board

La Comisión de Gas de Russellville  
1296 Walnut Gate Road  
Russellville, AL 35654

La Comisión de Gas de Russellville por requerimiento de la ley Federal tiene que implementar y mantener un Programa de Prevención de Daños y un Programa de Conciencia Pública. La siguiente información va de acuerdo a dichos requerimientos.

## **I. Programa de Prevención de Daños**

A. La Comisión de Gas de Russellville (RGB) deberá notificar a las partes que periódicamente excavan en áreas en que la RGB tiene líneas de gas natural e informar a dichas partes que pidan que las líneas de la RGB sean localizadas. Para pedir la localización de las líneas puede hacerlo llamando al Centro de Localización de Líneas de Alabama al número 1800-292-8525 o en la oficina de la Comisión de Gas de Russellville al teléfono 1-256-332-2020. Se requiere notificar con 48 horas de anticipación.

## **II. Programa de Conciencia Pública**

A. El gas natural no tiene olor, por lo tanto para poder identificar posibles fugas, la Comisión de Gas de Russellville (RGB) le agrega una sustancia de olor fétido al gas natural. Si usted detecta este olor cerca de algún aparato o equipo o en cualquier otro lugar cerca de una línea de gas natural llame a la RGB al teléfono 1 256-332-3850 o después de horas de servicio al 1-256-332-2230. Si el olor es fuerte, haga lo siguiente:

- 1) Aléjese del recinto.
- 2) No prenda luces o apagadores.
- 3) No use equipo eléctrico.
- 4) No cree una chispa o flama.
- 5) Notifique a la RGB.

B. Reparaciones o alteraciones a cualquier instalación de gas natural deberá ser hecha por un tubero con licencia y certificado.

C. Es contra la ley intentar reparar o alterar una línea de gas natural o instalación propiedad de la RGB.

D. Las líneas de gas natural de la RGB se localizan bajo tierra en el área de servicio. Para que el público pueda identificar la localización aproximada de líneas enterradas, la RGB incorpora las siguientes medidas:

- 1) Marcadores de color amarillo brillante identifican la existencia de líneas subterráneas de gas natural.
- 2) Servicios sobre el suelo están pintadas de color plateado. Las cercas tienen señales identificando servicios de la RGB.
- 3) Se encuentra disponible un servicio para localizar líneas de gas natural llamando al Centro de Localización de Líneas de Alabama al teléfono 1-800-292-8525 o a la RGB al 1-256-332-2020.
- 4) Hay mapas detallados disponibles en la oficina de la RGB localizada en 1229 Walnut Gate Road, Russellville, AL, 35654.

E. En el caso de daño a los servicios de gas natural de la RGB el público afectado deberá alejarse del área y la parte que cause el daño debe:

- 1) Dejar el equipo y el lugar inmediatamente.
- 2) No provoque una chispa o flama.
- 3) Notifique la RGB de inmediato.

El gas natural es una fuente de energía segura y confiable. Implementando el Programa de Prevención de Daños y Conciencia al Público, la Comisión de Gas de Russellville esta comprometida a asegurar que siga de esa manera.

Comisión de Gas de Russellville