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**FranklinFreePress.net**

**11.13.19**

# VFW hands out awards at annual Veterans ceremony

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Although nobody in the department thought about it at the time, Russellville Fire Department sergeant Chris Watkins probably clinched the annual Outstanding Firefighter of the Year Award back in February at the intersection of South Washington Avenue and Highway 24.

Watkins' decision on how to place a victim of the accident on the spine board is believed to have been a primary factor in allowing EMS and Air Evac personnel to notice the victim's wound and impact it, which facilitated the victim's safe transport and arrival to the hospital.

Watkins' quick thinking and judgment were a "definite factor" in saving the victim's life, RFD chief Joe Mansell said at the time. Watkins received a Merit Award and Lifesaving Award from the Russellville City Council as a

See 'VFW,' Page 9



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

VFW Post 5184 commander Jerry Harbin presents the Emergency Services Gold Medal Award for Outstanding Fire Fighter of the Year to RFD sergeant Chris Watkins at a ceremony Sunday afternoon.

# Three local residents qualify for March 3rd Democratic Primary

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

As the qualifying period wound down Friday afternoon for the 2020 primaries, the biggest political question in Franklin County was whether the local Democratic Party would have any candidates on the ballot.

As it turned out, they did.

Three Franklin County residents qualified for the Democratic Primary prior to the 5 p.m. Friday, November 8 deadline.

On the Republican side, 13 local candidates will appear on the March 3, 2020 Republican Primary ballot.

Offices that will be decided in 2020 include Franklin County Superintendent of Education, Franklin County Revenue Commissioner, Franklin County Commission

Districts 1,2,3 and 4, Franklin County Board of Education District 3 and local constable positions.

Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee chairman Eddie Britton said three candidates filed the paperwork to run as Democrats. They include:

- Judy Bullen for Franklin County Commission District 4.
  - Mitchell Hamilton for Franklin County Commission District 2.
  - Bobby Brown for Constable in Russellville.
- Republican candidates seeking local office, with incumbents marked with an (I), include:
- Veronica Stancil (I), Stratt Byars and Charlie Nelson for Franklin County Revenue Commissioner.
  - Chris Wallace (I) and Joe Fike for Franklin County Commission District 1.

See 'QUALIFY,' Page 3

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**Larry Bunyan Daily**, Russellville, age 76

Died Tuesday, November 5, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

**Johnnie L. Harvey**, Russellville, age 79

Died Saturday, November 9, 2019. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at Pinkard Funeral Home with the funeral service to follow. Interment will be in Fairview Cemetery.

**Robert Leverne Jones**, Russellville, age 91

Died Wednesday, November 6, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Entombment in Franklin Memory Gardens Mausoleum following military honors.

**Nelda W. Moss**, Phil Campbell, age 76

Died Tuesday, November 5, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Oak Grove Cemetery.

**Patricia Ann Raper**, Hackleburg, age 82

Died Tuesday, November 5, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Cedar Tree Cemetery in Hackleburg.



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# Council opens account for funds from bond sales

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The firm contracted by the City of Russellville to work the bond market for a more than \$1 million street paving and renovation project, as well as a \$15.5 million capital project for Russellville City Schools, was set to sell the bonds on the open market November 5, 2019.

The Russellville City Council approved the opening of an account at Valley State Bank for the funds from the sale of the bonds at the council's November 4 meeting.

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 school system and city approved a Memorandum of Understanding last month that outlined details of the school system's proposed capital improvements and the projected cost.

Included in the \$15.5 million to be borrowed by RCS is the refinancing of an existing bond warrant, as well as more than \$10.5 million for a 14,400-square-foot addition at Russellville High School, to be used for classrooms, laboratories and administrative offices, as well as the remodeling of and renovations to the Career and Technical Education Building.

The city council contracted with Joe Jolly & Company of Birmingham to work the bond market to find the lowest available rates for the loan, which also includes more than \$1 million in funds for the city's paving and renovation project.

A proposed debt service schedule calls for RCS to pay \$671,897 toward its debt service in 2020, with amounts increasing to more than \$857,000 in 2031.

The debt service would be satisfied by Russellville City Schools in 2049, according to the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Russellville City Council also contracted with Civil Group, LLC, to work with councilman David Palmer to develop a list of roads to be paved with the funds from the bond sales.

In other action, the council:

- Approved a resolution declaring November as Diabetes Awareness Month.
- Contracted for Construction Engineering & Inspection services with Civil Group, LLC, for improvements at the intersection of Alabama 24 and Lawrence Street/Walnut Gate Road intersection. The contract is for up to

\$60,400, 100 percent of which is reimbursable from the State of Alabama Industrial Access Grant.

- Authorized mayor David Grissom to sign a letter of commitment of \$3,000 matching funds for a workforce assessment study in Franklin County through the Appalachian Regional Commission grant. The City of Red Bay and the Franklin County Commission will jointly help fund this assessment along with the City of Russellville.

- Contracted with Civil Group, LLC, for the project management of the Rebuild Alabama Act Annual Grant Program. Palmer said the city would apply for a \$250,000 grant for widening and improvements on Clay Avenue from Summit Drive south to Duncan Creek Road. The contract is for funds up to \$1,950 and includes Civil Group completing the grant application.

- Authorized the abatement of a nuisance and the demolition of a house at 403 Waterloo Road owned by Luis Ramirez. The property owner has been cited and served with prior notices of compliance violations, and the home was declared unsafe and will be demolished.

- Accepted a letter of resignation from Russellville firefighter John Alex Foster and declared a vacancy for firefighter in the Russellville Fire Department and authorized advertisement to solicit job applications.

- Authorized advertisement to solicit job applications for a laborer position in the Russellville Street Department, Equipment Operator II and Equipment Operator III in the Russellville Street Department.

- Received a certificate of appreciation from Franklin County Chamber of Commerce executive director Cassie Medley thanking the City of Russellville for its continued support of the chamber.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council will be Monday, November 18, with work session at 6 p.m. and meeting to follow.



The council authorized the demolition of a house at 403 Waterloo Road.

# Three local establishments earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Each of the three Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of October 28-November 1 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 three 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 95, received by Willi's, 5680 Hwy. 243, Phil Campbell.

Other inspection scores and violations of

Franklin County businesses included:

- Rhoda P's Catering Services, 2080 College Road, Phil Campbell, 90. (Cut melon, chopped lettuce and tomato and ham/cheese sandwiches sitting out at 60 degrees).

- Phil Campbell Chevron, 3515 Broad St., Phil Campbell, 90. (Chicken tenders and turnip greens being held at 125 degrees).

Of the 28 inspections done in Colbert County from October 28-November 1, all received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 100 went to David Christopher's, 411 S. Montgomery Ave., 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.

## 'QUALIFY' from page 1

- Jason Miller (I) and Terry Prince for Franklin County Commission District 2.

- Rayburn Massey (I) and Joseph Baldwin for Franklin County Commission District 3.

- David "Opie" Hester (I) and Misty Holcombe for Franklin County Commission District 4.

- Pat Cochran (I) for Franklin County Board of Education District 3.

- Rodney Belue for Constable in Red Bay.

There were no qualifiers in either party for Franklin County Superintendent of Education, which means incumbent Greg Hamilton, who was elected in 2016 as an Independent candidate, would appear to have a clear path to a second term, unless an Independent challenger emerges.

Franklin County Republican Executive Committee chairman Jerry Mays said he's pleased with the slate of Republican candidates, but there was some disappointment that there wasn't a candidate for every elected office.

**Britton said there were challenges to find candidates willing to run as Democrats in 2020.**

**"We would have liked to have more candidates, but there are several good quality candidates who will run in the future," Britton said. "We're excited about that, and we believe the political climate will change down the road."**

"We'd like to have had someone in every office

of course, to give people more of a choice, but it's more candidates than we've ever had on the Republican ticket," Mays said. "So it's good in that respect."

Britton said there were challenges to find candidates willing to run as Democrats in 2020, with a general election looming with a President who is immensely popular in Alabama. The number of straight party Republican ballots was higher than ever in 2018 and is expected to increase again.

"We would have liked to have more candidates, but there are several good quality candidates who will run in the future," Britton said. "We're excited about that, and we believe the political climate will change down the road."



# Honey Do: Winter's nap

Summer, fall, winter...whatever it may seem like outside, it's almost time to put your lawn equipment away for a long winter's nap. You probably have a couple of rounds of picking up leaves to go, but soon the lawn work will be done for the season.

When you store away that riding mower, push mower or trimmer, there are a few things to consider to avoid trouble and costly repair in the spring.

**Consider servicing your mower and engine before you store it for the winter. Fresh filters, oil and grease will have you ready to roll when the grass shows up again. Don't forget the air filter. Remember how dusty it was when you were cutting up those leaves?**

Clean it thoroughly. Rust never sleeps, and it loves the dampness of a layer of grass underneath or on top of a mower deck. Use your leaf blower to remove the bulk of the debris, and then spray away the debris with a garden hose or blow it out with air. If you use water, you can use the blower afterwards to get rid of puddles sitting on the metal. Give your equipment a chance to dry in the sun before stor-

ing it indoors. If you must store your equipment outside, cover it with a good, heavy tarp with no holes in it.

Fuel stabilizer is a must if you expect trouble-free starting in the spring. Normally, the life of fresh fuel is about 30 days. Run a slightly higher octane than you normally would on the last tank of the year. Let the engine run long enough to get the treated fuel into the carburetor. On two-stroke engines, such as chainsaws and trimmers, use the pre-mixed fuel/oil that most manufacturers have available now. It will have a higher octane and fuel stabilizers built in to stay good longer than regular gasoline.

Consider servicing your mower and engine before you store it for the winter. Fresh filters, oil and grease will have you ready to roll when the grass shows up again. Don't forget the air filter. Remember how dusty it was when you were cutting up those leaves?

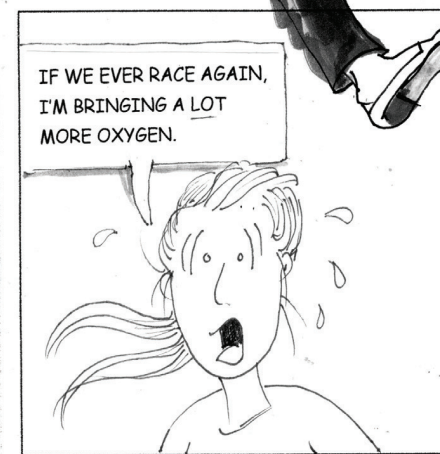
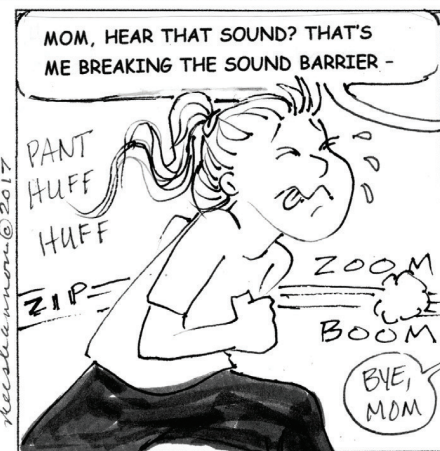
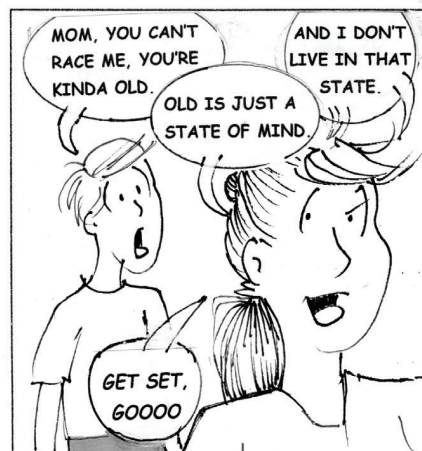
Varmints love wires and engines. Once a month, spray mouse repellent around your equipment. Some

See 'NAP,' Page 5



Doug Green

## OUR <sup>OLD</sup> HOUSE By: Ree SHANNON



## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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**DAVE SAYS**  
Financial Straight-Talk  
[www.davesays.org](http://www.davesays.org)  
by Dave Ramsey

### Emotions, basics and change

Dear Dave,  
I've gotten out of debt before following your plan, but I always seem to fall right back in. I find myself spending more than I mean to whenever I go out shopping or running errands. I'm tired of all this, and I want to stop busting my budget and get control of my money once and for all. Do you have any advice?

Patrick

Dear Patrick,  
Years ago, when I lost everything financially, there were two or three extremely strong emotions that spurred me toward change. Probably the biggest emotion was fear. I was scared to death I'd be broke for the rest of my life and not be able to take care of my family. Don't misunderstand me, though. I don't think you should ever live your life in fear. But a reasonable, healthy level of fear where some things are concerned can be a fantastic motivator.

Another emotion was disgust. I realized the way I had been living and handling money was stupid. So, I made a proactive, conscious decision that I

was going to change and things were going to be different. The third emotion was contentment. You know, advertisers try to make us believe our lives will be better and we'll be happier if we just go out and buy their stuff. I can tell you from personal experience that when this idea is crammed down your throat every day, it can warp your perception of contentment and happiness. Lots of *stuff* does not equal lots of happiness.

If you've tried several times and are still falling back into the same old trap, maybe you should approach your situation in a practical, day-to-day way. Stop going places where you're tempted to spend money on silly things. When you go out running errands and shopping, make a list of *only* the bare necessities, and take along just enough cash to pay for them.

Spending money on a bunch of stuff you don't need and probably don't even really want isn't going to bring you contentment. It's just going to bust your budget and put you in a financial hole that will, sooner or later, become very difficult—if not impossible—to dig your way out of!

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](http://daveramsey.com) and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

Letters to the Editor

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



# Two habits that lead to a successful retirement

I have a question: What do you picture when you hear the word *retirement*?

You might have a vague plan of traveling around the country visiting grandkids. Or maybe you long for the day when you've saved up enough money to quit a job you hate. Some of you might feel anxious because you're not prepared.

Now, hear me out: It's *never* too late to start saving for retirement. And if you feel behind, don't panic! Getting ready for retirement will take planning and sacrifice, but you can do it.

To get you started, here are the two most important habits you can form as you plan for your dream retirement.



Chris Hogan

## •Dream in high definition

If you haven't already, the first step is to schedule some time to dream. Yes, you heard me. I want you to daydream! And if you already have a vision for retirement, this is a great time to check in on those dreams.

Retirement is about so much more than math—it's about enjoying the things that make you come alive. Do you want to travel? Do you want to spend time with the love of your life, your children and grandchildren? Or do you finally want to start that nonprofit you've had on your mind? Be specific! In fact, I want you to know the exact dollar amount you'll need. I have a free tool on my website called the Retire Inspired Quotient (R:IQ) that will determine the amount of money you'll need for your dream retirement.

## •Make a plan, and stick to it

A dream without a plan is simply a wish. Your retirement depends 100 percent on what you do today. In my book *Everyday Millionaires*, we explore the research from the largest millionaire study ever conducted—we interviewed over 10,000 of them! And we found that 79 percent of millionaires reached millionaire status by investing in their employer-sponsored retirement plans, building wealth over time.

If you want to be a millionaire by the time you retire, you have to maintain a millionaire mindset. Stay allergic to debt and live on less than you make. Also, get help from a financial expert to simplify your investments and keep them on track. But remember: Never go on autopilot! Stay focused and engaged with the process.

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Keep in mind that your retirement is bigger than you. It's about the people you love and the purpose you have on this earth. It's about taking control of your future and leaving a legacy.

I'll sum it up here in the wise words of Mama Hogan: "If it's meant to be, it's up to me." Remember, you can't delegate your dreams. Take charge, work hard, and have fun!

*Chris Hogan is a two-time #1 national best-selling author, financial expert and host of The Chris Hogan Show. For more than a decade, Hogan has served at Ramsey Solutions, equipping and challenging people to take control of their money and reach their financial goals. His second book, Everyday Millionaires: How Ordinary People Built Extraordinary Wealth—And How You Can, Too released in January 2019. You can follow Chris Hogan on Twitter and Instagram at @ChrisHogan360 and online at chrishogan360.com or facebook.com/chrishogan360.*

## 'NAP,' from page 4

folks use Irish Spring soap. Simply cut it up in squares and set it around the area. Mice do not like minty smells or garlic. Keep it neat by putting your repellent in old socks or ladies hosiery.

Equipment and tools are expensive, so proper care is essential. Make it a point to visit your equipment about once a month. Letting the engine run, engaging the blades and a little movement will help keep everything loosened up, break loose any rust that is trying to develop and run out the critters. Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.

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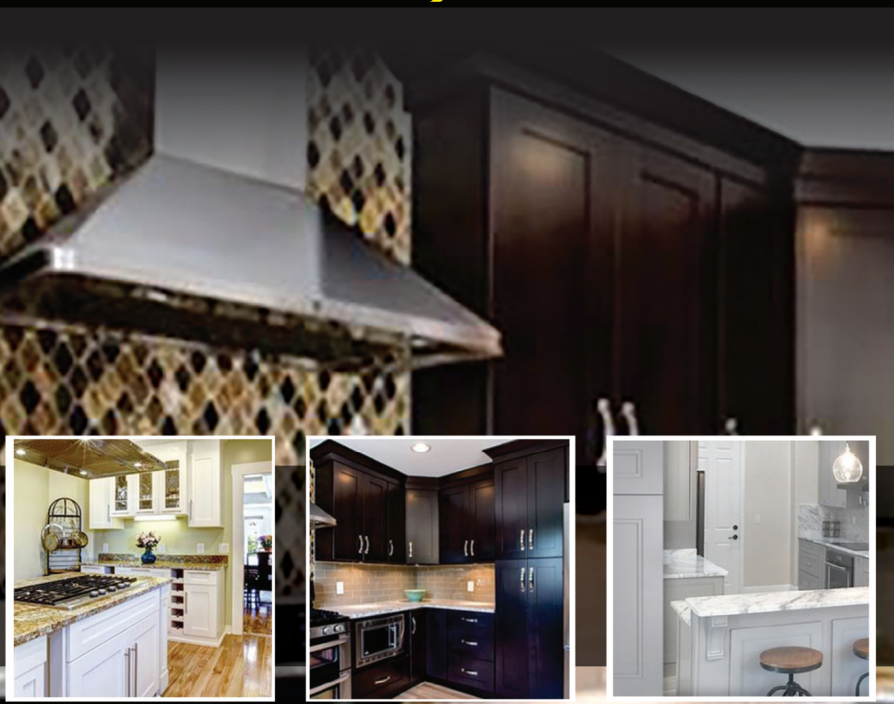
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"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" Matthew 25:35


 Russellville Masonic Lodge 371 is selling Thanksgiving hams. Hams are \$30 and may be pre-ordered by calling 256-810-1970. Pickup will be Wednesday, November 27 from 8-10 a.m. at the Lodge on Coffee Street.


 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.


 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) this 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.


 East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department will be serving William Earl Bishop's smoked chicken and pulled barbecue pork plates from 4-7 p.m. this Friday, November 15. Proceeds go to repair the pump on fire engine #3. Plates will be sold at the East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department, 10443 Hwy. 81, Phil Campbell, and are \$10 each.


 The second annual Gospel Singing featuring the Primitive Quartet and Heaven's Mountain Band will be held this 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 this 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.

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

 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!

 Truman 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.

 The 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.



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# What's Happening

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

**Y**ou are invited to gather in Red Bay's Bay Tree Park and be a part of our **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.

**I**f you are interested in the study of the Civil War and have an ancestor who was in the Confederate Army, join the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month (except January and July) at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center. Next meeting will be December 5. Call 1-800-MYDIXIE or 256-324-2317. The Sons of Confederate Veterans is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Membership is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate Armed Forces. Membership can be obtained through either direct or collateral family lines, and kinship to a veteran must be documented genealogically. The minimum age for membership is 12. We hope you can join us for the celebration of our heritage! For more information, call 1-800-MYDIXIE or 256-324-2317.

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

**T**he Newburg Masonic Lodge #388 meets the first Thursday of every month. The Russellville Masonic Lodge #371 meets the first and third Tuesday of every month. The Franklin County Shrine Club meets the second Tuesday of each month. The Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 256 meets every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Russellville Masonic Lodge. Spruce Pine Masonic Lodge #608 meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Phil Campbell Masonic Lodge #880 meets the first and third Thursday of each month. Burleson Lodge #143 meets the second and fourth Monday of each month. Belgreen Lodge #428 meets the first and third Monday of each month. All meetings start at 7 p.m.

## Honoring our Veterans



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

On Thursday, November 7, a wreath was placed on the Veterans Memorial at the Franklin County Courthouse. Pictured above are American Legion Post 64 officers Johnnie Pounders, Adjutant, and Grant Atkins, Commander.

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of this year's *Free Press*  
Pet Costume Contest!  
Each winner (and their  
owner) received a gift  
basket courtesy of the  
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all who participated!**



Dan the Man, owner Joey Wingo



Moki, owner Olivia Wilkinson



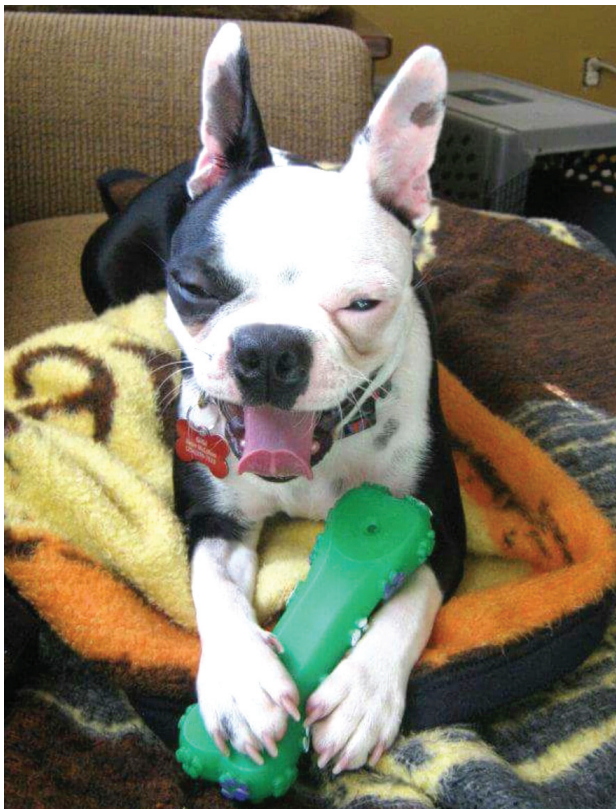
Gracie Hope, owner Jimmie Faye Pritchett



Gracie, owner Michelle Rutland



Jack, owner Debra Moore



Gigi, owners Tim & Robin McCollum



Lucy, owner Rebekah Myrick



Luna, owner Perla Marcello



Osiris Norman Pike,  
owner Paige Pike



Petey, owners Darren  
& Margie Woodruff





# Neighbors announces third run at Congress

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Rick Neighbors chose a friendly forum to announce his third run at Congress, as he made the announcement last Thursday evening during the Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee meeting.

Neighbors, a Hackleburg resident, will run in the Democratic Primary on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, for the position of United States Congress, 4th Congressional District. That seat has been held by Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-Haleyville) the past 22 years.

According to the Alabama Democratic Party website, Neighbors faces no opposition in the Democratic Primary, so he will advance to the November general election to face Aderholt.

Neighbors first ran for Congress in 2012. He faced Daniel Boman in the Democratic Primary and lost a close race. Neighbors lost to Lee Auman in 2018.

Neighbors believes it was important for voters to have an option besides Aderholt.

"We need a different conversation in Washington if we are to move our nation forward," Neighbors said. "It's time to change that conversation from division to a focus on issues we really need to change for the benefit of the country."

With two campaigns under his belt, Neighbors believes he's better prepared for the 2020 political season.

Neighbors doesn't believe Aderholt's leadership is suited to effectively represent the people of Alabama's 4th Congressional District.



Rick Neighbors

"I have no personal qualms about him. But he does not impress me with the ideas and vision of what is needed for this nation, state and district," Neighbors said in 2018. "We need more leadership and stronger representation for the rural

areas of this district."

Neighbors works in management at Pilgrim's Corporation in Russellville. Most of his adult life has been spent working in the apparel business. In 1979, he took a temporary job in the apparel business that lasted 35 years. He and his wife Judy have three children, five grandchildren and three great-granddaughters.

Neighbors remains a sharp critic of United States trade agreements like NAFTA. Neighbors has seen what he describes as a 'detrimental effect' from NAFTA on working men and women throughout the 4th District.

"Not too many years ago, a person without advanced training could earn a middle-class living by becoming skilled at making products with their hands," Neighbors said. "Many of those jobs have disappeared. The rise in gross domestic product shows that wealth is being created. It's just not trickling down to the folks doing the work. To fully realize the American dream requires jobs at living wages."

The Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee meeting also included:

- A report from chairman Eddie Britton about the new state Democratic Party election and change in leadership from Nancy Worley to Rep. Chris England of Tuscaloosa. Worley continues to challenge the legality of the vote that ousted her from her chair position.

- An update on the fundraiser, which involves selling chances on a kids' 110cc four-wheeler. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5 and are available from committee members. The drawing will be held November 28, 2019.

## 'VFW,' from page 1

result of his quick thinking at the scene.

So when it came time to nominate one of his own for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5184 Emergency Services Gold Medal Award for Outstanding Fire Fighter of the Year, Mansell looked no further than Watkins.

Watkins received the award at a ceremony held Sunday afternoon at the A.W. Todd Centre to recognize local Veterans.

A 2003 graduate of Belgreen High School, Watkins obtained his EMT-Basic certification in 2005 and later his Paramedic license and an associate degree in EMS. He began his firefighter career with the Madison Fire Department in 2010. One year later, Watkins was hired by the Russellville Fire Department.



PHOTOS BY JOHN PILATI

VFW Post 5184 commander Jerry Harbin (left) presents the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to Franklin County Sheriff's Office lieutenant Ryan Zedrow.

"Chris is always doing what he can to move our department forward. He is dedicated and determined to do the best job that he can," Mansell said. "Chris has always been someone who gives one hundred percent to everything he does."

The annual J. Edgar Hoover Gold Medal Award for Law Enforcement of the Year went to Franklin County Sheriff's Office lieutenant Ryan Zedrow.

Zedrow, a native of Waukegan, Illinois, moved to Alabama in 2005 and followed his father into law enforcement. His career with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office began in 2007 as a corrections officer.

Zedrow would go on to complete his APOSTC Law Enforcement certification in Tuscaloosa, and he began as a deputy sheriff in 2009.

Zedrow was promoted to patrol sergeant in 2012 and to patrol supervisor lieutenant in 2017. He's also certified as a firearms instructor and is commander of the Special Response Team.

"Ryan is great example of someone who's dedicated, hard-working and really cares about serving the public," said Franklin County sheriff Shannon Oliver. "He's moved up through the ranks within our department, and he's been successful at each level."

Also honored Sunday was Tharptown High School senior Annslee Bottoms. She won the VFW Post 5184 Voice of Democracy audio-essay contest for Franklin County.

The annual nationwide scholarship program is sponsored by VFW. Students write an essay and record an audio presentation on a given theme. This year's theme was "What Makes America Great."

Bottoms' entry will now be submitted to the state

level contest. The annual Voice of Democracy contest is open to high school students from grades 9-12. The program annually provides more than \$2.3 million in scholarships.



VFW Post 5184 commander Jerry Harbin presents an award to Tharptown High School senior Annslee Bottoms for her winning entry in the VFW "Voice of America" Audio/Essay Contest.





# Classifieds

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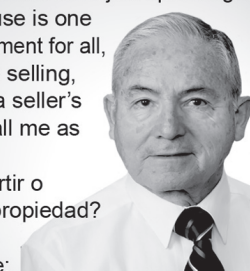
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# Stancil, two employees complete AATA training

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Franklin County revenue commissioner Veronica Stancil and two employees in her office recently completed the Association of Alabama Tax Administrators (AATA) Licensing Administration Certification Program.

Along with her chief clerk Jamie Bowling and Teresa Lawler, who works at the Red Bay office, Stancil completed the program offered through Auburn University's Government & Economic Development Institute.

The program is designed to provide greater proficiency and understanding to individuals working in Alabama's county licensing offices. Each program included testing at the end and requires continuing education maintenance.

"We completed all four courses offered by the Auburn Institute," Stancil said. "They also offer property courses, and I've completed five of those. An elected official can never have too much knowledge. Learning never ceases."

With constant changes coming in how the valuation of property is calculated in Alabama (including changes in legislation, Department of Revenue policy and from other authorities), it's important for those working in county licensing offices to be current on those changes.

"Every time we go we learn something new and come back and share it with everyone else in the office to keep them updated," Stancil said. "It's important to maintain training. We have to maintain a certain number of hours to keep our certification once we are certified."

While the methods to calculate value of property are ever-changing, Stancil said she has very little control over property taxes. Instead, her job and the job of her staff is to follow the methods provided by law to calculate value and collect the correct amount.

"Though we collect the money for taxes, we are under so many mandates from the State of Alabama that we have very little control over property taxes," Stancil said. "You have to do a ratio study every year. We take sales from the prior year and send that information to Montgomery. They've already got values in for appraisals, and they come up with a formula and tell us whether to increase or decrease taxes.

"There's very little allowance on adjusting values. That's why it's so important if you disagree with the value of your property to go before the Board of Equalization."

Another area of her office with ever-evolving laws and policies is the licensing of motor vehicles. This was another of the recent training Stancil and her staff received.

"There are constant changes," Stancil said. "A lot of times you won't be aware of those unless you attend training and meetings. There have been changes with insurance and suspensions and mandatory liability insurance laws. There have been changes with titles. These programs are a good way to keep up with ever-changing laws."



Veronica Stancil

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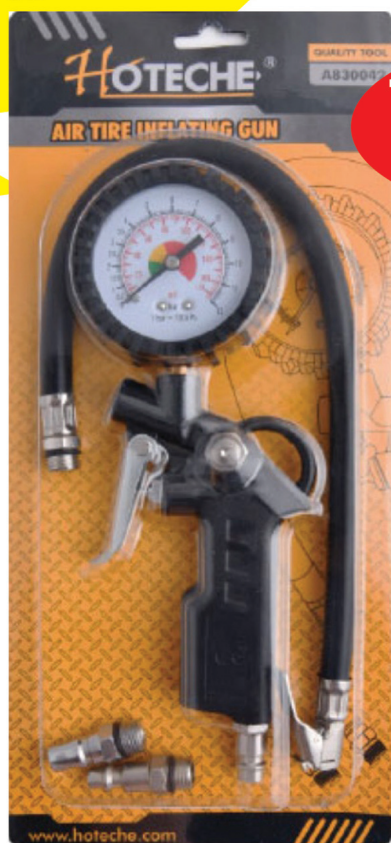
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## Week 12 in the SEC

Last week's record: 3-1  
Year-to-date record: 36-8  
This week's games:  
Florida (-7) at Missouri – 11:00  
on CBS

Florida's faint SEC East title hopes will be dashed on Saturday if Georgia beats Auburn, but for now the Gators are still mathematically alive. They certainly looked like they had plenty to play for last week, trouncing Vanderbilt 56-0. That type of dominant showing on the heels of a gut-punch loss to Georgia is a sure sign that Dan Mullen has his team in a good place psychologically. [Or maybe it's just a sign that Vandy is really, really bad.]

Speaking of bad...Missouri, after scoring 30-plus points in 11 straight games, has now totaled 21 in its last three, getting shut out for the first time in more than five years last week at Georgia. Suffice it to say that these two teams are moving in opposite directions.

**The Pick: Florida 31 Missouri 14**  
**Alabama (-20) at Mississippi State – 11:00**  
on ESPN

The new playoff rankings had not been released as of this writing, but Alabama belongs at No. 5, right behind Georgia. Granted, Alabama has a decisive edge when comparing losses, but the CFP committee takes quality wins into account, too. Georgia has beaten two Top 15 teams (Notre Dame and Florida), while Alabama doesn't have any Top 25 wins—and won't until the Iron Bowl.

As for this week, the Tide should bounce back fine against a Bulldog defense that has allowed more 20-yard pass plays (36) than every team in the SEC but one.

**The Pick: Alabama 41 Mississippi State 17**  
**Georgia (-3) at Auburn – 2:30 on CBS**

A win for the Bulldogs wraps up the SEC East and keeps them in the playoff hunt, but this is a huge game for Auburn, too. Win it, and the Tigers will finish no worse than 9-3 against a brutal schedule. Lose it, and a likely 8-4 finish will feel disappointing after that 5-0 start.

Both teams are elite defensively and limited offensively, but Georgia has the clear edge at quarterback. Jake Fromm is 31-6 in his career as a starter with 67 touchdown passes, 16 interceptions and a hard-earned reputation as a clutch big-game performer. Bo Nix may one day reach that level, but the freshman has been in over his head against the best defenses (Oregon, Florida, LSU) he's faced this season. Georgia wins ugly.

**The Pick: Georgia 20 Auburn 16**  
**South Carolina at Texas A&M (-10) – 6:30 on**  
**SECN**

What kind of odds could we have gotten back in August that South Carolina would only have four wins this season...with one of them coming at Georgia? That stunning triumph in Athens is now barely visible beneath the heap of losses to Florida, Tennessee and App State. Oh, and Texas A&M.

**The Pick: Texas A&M 31 South Carolina 20**



Mike Self  
Sports Editor

# Hanceville bound



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

**KALLIE CAN** - Allen (15) will sign a scholarship offer from Wallace-Hanceville on Thursday at PCHS. Then she'll try to help Thomas (background, standing) and the Lady Bobcats get back to Birmingham this season after a one-year absence.

Phil Campbell senior Kallie Allen is poised to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a college basketball player. Before she heads to the next level, though, she and the Lady 'Cats have unfinished business to attend to.

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

When Craig Thomas thinks about Kallie Allen, he thinks about Cold Springs.

The date was February 19, 2018, at Tom Drake Coliseum on the campus of Wallace-Hanceville. Thomas and his Phil Campbell girls were taking on the Lady Eagles in the Class 2A Northwest Regional final, with a berth in Birmingham on the line.

After watching Abby Davis, then a junior post player for the Lady Bobcats, score 22 points in a regional semifinal win over Mars Hill just four days earlier, Cold Springs was bound and determined to keep Davis from beating them, too. The Lady

Eagles made her the focus of their defensive game plan, and Thomas countered by moving Davis out of her usual spot near the foul line and putting the versatile Allen there instead.

**"She'll post you up or she'll shoot the three on you,"** Thomas said of Allen, who finished her sophomore season averaging 12.3 points per game and then upped that number to 13.7 last year as a junior. **"You better have somebody guarding her who's just as athletic as she is, or she's gonna take over a game."**

"We switched her to the middle," Thomas recalled, "and she took the game over that night. She just absolutely took the game over."



# Legacy **ATHLETE of the WEEK**

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## Cam McKinney Junior LB, Red Bay

McKinney led another stout defensive effort by the Tigers in last week's first-round playoff game against Cedar Bluff. The 6'1, 240-pound inside linebacker was in on 16 tackles, helping Red Bay hold the visiting Tigers to just 12 rushing yards on 23 carries in a 24-7 win.

Last Friday marked the fifth game this year in which McKinney has recorded double-digit tackles. For the season, he leads Red Bay with 104 tackles (including 64 solo stops). A varsity starter since 2017, McKinney has totaled 296 tackles over the past three seasons.



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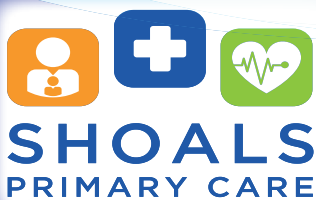
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# Red Bay eyes first trip to quarterfinals since 2007

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

After surviving an early lapse on defense and three turnovers on offense to beat Cedar Bluff 24-7 last Friday, Red Bay now faces a familiar opponent in the second round of the Class 2A playoffs this week.

"We know Sulligent pretty well," said head coach Michael Jackson, whose unbeaten Tigers (11-0) will welcome the Blue Devils (9-2) to Fred Bostick, Jr. Memorial Stadium on Friday night. "We were in the same region for a long time, and they've had some really good teams over there in the past. They kind of stick to what they've always done—same kind of offense, same kind of defense.

"We knew Sulligent had a good team. We played them in 7-on-7 this summer. They've got some really good skill kids. They can throw the ball, and they can run the ball. When they get on a roll, they're pretty hard to handle."

Cleveland, Sulligent's first-round opponent, can certainly attest to that. Trailing 21-0 with less than ten minutes left in last Friday's game, the Blue Devils closed with a four-touchdown flurry—capped off by a go-ahead pick-six to break a 21-21 tie—to steal a 27-21 win and keep their season alive.

"They hit them with a couple of long plays," Jackson said. "They got a couple of turnovers, and there was a blocked punt in there. They had a pick-six, too, without about a minute to go when the game was tied."

There was no such drama at The Fred last Friday, though Red Bay didn't exactly play its cleanest game of the year. The Tigers gave up a 75-yard touchdown pass in the opening three minutes and failed to capitalize on a couple of scoring opportunities, but they ultimately survived on the strength of their dominant rush defense and their balanced offense.

"Our defense played really good," said Jackson, whose team held Cedar Bluff to 12 yards on 23 carries and is now allowing an average of just 10.5 points per game. "Cedar Bluff had a really good skill player who got loose on us on a screen route. The rest of the time, we held them down pretty good."

Red Bay responded immediately after giving up the long touchdown with a big play of its own when junior quarterback Jalen Vinson hooked up with senior receiver Arden Hamilton for a 57-yard score on the very next play. Senior back Colyn Humphres ran in the two-point conversion to put the Tigers on top 8-7 with 9:13 left in the first quarter, and they never trailed again.

"Offensively, we made some really good chunk plays, but we hurt ourselves with turnovers," Jackson said. "We ended up with three turnovers, which is the most we've had all season. We missed two opportunities to score. We had a turnover on the four-yard line, and another time we got down to the twelve and had a penalty and a negative play. We kind of made it tough on ourselves."

Red Bay rushed for 183 yards on 45 carries, and Vinson threw for 134 yards on 10-for-23 passing. He also ran eight times for 68 yards, including a 25-yard touchdown. Humphres rushed 17 times for 64 yards and a score. Hamilton caught five passes for 92 yards and now has 36 catches on the season for 819 yards and seven touchdowns.

Junior linebacker Cam McKinney led the defensive effort last week with 16 tackles, one shy of his season-high. He and the Tiger defense will have their hands full this week with Sulligent's quick-strike offense.

"They make a lot of big plays," Jackson said of the Devils, who average

See 'RED BAY,' page 18

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# Golden Tigers fall to Scottsboro in first round

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

SCOTTSBORO - Three big plays on offense were not enough for Russellville to overcome a couple of missed opportunities early and a couple of costly mistakes late as the Golden Tigers fell to Scottsboro 17-14 last Friday in round one of the Class 5A playoffs at Pat Trammell Stadium.

The Golden Tigers (8-3) struggled to run the football and sustain drives all night, finishing with 194 total yards on just 30 plays. All but 10 of those yards came on three explosive plays—a 65-yard catch and run by freshman receiver T.J. King late in the first half that tied the game 7-7, a 54-yard touchdown burst by sophomore tailback Airreon “Boots” McCulloch early in the third quarter that broke that tie, and a 65-yard completion from senior quarterback Jacob Bishop to junior tight end Peyton Ray late in the fourth quarter.

On the very next snap after the big play to Ray, Bishop was chased out of the pocket toward the right sideline. He tried to find King down the field, but his pass was intercepted by Brandon Cloud, and Scottsboro (leading 17-14) took over at its own 24-yard line with roughly three minutes remaining.

The Wildcats picked up a critical first down but ultimately wound up punting on fourth-and-five from their own 45. The Golden Tigers came after the punt to try and block it but instead got flagged for running into the kicker. The five-yard penalty gave Scottsboro a first down and effectively ended the game.

The Wildcats ran the ball on 59 of their 64 offensive plays and finished with 248 rushing yards. They won the time-of-possession battle decisively, running 36 plays in the second half to just eight for Russellville.

Senior tailback Cam Bass led Scottsboro with 168 yards on 26 carries, and junior quarterback Jacob Manning ran 28 times for 87 yards. Manning attempted only five passes, completing four of them for 38 yards—including a 23-yard touchdown pass to Cloud that tied the game 14-14 late in the third quarter.

The score remained tied until midway through the fourth, when kicker Joannes Du Croo De Jongh capped off a 17-play drive by the Wildcats with a 26-yard field goal to provide the winning points.

Both teams went three-and-out to open the game, and Russellville caught a break on a bad punt snap by the Wildcats. Senior linebacker Jamal Hubbard jumped on the loose football, giving the Golden Tigers excellent field position at the Scottsboro 22.

The Wildcat defense held, though, sacking Bishop for a loss of 12 on third-and-10 and then forcing an incompleteness to take over on downs.

After another exchange of punts, Scottsboro broke out a trick play, with Manning on the receiving end of a lateral toss following a jet-sweep reverse. He broke loose for a gain of 30 yards, then ran for 13 more two plays later down to the Russellville six. Manning scored from three yards out on the first play of the second quarter, and the extra point gave the Wildcats a 7-0 lead with 11:55 left in the first half.

The Golden Tigers quickly went three-and-out and punted. Scottsboro muffed the kick, and Russellville’s Ashton Boyd recovered at the Wildcat 39. Once again, the Golden Tigers were unable to take advantage, throwing incomplete on three straight plays and then punting again.

Scottsboro picked up a pair of first downs and then pinned the Golden Tigers at their own two-yard line with a 42-yard punt. Senior tailback Austin Ashley gave Russellville a little breathing room with a 12-yard run, and then Hubbard came through with his best punt of the night, a 54-yarder that rolled dead at the Scottsboro 35.

After a three-and-out by the Wildcats, the Golden Tigers changed tactics on offense. They had already taken a handful of deep shots down the field to

King, to no avail. On first down from the 35, Bishop fired a short pass to King, who broke a tackle and then eluded another defender near midfield before racing down the right sideline all the way to the end zone. Miguel Flores added the PAT to tie the game 7-7 with 34 seconds left in the first half.

Prior to King’s 65-yard catch and run, Russellville had run 21 plays on its first six possessions, gaining a total of eight yards and one first down.

Scottsboro threatened to take the lead into the locker room after Bass broke free for a 32-yard gain, but Du Croo De Jongh missed a 32-yard field goal as the half expired.

The Wildcats got the ball to start the second half and drove into Russellville territory, but they ultimately elected to have Manning pooch punt on fourth-and-short from the 36-yard line. The Golden Tigers partially blocked the kick and took over at their own 40.

Two plays later, McCulloch busted loose for his eighth rushing touchdown of the season, out-racing multiple Scottsboro defenders to the left pylon for a 54-yard score. Flores added the extra point, giving the Golden Tigers a 14-7 lead and all the momentum.

Neither lasted long. Jarrett Whitehead returned the ensuing kickoff 57 yards to the Russellville 23, and then Manning found Cloud for a walk-in touchdown on a play-action pass to tie the game 14-14 with 4:06 left in the third.

After a three-and-out by Russellville, the Wildcats put together a methodical 17-play march, with Bass carrying the ball nine times and Manning eight. Du Croo De Jongh capped the drive with a 26-yard kick, putting Scottsboro on top 17-14 with 4:57 left to play.

Russellville’s ensuing drive began with a sack for a loss of 13. Bishop bounced back on the next play, tossing one up to Ray near the 35-yard line. The junior tight end out-muscled a Scottsboro defender to make the catch and then bolted up the field, finally getting tracked down at the Wildcat 28 after a gain of 65 yards. A false start backed up Russellville to the 33, and then Cloud’s interception snuffed out the Golden Tigers’ last scoring opportunity.

The Golden Tigers finished with 47 rushing yards on 14 carries. Bishop threw for 147 yards on 5-for-16 passing, with one touchdown and one pick. King caught two passes for 71 yards, and McCulloch ran for 65 yards on eight carries.

Scottsboro advanced to face Center Point in round two.

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## 'HANCEVILLE,' from page 13

Allen, a sophomore then in her first season at Phil Campbell after transferring from Russellville, carved up Cold Springs, scoring a game-high 20 points on 9-for-13 shooting in a 46-29 win that sent the Lady Bobcats to the Final Four for the first time since 1987. Their run ended with a loss to Samson in the state semifinals, but Allen's clutch performance in Hanceville—which earned her regional MVP honors—left a lasting impression on her head coach.

To him, it embodied Allen's versatility and her dynamic ability to make big-time plays against big-time opponents in big-time games.

"She'll post you up or she'll shoot the three on you," Thomas said of Allen, who finished that sophomore season averaging 12.3 points per game and then upped that number to 13.7 last year as a junior. "You better have somebody guarding her who's just as athletic as she is, or she's gonna take over a game."

It's fitting that Thomas's enduring memory—thus far, anyway—of Allen took place at Tom Drake Coliseum, because she'll be playing there a lot more often starting next year. Allen, who has scored 1,266 points in her varsity career, will sign with Wallace-Hanceville on Thursday morning in a ceremony at PCHS, fulfilling her lifelong dream of becoming a college basketball player.

"It's something I've wanted to do ever since I was little," Allen said on Monday morning, just moments after wrapping up a two-hour practice with the Lady Bobcats. "I played travel ball all the way from sixth grade to now, and I've always wanted to play college ball. It's a good accomplishment for me. I know my parents [Michael and Heather Allen] have always wanted me to go and play, and I'm glad I'm making them proud."

As for Thomas, he saw this day coming from the moment Allen first arrived at PCHS prior to her sophomore season.

"No doubt. She's been a scholarship player the whole time we've had her," he said. "We knew it. It was just about making her work at it a little bit and keeping her healthy. Her ball-handling skills were what stood out to me when she first got here. She was an excellent ball-handler. Defensively, she could guard anybody. As a sophomore, she fit right into our style of play. She runs the floor really well, and she pushes the ball well."

"She will compete at the next level, easily. Kallie can be as good as she wants to be. She's got all the tools. She can play."

In her two seasons at Phil Campbell, Allen has helped the Lady Bobcats go 50-11 while making two trips to Hanceville and one to the Final Four. She has been remarkably consistent and durable, scoring 395 points as a sophomore and 397 as a junior while playing in all 61 games.

In those two seasons, Allen has averaged 13.0 points while reaching double-figures 44 times in 61 games and topping the 20-point mark on seven occasions. A terrific rebounder for her size, the 5'8 guard has averaged 5.8 boards per game while also leading the Lady Bobcats in assists both years and coming up with 142 steals (2.3 per game).

According to Thomas, though, Allen's growth in less tangible areas has been just as impressive as the numbers she's posted.

"Her mentality has changed, just how she goes about things," he said. "When she came in as a sophomore, she was quiet. She didn't hardly say anything. Now, she'll direct traffic for us and be more of a leader, I guess you'd say. She's really taking charge. She's quiet when she talks, but she keeps everybody going in the right direction. She gets everybody in the right spot."

"The thing I really love about her is, she's not afraid to handle the ball. She's not looking for somebody else to give it to. Her ball-handling is really good, and she sees the floor well."

With that in mind, Allen figures to share point-guard duties this season with junior sharpshooter Caitlyn Mills. In addition to that, Allen will also have to step her scoring and rebounding now that Davis—who finished her Phil Campbell career with 1,833 points—has moved on to UAH.

"I've had to be more of a leader and take over the team a little more," Allen said of her newfound responsibilities. "When everybody is freaking out, it's my job to calm everybody down. Stuff like that. I've gotta score more now that Abby's not here to help me. I think I'm gonna be running more point guard this year, too."

"I expect to score more, be more of a leader and get more assists. It's not just about me scoring. I have to help us score as a team."

That should be music to the ears of Thomas, who has high expectations for Allen this season as she tries to lead the Lady Bobcats back to Birmingham after a one-year absence.

"I told her the other day, I said, 'I expect you to take a good shot or create me a good shot every time down the floor. I'm not saying you've gotta shoot it every time, but you've gotta drive and penetrate and do whatever we've gotta do to create that good shot,'" Thomas said.

Davis will undoubtedly be missed, but Thomas doesn't expect his team—which, along with Allen, returns the junior trio of Mills and forwards Katie Thomas and Olivia Taylor—to change their style of play this season.

"It won't be a whole lot different," he said. "Abby...you can't hardly replace sixteen, seventeen, eighteen points a game and six feet tall. But they don't let you keep 'em every year. We'll basically be about the same. We won't change a whole lot. We'll get up and down the floor and press and play hard man-to-man."

"I think this year will be one of the best shooting teams I've had in a while. When all five of our kids are shooting it, you can't leave them standing flat-footed or they'll fill it up. Time will tell on that, of course, but over the summer teams couldn't sag on us a whole lot."

The 5'7 Mills is Phil Campbell's top perimeter threat after knocking down a career-high 48 threes and averaging 11.4 points per game last year as a sophomore. Katie Thomas, a 5'9 forward who can score inside and out, hit 25 threes in her first full varsity season while averaging 5.7 points and 4.8 rebounds per game. The 5'8 Taylor is in line for a more prominent role after averaging 4.1 points per game in her varsity debut, and sophomore Faith Cook and 5'11 freshman Madison Branch are also expected to play key minutes after getting their feet wet at the end of last season.

Among the Lady Bobcats' noteworthy accomplishments a year ago were a second straight county championship, a second straight area title, and impressive road wins over eventual state champions Phillips (Class 1A) and Rogers (Class 4A). The game that sticks with Thomas and company, however, is the one they didn't win.

Leading Winfield by 12 at the half in the regional semifinals, Phil Campbell fell apart down the stretch, failing to make a single basket in the fourth quarter and watching its season come to a shocking end with a 47-42 loss that derailed what was supposed to be a return trip to the Final Four and haunted Thomas's dreams all summer.

"I've probably watched the film of that game fifteen times," he said on Monday. "I should have pulled the ball out. We were scoring pretty regular against their man-to-man. When we were up four or six or whatever it was going into the fourth quarter, I should have backed it out and shortened the game and made them get out of that two-three zone and come guard us."

"Like I said after that game, though, we were getting good shots. They just weren't falling. I think we were 0-for-14 in the fourth quarter. You can't win going 0-for-14 in the fourth quarter."

As painful as that loss was, Thomas has gone to great lengths to make sure his players don't forget it. Inside the team's locker room is posted a newspaper clipping documenting—in pictures and words—the excruciating details of that nightmarish fourth quarter against Winfield.

"It reminds us of what that felt like last year," Thomas said. "We're gonna talk about it ever so often—everyday if needed. Our girls remember the feeling they had after that ball game, knowing they should have went on [to the regional final]. So it's gonna be on our minds all year long."

If the memory of last year's season-ending loss doesn't provide enough motivation, then the daunting nature of this year's schedule should do the trick. Phil Campbell will open its season at home next Tuesday, November 19 against Mississippi powerhouse Belmont before facing Class 1A contender Mars Hill, reigning Class 4A champion Rogers and Class 7A Sparkman. Rival Phillips, which added Haleyville transfer Ali Temple to the title-winning duo of guard Gracie Hallman and post player Ally McCollum, is also on the slate again.

It's a schedule meant to toughen and prepare the Lady Bobcats, not pad their win total.

"We better win 20," Thomas said with a laugh, "but we really wanna get better for the playoffs. With this schedule, you have to play hard every night out. By the time the playoffs get here, you'll be a lot better."

"We played about 25 games this summer, and everywhere we went we tried to play as many 5A, 6A and 7A teams as we could. I thought the summer was successful, just because of the competition we played. It was good for us, because with the schedule we have we're gonna have to play hard all the time."

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Bonner brothers help Belgreen survive Murr's 47 Dempsey eclipses 1,000-point mark as Lady Bulldogs also open with win

Staff reports

Will Bonner scored 15 of his career-high 29 points in the fourth quarter last Friday night, helping Belgreen survive a big game from Lindsay Lane star Tommy Murr to beat the Lions 84-72.

Murr, a David Lipscomb signee and the nation's second-leading scorer last season at 45.1 points per game, put up 47 last Friday, but the Bulldogs (1-0) countered with 49 combined points from the Bonner brothers, Will and Collin, both Russellville transfers.

Will shot 11-for-12 from the foul line in the fourth quarter, and Collin finished with a career-high 20 points. The two sophomore guards combined for 20 fourth-quarter points, helping Belgreen out-score Lindsay Lane 27-20 down the stretch to turn a five-point lead into a 12-point win.

Murr, a 6'2 senior guard, got off to a relatively modest start, scoring seven points in the first quarter. Junior guard Scout Bragwell buried a pair of early threes for the Bulldogs, helping them build a 20-17 lead by the end of one.

Murr heated up in quarter number two, scoring all 13 of Lindsay Lane's points and moving into second place on the AHSAA all-time scoring list. [By night's end, his career total was up to 4,257 points, trailing only former Parkway Christian star Jeremy Monceaux's 4,555.]

Belgreen got five points in the second quarter from Will Bonner, four apiece from Collin Bonner and Bryant Hubbert and a three-pointer from reserve guard Canaan Stough, out-scoring the visiting Lions 17-13 to take a 37-30 lead into the locker room.

Murr kept it rolling with 13 more points in the third quarter, helping Lindsay Lane out-score the Bulldogs 22-20 to trim the lead to five. He then knocked down a pair of threes and went 6-for-6 from the line in the fourth quarter, scoring 14 points, but Belgreen was able to hold on.

Will Bonner had not shot a free throw all night prior to sinking 11 of his 12 attempts down the stretch, and David Plott scored all five of his points in the fourth quarter.

Murr's 47 points came on seven two-point buckets, six threes and 15 made free throws in 15 tries. Charlie Morrison added 14 points for the Lions.

Will Bonner hit a pair of first-half threes for the Bulldogs on his way to finishing just one point shy of his first career 30-point outing. Collin Bonner did all his damage from inside the arc, making nine two-point baskets and going 2-for-2 at the line.

Bragwell hit three threes and finished with 12 points, and Hubbert added eight. Junior post player Isac Willingham scored seven points, and Plott finished with five. Stough added three points.

Belgreen made six threes as a team and shot 18-for-24 from the line. The Bulldogs will return to action on Thursday at home against county rival Tharptown.

In other action:

Varsity girls Belgreen 65 Lindsay Lane 35

Post players Emma Dempsey and Ansley Tate combined to score 49 points last Friday night, leading Belgreen to a season-opening rout of Lindsay Lane.

Madelyn Dizon came out hot for the visiting Lady Lions, hitting three early threes and scoring 11 first-quarter points. The Lady Bulldogs (1-0) countered with eight points from Tate and six from Dempsey, building a 19-13 lead at the end of one.

Tate scored nine more points in the second, and Dempsey added six as Belgreen out-scored Lindsay Lane 21-10 to take a 40-23 lead into the locker room.

The dynamic post duo dominated the third quarter for the Lady Bulldogs, combining to score 19 of the team's 20 points (10 by Dempsey, nine by

Tate) to help them out-score Lindsay Lane 20-6 and take a 60-29 lead into the fourth quarter.

Dempsey, a 6'1 junior, eclipsed the 1,000-point mark for her career in Friday's first half and finished the night with 25 points, shooting 11-for-16 from the foul line. Tate, a 5'7 senior, had 24 points.

Senior forward Katie Dempsey scored all seven of her points in the first half, knocking down a first-quarter three and going 2-for-2 at the foul line. Senior guard Autumn Bragwell also went 2-for-2 at the line and finished with six points. Senior point guard Gracie Dempsey added three points, knocking down a three in the third quarter.

As a team, the Lady Bulldogs made just two threes but shot 17-for-25 at the line.

Dizon hit five first-half threes for Lindsay Lane and finished the night with 25 points.

Belgreen will return to action on Thursday at home against county rival Tharptown.



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# Lady Devils welcome five teams for Vina Invitational



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Sophomores Guin (23) and Scott (14) are two of four returning starters for Vina this season. Guin led the team last year with 14.9 points, 7.3 assists and 4.7 steals per game, while Scott averaged 7.8 points and 9.2 rebounds. The Lady Red Devils finished last season 17-9.

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

Vina's girls will tip off their 2019-20 season this Saturday, November 16 as they welcome in five teams for the Vina Invitational Tournament.

The Lady Red Devils, who have averaged 21 wins over the past three seasons, will get things started at 9:30 a.m. against Shoals Christian. Marion County and Red Bay will tip at 10:45 a.m., followed by Vina and Waterloo at noon.

Afternoon action will continue with Belgreen's girls scheduled to take on Marion County at 1:15 p.m. Shoals Christian and Waterloo will play at 2:30 p.m., and Vina is scheduled to play the final game of the day against Marion County at 3:45 p.m.

Vina and head coach Richie Hester return four starters from last year's team, which finished 17-9. Back to lead the way is sophomore guard Rayleigh Guin, who earned first-team All-County honors from the *Free Press* as a freshman after averaging career-highs in points (14.9 per game), assists (7.3), steals (4.7) and rebounds (3.8). Guin shot 72 percent (133-for-185) from the foul line and topped the 20-point mark five times while also posting a pair of late-season triple-doubles.

"Rayleigh has the ability to score on anyone," Hester said, "and she has really improved as our assist leader."

With three full years left at the varsity level, Guin has already scored 687 career points and could reach 1,000 by the end of this season. Teammate Kaitlyn King is already a member of the 1,000-point club, having scored 1,296 in her varsity career at Vina. King averaged 10.3 points, 4.5 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game last season, knocking down 43 threes.

Forward Sarah Johnson will be another senior starter for the Lady Red Devils this season. Johnson averaged 7.4 points and 4.1 rebounds per game as a junior last year, adding 46 assists and 34 steals. She will be joined again in the front-court by sophomore post player Sara Scott, who averaged 7.8 points and 9.2 rebounds per game last season as a freshman. Scott grabbed 103 offensive rebounds on the year and also led the team with 23 blocked shots.

Vina must replace the production of departed senior Emma Humphres, a 1,000-point career scorer who nearly averaged a double-double last season with 9.5 points and 9.5 rebounds per

game. Humphres earned a scholarship offer from Ecclesia College in Arkansas, marking the second straight year that a Vina senior had the opportunity to play at the next level. [Former point guard Abby Hester, a 2018 graduate, signed with Blue Mountain College in Mississippi.]

## 2019 Vina Invitational Tournament (Varsity Girls) Saturday, Nov. 16 at Vina High School

9:30 AM - Vina vs. Shoals Christian  
10:45 AM - Marion County vs. Red Bay  
12 PM - Vina vs. Waterloo  
1:15 PM - Belgreen vs. Marion County  
2:30 PM - Shoals Christian vs. Waterloo  
3:45 PM - Vina vs. Marion County

"In the last two seasons, we've lost two players [Hester and Humphres] who had scored a combined 3,500 points in their high school careers," Richie Hester said. "This season will depend on our returning starters staying healthy all year. Kaitlyn, Sarah Johnson and Sara Scott will have to pick up some of the scoring and a lot on rebounds. If the newcomers do their part in scoring and rebounding, it could be a really good season for us."

Vying to replace Humphres in the starting lineup are sophomore Abbie Petree, who scored 50 points and pulled down 113 rebounds last season; sophomore Hailey Cantrell, who scored 37 points last season; and freshman Kaitlyn Athey, who moved up to the varsity late last season after scoring more than 200 points at the junior high level.

"This season will depend on our returning starters staying healthy all year," said Hester, whose team has averaged 21 wins over the past three seasons. "Rayleigh has the ability to score on anyone, and she has really improved as our assist leader. Kaitlyn, Sarah Johnson and Sara Scott will have to pick up some of the scoring and a lot on rebounds. If the newcomers do their part in scoring and rebounding, it could be a really good season for us."

Other newcomers include senior Lexie Collum, a transfer from Red Bay who was ineligible last season; senior Greta Raper, who last played in the 2017-18 season; and freshmen Maddie Mills and Kassidie Gesler, who helped the junior high Lady Red Devils go 15-5 last season.

## 'RED BAY,' from page 14

25.6 points per game. "We'll have to contain their skill kids on offense. They like to put those guys in space and try to get them one-on-one. The fastest four kids on the field are probably gonna be on their team, so we're gonna have to deal with that and not let them get out in space."

Offensively, the dual-threat Vinson has thrown for 1,625 yards on 94-for-181 passing while also rushing for 523 yards on 72 carries. He has thrown for 11 touchdowns and run for 11 more. Junior tailback Hunter King leads the team with 890 yards rushing on 171 carries, and Humphres has run for 544 yards and 13 touchdowns on 107 attempts. Junior receiver Mason Holt has caught 27 passes for 442 yards and two scores.

"The main thing for us on offense is to take advantage of field position," said Jackson, whose team averages 34.7 points per game. "We didn't do a great job of that last week. We had two really good kickoff returns that we didn't take advan-

tage of. We maintained our balance on offense, but we've gotta be able to take advantage of our field position. When we get the ball inside the 50 to start a drive, we have to score."

Red Bay is looking to reach 12 wins and earn a quarterfinal berth, neither of which the Tigers have done since 2007.

"It's been twelve years since we've been to the quarterfinals," Jackson said. "Our guys have been very goal-oriented all season—win the region, go 10-0, won 22 of the last 25 games. The next step is to get this win and get to the quarterfinals."

Red Bay would travel in round three to either Fyffe or Ranburne. But for one more game, at least, the Tigers will play at The Fred, where they've won 14 in a row and have a 30-5 record under Jackson since he arrived in 2014.

"It's great to play at home in front of our crowd," he said. "Our kids are very comfortable there. I'm hoping that will give us a shot in the arm."

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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 12 must be postmarked by Friday, November 15, and picks submitted by email for Week 12 must be received by Saturday, November 16 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 11 winner **JASON BOLTON**, who correctly picked 7 out of 10 games and also picked LSU to beat Alabama 37-34!

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# Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 12: November 16	Bailey's Pick	Your Pick
Florida at Missouri	Florida	_____
Alabama at Mississippi St.	Alabama	_____
Kentucky at Vanderbilt	Kentucky	_____
Georgia at Auburn	Georgia	_____
LSU at Ole Miss	LSU	_____
South Carolina at Texas A&M	Texas A&M	_____
Michigan St. at Michigan	Michigan	_____
Minnesota at Iowa	Iowa	_____
Navy at Notre Dame	Notre Dame	_____
Oklahoma at Baylor	Oklahoma	_____
Tiebreaker Score:	Georgia _____	Auburn _____
Your Name:	_____	
Phone number:	_____	

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