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**FranklinFreePress.net**

**12.04.19**

# Rogers headlines group of Farm-City award recipients

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Bob Rogers' service to others doesn't stop at the borders of Franklin County, although he's done much to benefit his home community. Rogers has transformed lives around the world through church mission work in Alaska and Moldova, Russia, where he was part of a mission team that provided socks and shoes to residents.

**Bob Rogers was honored November 25 as the Franklin County Citizen of the Year at the annual Farm-City Banquet, sponsored by the Franklin County Extension System and the Farm-City Planning Committee.**

Closer to home, Rogers was a founding member of the Industrial Development Authority Board in Franklin County, and a charter member of the Russellville Rotary Club.

Rogers was honored November 25 as the Franklin County Citizen of the Year at the annual Farm-City Banquet, sponsored by the Franklin County Extension System and the Farm-City Planning Committee.

See 'AWARD,' Page 11



PHOTO/JP

Toby Gray, Franklin County Farmer of the Year, and Katernia Cole-Coffey.



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# Charge against Franklin County man elevated to capital murder

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

A Franklin County man faces capital murder charges for his alleged role in a February 4 shooting.

Thomas Martin of Phil Campbell was indicted last week on the charge of capital murder for the intentional murder of Jason Wayne Poore. Martin was arrested in February and charged with murder, but after the completion of the investigation a Franklin County Grand Jury chose to elevate the charge to capital murder.

Although Martin faces a capital murder charge, he is not subject to the death penalty if convicted, according to Franklin County district attorney Joey Rushing. Instead, Martin faces a sentence of life in prison without parole if convicted.

Rushing explained that there were no aggravating factors in connection with the incident that would increase the punishment to include a penalty of death.

A second defendant, Brittany Barnett, was originally charged with murder, but she pled to a lesser charge and is presently serving a prison sentence.

"The settlement of Barnett's case was done with the victim's family's consent, based on the evidence of the case," Rushing said.


Barnett faced charges of murder, burglary first degree and two counts of chemical endangerment, but the murder charge and one chemical endangerment charge were dismissed upon her plea to burglary and chemical endangerment.

Barnett pled to a 12-year sentence on the burglary first

See 'CHARGE,' Page 9

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**Royce Newell**, Phil Campbell, age 71

Died Friday, November 22, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Blue Springs Cemetery.

**Dr. Leonides V. Santos**, Russellville, age 72

Passed away Thursday, November 28, 2019. He was the husband to Anna Maria Santos. Service will be Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 1 p.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Church 1799 N Jackson Ave. Russellville, Alabama 35653. Followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. After the reception his interment will be at the Columbarium at St. Bernard Abbey, 1600 St. Bernard Dr. Cullman, Alabama 35055.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Anna Maria Santos; daughters, Kimberly Rose Santos and Jo Ellen Santos Mays; sons, Joseph Leonides Santos and Michael Leonides Santos; brothers, Aristeo (Beng) Santos, Wilfredo Santos and Jose Santos; and sisters, Teresita Santos Madulid, Elenita Santos Arceo and Maria Victoria Santos Young.

**Joel Lynn Schiltz**, Phil Campbell, age 77

Died Wednesday, November 20, 2019. Memorial service held at Phil Campbell Baptist Church.

**Crystal Lynn Taylor**, Florence, SC (formerly of Russellville),  
age 38

Died Wednesday, November 27, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Belgreen Cemetery.

**Lessie Mae Wren**, Russellville, age 89

Died Saturday, November 23, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Red Bay City Cemetery.

## WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS!

**Haley Knight, MSN, CRNP, FNP-C**  
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Russellville Hospital is excited to announce that nurse practitioner Haley Knight, CRNP, is welcoming new patients along with Dr. Jeffrey Chenyi at Russellville Hospital Medical Clinic.

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# Banquet caps off Bicentennial celebration

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The speakers at the Franklin County and Russellville Bicentennial Banquet shared both a message of celebration for the county's and city's 200th birthday and for the hard work of those who made the year-long celebration a success.

Held November 21 at the A.W. Todd Centre, the banquet capped off more than 12 months of events that highlighted the history of the city and county.

Russellville mayor David Grissom presented framed resolutions to each of the Franklin County Bicentennial Committee members expressing appreciation for their hard work. Committee members included Chris Ozbirn (chairperson), Tracie Clark, Nicole Pell, Jackie Richardson, Grant Atkins, Doris Hutcheson, Cassie Medley, Sharon Hester, Buffie Ozbirn, Ashley Cummins and Sharon Mugno.

Grissom also presented a plaque to Shannon Wilson on behalf of the Bicentennial Committee as a way to recognize Wilson's contributions to the Bicentennial celebration.

Rep. Jamie Kiel (R-Russellville) and Franklin County probate judge Barry Moore also spoke and shared their appreciation to committee members.

Belgreen resident Scott Mugno served as master of ceremonies.

"It wouldn't be a birthday without a party, and the Bicentennial Committee has worked hard to make sure this is a memorable party for all of you tonight," Mugno said.

There was live music from the Athens Dulcimer Group and a meal catered by Pilgrim's Place Barbecue. CB&S Bank, Katernia Cole-Coffey and the Franklin County Extension Office, and the Franklin County Commission co-sponsored the event, with contributions from Sam Warf Floral, Pilgrim's Place Barbecue and several local businesses, which provided door prizes.



Franklin County and the City of Russellville both celebrated their 200th birthday at a banquet on November 21.

# Kiel announces Space Camp scholarships

Submitted to the FFP

Two students from Alabama House District 18 will receive a full scholarship to Space Academy at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

Students ages 12 to 14 may apply for Space Academy for Leading Students in Alabama (SALSA), a Space Camp program funded by the Alabama legislature. This program promotes science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education along with leadership skills.

To be eligible for SALSA, students may apply for the scholarship at the link below or through their school counselor. Representative Jamie Kiel has

notified all school systems in House District 18, and they have the information needed to apply. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2020, and the two students chosen by the selection committee will be notified in March of 2020. The dates of the camp are May 24-29, 2020.

Each scholarship includes tuition, room and board for the Space Academy program. Travel to and from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center is not included.

To learn more, visit [www.spacecamp.com/salsa](http://www.spacecamp.com/salsa).  
Brochure:

<https://www.spacecamp.com/docs/2020/SALSA2020Brochure.pdf>

"I am excited to announce that two middle-school students who live in my House District [Alabama House District 18] will receive scholarships to attend a special Space Camp free of charge," Kiel said. "This includes students who live in Lauderdale, Colbert and Franklin counties. I had the opportunity to attend Space Camp when I was in middle school, and it was a great experience for me. I would like to encourage all students to apply for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"The job market is changing. Our students must be prepared to compete in the STEM areas. This is one way that we can help our students compete for high-paying tech jobs in the future."

# CHES among S.C.O.R.E. winners headed to AU

MUSCLE SHOALS — Winfield Middle School and Colbert Heights Elementary School led the group of winners at the 2019 Northwest Alabama SCORE VEX IQ Challenge last Saturday in the Patriot Center on the Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) Shoals Campus.

Winfield Middle School (team Bad Memory) and Colbert Heights Elementary (team Bionic Blue) won the competition Excellence Awards. Winfield Middle School (team The Flying Dutchmen) and Phillips Elementary School (team RoboBears2) won the competition Teamwork Champion Awards.

The winning teams collaborated with 31 elementary and middle school teams from Central, Cherokee, Creekside Academy, Lauderdale County, Legacy Christian Academy, Mars Hill, Mountain Brook, New Bethel, Riverhill, Sand Rock, Weeden, and Winston County 4-H/Free State Homeschool.

Excellence Award and Teamwork Champion Award winners advance to compete for the state/regional championship at Auburn University on February 28-29, 2020. Winners of the state/regional championship qualify to showcase their skills at the VEX Robotics World Championship in Louisville, Kentucky.

The VEX IQ Challenge allows students build a robot using snap-together VEX IQ parts to solve an engineering challenge that is presented each year. Teams work together to score points in teamwork matches and show their skills individually in driver-controlled and programming Robot Skills Challenges.

"This event would not have been possible without our sponsors, partners, and volunteers that include Auburn's SCORE, REC Foundation, TN Valley Robotics Foundation, TVA, BVI, Toyota Alabama, Flexco, Walmart (Hough Road, Florence), ATN, Tuscumbia Civitans, Tri-Cities Manufacturing, the Missile Defense Agency, and Southwire," said Kim Sheppard, NW-SCC Math Instructor and Co-Hub Director of Northwest Alabama BEST Robotics at NW-SCC.



COURTESY PHOTO

Elementary and middle-school students compete in the VEX IQ Challenge at NW-SCC.

The VEX IQ Challenge is made possible through a partnership of the Shoals Chamber of Commerce, NW-SCC, and Auburn University's Southeastern Center of Robotics Education. More information about the VEX Robotics Competition is available at [www.roboticseducation.org](http://www.roboticseducation.org), [www.robot-events.com](http://www.robot-events.com), and [www.vexrobotics.com](http://www.vexrobotics.com).



# Honey-Do List: Fire safety

Fire safety is not often top of mind during the holidays, but with roaring fires, candles, potentially flammable decorations (including the family Christmas tree) and electric light strings, the threat of disaster is always present. You've got plenty to keep you busy with getting everything done in time for the holidays; just follow basic safety guidelines, and you'll have nothing extra to worry about.

Decorative lights you use both indoors and out can be potential fire and electrical hazards. Use only indoor lighting for your holiday lights inside your home. This may seem like obvious advice, but people often don't know there's a difference. Holiday lights are rated for indoor or outdoor use and must be used in their intended settings.

For example, outdoor lights burn brighter and thus create more heat, which increases the chance of a fire if they are used inside. The same goes for extension cords. For outdoor lights, only use heavy-duty extension cords rated for outdoor use.

Check your light strings for fraying, breaks or tearing. Before you hang them, check each bulb and the

entire wire for any kind of damage. Look specifically for places where bare wires are exposed. If you see extensive damage, the strand needs to be replaced.

Whether you are hanging lights indoors or outdoors, don't use staples, nails or other sharp objects to hang them. You risk damaging the wire, which can then potentially cause a fire or electrocution. Use insulated holders specifically manufactured for hanging holiday lights. Don't hang indoor lights near your fireplace.

Be sure your holiday lights are UL-approved. Underwriters Laboratories (UL) evaluates thousands of products each year for safety and assurance. Products that bear the UL mark have passed stringent tests and meet high safety standards. Check the packaging to see if the UL stamp is present. If it is, the product is very safe to use as long as it's used properly.

Consider changing to LED lights. They burn brighter, use much less electricity and last longer than the



Doug Green

See 'FIRE,' Page 5

## OUR HOUSE

BY Ree Shannon



## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

113 WASHINGTON AVE. NW  
RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35653  
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## DAVE SAYS

Financial Straight-Talk

[www.davesays.org](http://www.davesays.org)

by Dave Ramsey

### Landlords and duplexes

Dear Dave,  
I'm 23 and debt-free, and I've almost got my fully funded emergency fund in place. I was curious about your thoughts on saving up money to buy a duplex, living on one side and renting out the other. It would be my first home purchase and my first rental property.

Derrick

Dear Derrick,  
Well, the good news is your renter would be right next door. You can keep an eye on things. The bad news? Your renter would be *right next door*. It would be a necessity to have very clear boundaries in your relationship. Otherwise, some people will come knocking on your door at midnight expecting you to change a light bulb or something silly like that. The trick to being a good landlord, especially for a rookie, is learning how to balance being firm with people while still being fair and kind.

Another thing to consider is the purchase of a duplex in general. The upside is you've got someone helping pay the bill when it's rented.

The downside is when you get ready to sell a duplex, most of the time your buyer is an investor. This means you're dealing with a wholesale-minded buyer, and that tends to hold prices on duplexes down more than it would a comparable, traditional, single-family home. On the other hand, the cute, young couple looking to buy a perfectly staged and freshly painted home is usually more than willing to pay full retail.

I've owned several duplexes in my life, but I've always done much better with single-family homes. They're easier to rent, they tend to stay rented more consistently and, as a rule, they appreciate faster. Just know your upsides and your downsides if you're planning on moving into a duplex and doing this.

Another thing to consider is the purchase of a duplex in general. The upside is you've got someone helping pay the bill when it's rented. The downside is when you get ready to sell a duplex, most of the time your buyer is an investor. This means you're dealing with a wholesale-minded buyer, and that tends to hold prices on duplexes down more than it would a comparable, traditional, single-family home.

And be very careful about your location. You'll come out much better mentally, emotionally and financially in an area where homeowners take pride in their neighborhood!

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.





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## RCS Board expedites bid process for WES repairs

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education approved an emergency clause that will allow Russellville City Schools to expedite the bid process for repairs to the West Elementary School cafeteria and computer lab.

The board approved the measure at its November 21 meeting.

After an early morning fire on November 12 broke out in the computer lab, WES students were not able to attend classes that day. According to RCS superintendent Heath Grimes, students returned the next day, and all parts of the building are in use except the cafeteria and computer lab. Students are eating their meals in classrooms, but the kitchen is still operable.

While bid requirements generally require written notice of bids, publication of the bid solicitation and a waiting period, in an emergency situation a school board may expedite that process by not going through the sealed bid process, which allows the repairs to be made sooner.

The emergency clause approved by the board will be sent to the State of Alabama, where it must be approved. After that, the system may move forward. In other action at its November 21 meeting, the board:

- Approved personnel moves including: Resignation in Position: Jaime Oliver, Russellville Middle School bookkeeper; Leave of Absence: Kendra Howard, RMS teacher, January 28, 2020 through February 14, 2020, and Anna Lisa Jackson, WES teacher, November 14, 2019 through January 3, 2020; Temporary Employment: Maddie Benford, Meredith Hill and Jacob Wallace, 21st CCLC teachers; Employment in Position: Leah Swinney, RMS bookkeeper; Reinstatement of Sick Leave: Liza Scott, RES, three days in November due to an on-the-job injury; Athletic Volunteer: Angela Woods, girls basketball; Employment in Supplement: Lorraine Perez, Robotics Team assistant.

- Approved facility use requests for: Franklin County Extension 4-H Program's Regional Congress on May 28-29, 2020, RHS Auditorium for Russellville's Ministerial Organization's Community Thanksgiving Service on November 24, RHS Auditorium by Addie's Flip, Tip and Tap's annual dance recital on May 16, 2020, RHS gym by RHS basketball program for Pilgrim's Relay for Life Tournament on December 7, 2019.

- Approved a contract with Bragwell Services, LLC, for mental health professional services for the 2019-20 school

- Approved a trip request for December 5-7 for RHS students to compete at the Alabama State Trumbauer Festival in Troy.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Board of Education is set for Thursday, December 19 at 8 a.m., with work session Monday, December 16 at 3:30 p.m.

## 'FIRE,' from page 4

old type.

Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind:

- Unplug all holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Keep all cords out of the way in high-traffic areas in your home.
- To add protection against electric shock, outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets.

Wishing you a bright, beautiful and safe holiday. Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.

NOT EVERYONE BREAKS DOWN FROM 9-5



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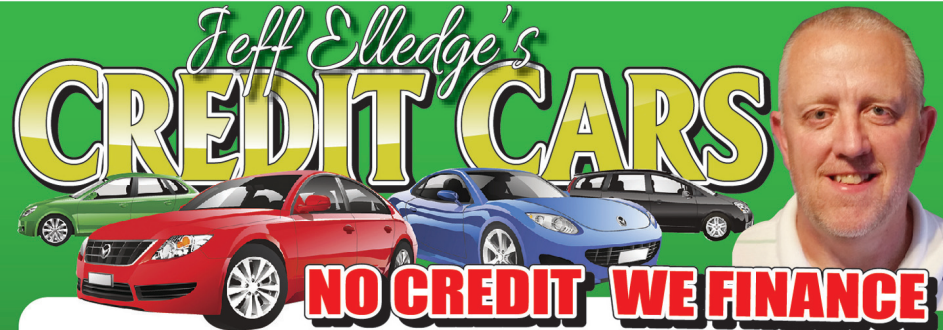
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## What's Happening


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 **R**ussellville Masonic Lodge 371 is selling Christmas hams. Hams are \$30 and may be pre-ordered by calling 256-810-1970. Pickup will be Saturday, December 21 from 8-10 a.m. at the Lodge on Coffee Street.


 **T**he Roxy's Christmas Spectacular starts for the schools this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. General public shows are Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Tickets may be purchased on line at EventBrite.com, at the Roxy or call 256-810-2711 for more information.


 **T**he Cultura Garden Club will hold its annual "Every Light a Prayer for Peace" ceremony this Thursday, December 5 at 4:30 p.m. on the steps of the Franklin County Courthouse. The national anthem will be performed by Bailey Bolton, Franklin County's Distinguished Young Woman. Entertainment will be provided by the Russellville Elementary School Fifth Grade Chorus, RHS Ensemble and Chorus. The Prayer for Peace message will be given by Richard Parker, Branches Church youth minister. RHS Drama students will lead the congregation in the reading of the "Light a Candle" poem. The Garden Club will host a reception for all local Veterans from 3:45-4:15 p.m. in the Probate Court Hearing Room of the Franklin County Courthouse. The Russellville Christmas Parade will be held this Thursday, December 5 at 6 p.m.


 **D**on't forget to bring an unwrapped gift to the Russellville Christmas Parade this Thursday, December 5 at 6 p.m. Gifts collected along the parade route will be used to support the Helping Santa Program. The gift drive is sponsored by the City of Russellville.


 **N**o olvides traer un regalo sin envolver al Desfile de Navidad del centro 5 de diciembre de 2019 a las 6:00 p.m. Regalos recogidos a lo largo de la Ruta del Desfile para apoyar "El Programa Ayuda Santa." Patrocinado por la ciudad de Russellville.


 **T**he Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833 will meet this Thursday, December 5 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center on Ash Avenue in Russellville. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For more info call 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. Everyone welcome!


 **H**olly Day will be held this Saturday, December 7 at the A.W. Todd Centre in Russellville from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Holly Day activities will include Letter to Santa, pizza slice and drink, cookie decorating, games, entertainment, door prizes and photo opportunity with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Admission is \$5.00. For info, call the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce at 256.332.1760.


 **P**lease join us this Saturday, December 7 for Christmas Expo 2019 at the Ralph C. Community Center located at 201 Ash Avenue, Russellville, AL. The Christmas Expo is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is hosted by Studio X-Treme Twirl and Dance. Studio X-Treme is owned by former Russellville Majorette captain and former Mississippi State majorette Heather Davis. Come out and support more than 20 local vendors! We will also have performances by Studio X-Treme students. Admission to this event is FREE, but with ANY donation to Jagger's Journey you will be entered to win one of the many door prizes provided by our vendors!!!

 **T**he Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts will hold auditions for its second production of the 2019-2020 season, *Til Beth Do Us Part*, directed by Mark Richardson. Due to the busy Christmas schedule, we will hold auditions for one night only on Monday, December 9 at 7 p.m. The play is comprised of two men and four women. Auditions will be held at The Weatherford Centre in Red Bay and will consist of cold readings from the book. The performance dates are February 13-16, 2020 and will include a dinner with the play each night and Sunday afternoon. Tickets will go on sale Monday February 3, 2020 at the centre. For group sales you may contact Beth Hammock at 256-356-9286.

 **A**merican Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, December 12 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

 **T**he Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guest Robin Akers 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.

 **B**ook Lovers Study Club will hold its annual Holiday Tour of Homes on Sunday, December 15 from 1-4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased from any Book Lovers Study Club member or on the day of the tour at the hospitality reception area at Russellville First Baptist Church.

 **R**ussellville First Baptist Church's Christmas program, *Here Comes Christmas*, will be presented by the Christmas Choir and Kidz Choir on Sunday, December 15 at 6 p.m.



# Five local establishments receive satisfactory rating

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Each of the five Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of November 18-22 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 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.

All five 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 Phil Campbell School Cafeteria, 55 School Avenue, Phil Campbell.

Other inspection scores and violations of Franklin County businesses included:

- Taco Bell, 15500 Hwy. 43 North, Russellville, 89. (No available drying device at the rear handsink in dish-ware area, mold/residue on fountain nozzles).

- Vulcan Food Mart, 28485 Highway 24, Russellville, 89. (Spray bottle of cleaners not labeled, mold on fountain nozzles).

- Tharptown Elementary & High School, 145 Hwy. 80, Russellville, 93. (No available irreversible registering temperature indicator).

- Stockyard Cafe, 14330 Hwy. 243, Russellville, 95.

Of the 21 inspections done in Colbert County from November 18-22, all received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 99 was shared by three businesses, including Dollar General #3624, 14473 County Line Road, Muscle Shoals.

## Village at Oliver Place

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PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Carolyn Goss pushes a cart full of shoeboxes that will be delivered around the world as part of Operation Christmas Child. First Baptist Church Russellville served as the northwest Alabama collection center for this year.

# FBC partners with other local churches to make Operation Christmas Child a big success

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

When shoeboxes filled with supplies, toys and clothing for children are delivered to more than 100 countries next year, almost 10,000 of them will have a direct connection to Russellville, Alabama, thanks to the efforts of First Baptist Church Russellville and many other churches in the northwest Alabama area.

FBC Russellville served this year as the central collection center for northwest Alabama as part of the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project. Project coordinator Wade Baker said 9,554 shoeboxes were shipped out from FBC Russellville last week. The shoeboxes were delivered by churches from Franklin, Colbert, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Marion and part of Limestone counties.

"We filled two trailers with shoeboxes containing school supplies, socks, toiletries, toys, clothing, etc.," Baker said. "We packed 9,554 shoeboxes for children into cartons, and all of these go to Operation Christmas Child's southeast area, where they will be opened and each shoebox will be checked to make sure there's nothing in them that can't be shipped.

"They will be repackaged and recartoned and segregated by boys and girls into two age groups. From there, they will be delivered in the next one to seven months around the world. The ultimate goal is 11 million worldwide."  
Volunteers were busy at the church the Monday,

Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving collecting and packaging shoeboxes as they arrived from all over northwest Alabama.

Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational Christian organization that offers spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped people in need with aid while sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Pastors around the world will host outreach events, which include distribution of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes in places where many residents don't know Christ.

According to the Samaritan's Purse website, some churches use the boxes as resources for outreach in orphanages. They are often given away along with a copy of *The Greatest Gift*, a gospel story booklet developed by Samaritan's Purse.

For many years, First United Methodist Church in Russellville served as the collection site before FBC started two years ago. Last year's northwest Alabama drive collected 7,900 shoeboxes, so there was an increase of more than 1,600 in 2019.

With results like that, Baker may have found himself with a 'lifetime appointment' as First Baptist Church's Operation Christmas Child project coordinator.

"There are so many people who help make Operation Christmas Child a success, both at the local level and around the world," Baker said. "I'm just a small part of it. We hope to continue to see the project grow."

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# Alabama's utility costs are nation's fifth-highest

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

A recent study shows Alabama to have the nation's fifth-highest average utility costs, even though the state's average household income is fourth-lowest nationally.

The study, conducted by [www.move.org](http://www.move.org), looked at average costs for electricity, natural gas, water, internet and cable service. Information for electricity bill costs came from the United States Energy Information Administration.

The sum of these utilities resulted in the averages for each state's total utility costs per month.

States were ranked solely on how much their utilities cost residents each month on average.

The highest overall utilities are found, not surprisingly, in Hawaii, with a \$587.79 combined monthly average. Hawaii is followed by Florida, South Carolina, then Alabama.

Alabama's total of \$448.73 includes an average monthly cost of \$142.55 for electricity, \$90.79 for natural gas, \$70.39 for water, \$60 for internet service and \$85 for cable service.

Alabama's hot summer temperatures are attributed as a primary reason the state is the nation's second-highest when it comes to cost of electricity each month, again only behind Hawaii. The

national average for electricity is \$110.76. Alabama's monthly average for natural gas is also higher than the national average of \$72.10.

Water bills in Alabama are right on the national average, as is internet and cable service.

The average Hawaii household pays \$587.79 each month for utility expenses. On the opposite end of the spectrum, New Mexico residents average paying \$344.55 for their monthly utilities. The other four lowest state averages are Utah, Colorado, Montana and Idaho.

States in the Pacific Northwest, and those along the Great Lakes, average the lowest utility bills.

Find more info at [www.move.org/utility-bills-101/](http://www.move.org/utility-bills-101/).

# Deceased WW II Veteran receives military honors

By Tom McKnight  
Submitted to the FFP

*"No One Forgotten – No One Un-recognized – No One Without a Marker."*

Military honors services for Lieutenant Darrell Arlen Russel, a WW II and Prisoner of War (POW) camp survivor, were held at his unmarked grave site on 22 November 2019 at 11 a.m. at the Greenview Memorial Gardens Cemetery located at 3658 Old Chisholm Road in the Garden of Memories section opposite the cemetery's mausoleum in Florence.

The American Legion Post 31 Color Guard of Tusculumbia and The Patriot Riders and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8640 of Sheffield were co-participants.

Lt. Russel was a World War II U.S. Army officer whose unit came under fire by German troops during an operation in the European Theatre in France.

His unit endured severe losses and was taken prisoner by German forces, resulting in Lt. Russel's confinement in three Prisoner of War (POW) camps: Oflag 64 or 21B Schubin (Moved to Usedom) Poland, and Altburgund 53-17 until Russian forces liberated the camps and returned U.S. soldiers to American lines.

The following testimony written by the Veteran being celebrated describes the eventful day of military engagement, and thus his celebratory program is being conducted on the anniversary of that mission.

*"On the morning of Nov 22, 1944, a closely coordinated divisional attack was begun. Co. G was one of the forward companies with Co. L on the left and Co. B on the right.*

*My platoon, the first, was initially in support. The initial objective, a low knoll, was taken by noon, but when the advance on the Regimental objective was continued, only a short and highly ineffectual gain was made to reach the objective--a hill with the top forested--an open field had to be crossed.*

*Co. B on the right and the two forward platoons of Co. G started across the field, but as they reached the center of the field the Germans*

*opened fire.*

*The four platoons could move neither forward nor backwards without heavy casualties.*

*Capt. Anderson (of Co. G) therefor sent my platoon to the left flank in an effort to reach the hill-top. Attached to my platoon were two LMG's with full crews and portions of the other two platoons so that there were 45 men in the flanking element.*

*My reinforced platoon approached to within 15 yards of the woods before the Germans opened fire with automatic weapons. Approximately 15 men, including the platoon sergeant, of the attached platoon immediately ran for the bottom of the hill while a few of the remainder of us returned the fire of the Germans.*



*My radioman was killed and the radio damaged beyond use; a wire line to the mortar sections also proved useless.*

*As a result of the failure of communications, no heavy weapons support could be obtained.*

*The two light machine guns (LMG's) were burned out by the gunners when the Germans counter-attacked.*

*As there was little concealment and even less cover, the fire of the Germans was quite effective.*

*Approximately 15 men—including two first-aidmen—were killed or seriously wounded. A voice count indicated that only five of us remained; therefore, the order was given to surrender.*

*Continued resistance would have led only to the death or serious injury of the remainder of my men. When we actually stood up to surrender, a total of fourteen men were taken.*

*On April 21, 1945, I was liberated from the Germans by the Russian Army in its sweep toward Berlin. At this time I was in Stalag 3A, Luckenwalde, Germany.*

*Although the American Forces attempted to evacuate us from the camp, it was not until May 20 that the Russians returned us to the control of the United States.*

*Although we watched for a chance to escape from our guards, at no times did the chances appear favorable. We were never intensely interrogated, although we were given several opportunities to answer questions.*

*At no times previous to the day I was separated from the enlisted men and sent to the officers' camp were we physically mistreated."*

Lt. Russel (also known as Dr. Darrel A. Russel, noted local historian of northwest Alabama and founder of the Natchez Trace Genealogical Society) was also a mentor and friend when I arrived in Alabama fifteen years ago to research my family heritage and links to the area.

The added connection as a Veteran, and discovering that his final resting place since his demise in 2010 does not bear a military marker of his existence and service to the nation, calls upon us all to be aware of the need to ensure that those who have served receive permanent recognition of national service to this nation and proof of presence on this earth with a marker or headstone.

There are many similar cases of Veterans resting in unmarked graves through northwest Alabama whose families may have been impacted by financial constraints; a Veteran's not sharing much about their service life; or a family's lack of awareness, briefing and procedural guidance of how to secure military entitlements that are free of charge for service rendered to the Nation. Those can be easily resolved through Veterans Administration Service Officer assistance in Florence; hence, the heading "No One Forgotten – No One Un-recognized – No One Without a Marker."



Lt. Darrell Arlen Russel

## 'CHARGE' from page 1

degree charge, split to serve 16 months in prison, followed by five years probation. Barnett pled to the chemical endangerment charge and accepted a 10-year sentence, to run concurrent with the burglary sentence.

Additionally, the plea agreement provides that Barnett must provide a full statement and testify

truthfully at Martin's trial.

Authorities were dispatched to a residence on Highway 81 in Phil Campbell on February 4 after a man called requesting ambulance assistance at the location. Authorities discovered Poore was already dead by the time they arrived.

The cause of death, according to Franklin

County sheriff Shannon Oliver, was a small caliber gunshot wound. The case was investigated by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

Rushing said there was no trial date set. Capital offenses often take several years to prepare for trial because of the extensive number of pre-trial motions that are generally filed.





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## 2019 Broadcast License Renewal Application FM Translator W264BN, Russellville, AL Post-Filing Publication

On February 5, 2016, FM Translator W264BN, Russellville, AL, was granted a license by the Federal Communications Commission to serve the public interest as a public trustee until April 1, 2020.

Our license will expire on April 1, 2020. We have filed an application for license renewal with the FCC. A copy of this application is available for public inspection at the following link: [publicfiles.fcc.gov](http://publicfiles.fcc.gov). It contains information concerning this station's performance during the last term of license.

Individuals who wish to advise the FCC of facts relating to our renewal application and to whether this station has operated in the public interest should file comments and petitions with the Commission by March 1, 2020. Further information concerning the Commission's broadcast license renewal process may be obtained from the FCC at [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).

## City teams with RCS on 'Shop Local' campaign

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The City of Russellville has teamed with Russellville City Schools to launch a campaign designed to encourage residents to 'shop local' during this Holiday season.

The #ShopRussellville1st campaign encourages Russellville residents to keep their sales tax dollars here at home. The campaign is being pushed through Facebook and Twitter, and a special day, "22 Dollars on November 22," encouraged citizens to take the campaign to the streets and spend at least \$22 locally on November 22.

Efforts to promote the campaign come from school and city leaders, as well as the Russellville City Schools Youth Leadership Academy and Russellville High School entrepreneurship students.

Grissom was among those residents who shopped locally on November 22 as a way to help keep tax dollars at home.

"It's a fresh take on an idea done many years ago with the Chamber of Commerce on December 20 as part of a county-wide effort," Grissom said. "We plan to continue our efforts to support this campaign into next year and beyond."

"When you spend dollars at home, they turn over several times in the local economy. That benefits our entire city, all our city departments and our local school system as well."



**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)!



## 'AWARD,' from page 1

Rogers and his family are members of First Baptist Church Russellville. He and his family have been instrumental in helping the local business community grow and prosper through Alabama Limestone and Valley State Bank. Rogers serves as chairman of the board of VSB, and his son Ike is president/CEO.

The bank was founded in 1985 by his father, Robert (Buddy) I. Rogers, with a focus on serving its hometown community.

Rogers, who was nominated by the Russellville Rotary Club, was out of town and unable to attend the Farm-City Banquet, but he expressed his appreciation for the honor in an interview with the *Franklin Free Press*.

"I am extremely humbled to receive the Citizen of the Year Award," Rogers said. "There have been many recipients in past years more deserving than I, and I'm sure that will be the case in future years.

"I regret being unable to attend the banquet due to a previously scheduled trip, but I appreciate the Russellville Rotary Club for nominating me, and the tremendous work done by the Franklin County Extension System and the Farm-City Planning Committee each year to make this a special event."

The banquet is an annual part of Farm-City Week, which began in 1955 with a joint effort of Kiwanis International and the American Farm Bureau Federation, as a way to improve relations between farm and city residents.

Other honorees at the 2019 Farm-City Banquet included:

- Excellence in Agriculture Award (for outstanding commitment to agriculture education and projects): Chaley Bullington, Mikey Camp, Cade Hall, Madison McKee, Maddie Pearson, Emily Swinney, Cash Thomas and Colt Thomas.

- Bicentennial Farm Recognition: Richardson Farms. Current owners are Charles, Tom, Kevin Richardson and Amy Richardson Suddith. The farm has been in Richardson family for seven generations.

- Century Heritage Farm Recognition: Glass Brockway Farms. The farm dates back seven generations and has been in the family 184 years. All three of their children help Ronnie and Carol Glass with the farm and four of their grandchildren grew up on the farm, with three still residing there today.

- Agricultural Lifetime Achievement Award: Thomas Wayne Murray. Murray began farming at the age of 16. His first crop was cotton. In 42 years, Murray's acreage has increased to more than 1,000 acres, where he farms cotton, corn, peanuts, soybeans and wheat. His love of farming has passed to his sons Tommy and Jacob, who both work alongside their father.

- Farmer of the Year: Toby Gray. A fourth-generation farmer, Gray uses his agricultural engineering degree and inherited knowledge to provide high-quality chicken and beef. He is vice-chairman of the Franklin County Young Farmers and a regular participant in Farm Day at Red Bay School.

- Franklin County Extension System Agricultural Community Development Award: North Alabama State Fair. The non-profit organization hosts a family-oriented annual event with agricultural, industrial and cultural and commercial exhibits on display.

- Farm Family of the Year: Bob and Jeanee Maggerise. The original farm land was owned by Jeanee's grandparents. The couple built four broiler houses with two additional Golden Poultry houses. They currently have five broiler houses with Pilgrim's Pride, and run a cow-calf operation with 150 brood cows on 350 acres of land.

- Franklin County Extension Agricultural Community Based Business of the Year: Mar Jac Poultry. Mar Jac broke ground for its feed mill in 2015, and hatchery construction began in 2016. Their 70 employees at the feed mill produce feed to supply all Mar Jac operations in Alabama.

- Farm-City Poster Contest Winners: Pre-K thru Third Grade: First Place, Bela Terry, Red Bay Elementary. Teacher is Jamie Payne. Second Place, Brooklyn Lamkin, Tharptown. Teacher is Suzanne Borden. Third Place, Saxton Oliver, Phil Campbell. Teacher is Kelly Champion. Honorable Mention, Allie Ozbirn, Red Bay. Teacher is Jamie Payne.

- Fourth through Sixth grade: First Place, Lindsay Everett, Belgreen Teacher is Ina Taylor. Second Place is Ryder Page, Red Bay Elementary. Teacher is Lori Shook. Third Place, Britle Moshavger, Russellville Elementary. Teacher is Melissa Greenhill. Honorable Mentions: Maddox Hoffman, Vina. Teacher is Bryna Lawler, and Alex Gonzalez, Belgreen. Teacher is Emily Blanton.

- Essay Contest for Seventh through Ninth Grades: The winner was Colt Thomas from Phil Campbell High School. Teacher is Caleb Beason.



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 15 in the SEC

Last week's record: 2-2  
Year-to-date record: 46-10  
This week's games:  
Georgia vs. LSU (-6.5) – 3:00 on CBS



**Mike Self**  
Sports Editor

These two flagship programs now have 14 SEC Championship Game appearances between them (eight for Georgia, six for LSU), but this Saturday will mark only the fourth time they've squared off for the conference title. [The first three came in 2003, 2005 and 2011.]

The stakes for this one are obviously sky-high—though not necessarily the same for both teams. With a 12-0 record and a beefy resume, LSU would likely still finish in the Top 4 of the final College Football Playoff Committee rankings even with a loss this weekend. In fact, it says here that LSU is a lock for the playoff regardless of what happens in Atlanta on Saturday.

Georgia, on the other hand, has to win to punch its playoff ticket. That mid-season loss to South Carolina left the Bulldogs with zero margin for error. If they pull the upset this week, the SEC will land two teams in the playoff for the second time in the last three years—which means teams like Utah, Oklahoma and Baylor will be rooting hard for LSU to handle its business.

As for the game itself, this matchup pits the best offense in the SEC against the best defense. LSU leads the conference in points per game (48.7) and yards per play (7.9), while Georgia ranks No. 1 defensively—by a wide margin—in those same two categories (10.4 points allowed per game, 4.1 yards allowed per play). The Tigers' explosive offense has gained yards in chunks, leading the SEC with 41 plays of 30-plus yards; the Bulldogs' defense has all but eliminated big plays, allowing only eight 30-plus-yard gains all season.

Joe Burrow has pretty much wrapped up the Heisman at this point, setting single-season SEC records for completion rate (78.3 percent) and passing yards (4,366) while tying the mark for touchdown passes (44). He's completed at least 71 percent of his throws in every game while averaging 10.9 yards per attempt on the year.

Burrow and his outstanding receivers [J'Marr Chase leads the nation with 132.5 yards per game and 17 touchdown catches, while Justin Jefferson has 1,092 yards and 13 touchdowns on a league-best 81 receptions] will face a Georgia pass defense that allows an SEC-low 5.4 yards per attempt. The Bulldogs have been even tougher against the run, giving up 2.54 yards per carry (second-best in the country) and only one rushing touchdown in 12 games.

Georgia's defense has thrived this year at getting off the field, allowing opponents to convert just 28 percent of the time on third down. Thanks to Burrow, those receivers and versatile tailback Clyde Edwards-Helaire (1,571 yards from scrimmage with 17 total touchdowns), LSU has been dynamite on third down, converting right at 50 percent.

See 'SEC,' Page 18

# The Bay is back



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

**FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS** - Roughly nine months after their record-setting season ended with a last-second loss to Vincent (above) in the regional semifinals, Allison (1) and the Tigers returned to Hanceville last week for the Hampton Inn Thanksgiving Bash. They split a pair of games, beating county rival Phil Campbell 49-41 and falling to Winfield 55-49.

## Red Bay has to replace some offensive punch from last season's 27-win team, but the Tigers bring back enough size, depth and experience to make a run at a third straight regional berth.

*Mike Self*  
Franklin Free Press

**HANCEVILLE** - It wasn't pretty, but Red Bay's boys dominated the boards for 32 minutes and then closed the game on an 8-1 run to open their season with a 49-41 win over county rival Phil Campbell last Monday in the Hampton Inn Thanksgiving Bash at Tom Drake Coliseum on the campus of Wallace-Hanceville.

Lane Shewbart, a 6'6 junior, grabbed seven rebounds in the first quarter alone and finished

with 14, helping the Tigers own the boards to the tune of a 39-15 advantage. That dominance on the glass—plus a few timely buckets in transition—helped them escape with a win on a day when they struggled against Phil Campbell's zone defense and shot just 34 percent (18-for-53) from the floor.

"I didn't expect us to struggle this much, but the zone got us," Red Bay coach John Torisky said. "Coach [Shane] Clay, he's pretty smart. He did a good job. When they played us man, we could

See 'BAY' Page 16



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# Allen, Lady Bobcats notch first win with rout of Guntersville

## Staff reports

HANCEVILLE - Kallie Allen scored 21 points for Phil Campbell last Tuesday, helping the Lady Bobcats pick up their first win of the season with a 62-27 rout of Guntersville in the Hampton Inn Thanksgiving Bash at Tom Drake Coliseum on the campus of Wallace-Hanceville.

Phil Campbell (1-3 through Sunday) got six points from Allen in the first quarter, jumping out to an early 14-4 lead.

Kenner Scott scored all five of her points in the second quarter, and Kaci Harris knocked down a three as the Lady Bobcats extended the lead to 28-14 by halftime.

Phil Campbell pulled away in the third quarter, getting seven points apiece from Allen and Katie Thomas and out-scoring Guntersville 22-9 to open up a 50-23 lead.

Allen, a Wallace-Hanceville signee, made two threes and finished 5-for-7 from the line, matching her season-high with those 21 points. Madison Branch added eight points, and Thomas finished with seven. Harris and Trinity Vandiver scored six apiece, and Scott and Caitlyn Mills both finished with five. Faith Cook added three points.

The Lady Bobcats made four threes as a team and shot 18-for-32 from the line.

In other varsity girls action at the Hampton Inn Thanksgiving Bash last week:

### Decatur Heritage 56 Belgreen 47

Samford signee Katie Jones put up 32 points and 13 rebounds last Tuesday as Decatur Heritage handed the Lady Bulldogs their first loss of the season.

Jones, a 5'10 senior guard, came out hot, hitting a pair of first-quarter threes and scoring 12 early points to help the Lady Eagles (3-2) open up a 14-10 lead after one. Belgreen (5-1 through Sunday) trailed by eight midway through the second quarter before back-to-back threes by Autumn Bragwell and Gracie Dempsey sparked an 11-4 run that closed the gap to one at 28-27 going into the half.

The Lady Bulldogs went cold in the second half, shooting just 28 percent (8-for-29) from the floor as Decatur Heritage pulled away. A three by Jones gave the Lady Eagles a 41-35 lead at the end of three quarters, and they led by as many as 17 in the fourth before Belgreen closed the game on an 8-0 run.

Jones shot 12-for-23 from the floor (with four threes) and went 4-for-5 at the foul line. Decatur Heritage shot 46 percent (22-for-48) from the field as a team, including 50 percent (11-for-22) in the second half.

The Lady Bulldogs shot just 33 percent (17-for-51) from the field and 8-for-17 from the line. Gracie Dempsey led them with 12 points, 11 of which came in the first half, and also pulled down six rebounds. Senior post player Ansley Tate had a big game on the boards, grabbing 17 rebounds to go along with her 11 points.

Bragwell finished with nine points, and Emma Dempsey had six points, five rebounds and three assists. Katie Dempsey added five points, and Kaley Chandler hit a three in the fourth quarter. Noelle Willingham had one point.

Belgreen was scheduled to return to action Tuesday, December 3 with a home game against reigning Class 1A state champion Phillips.

### Regular season

### Vina 47 Shoals Christian 22

Senior Kaitlyn King led the way with 16 points and 10 rebounds last Monday as Vina's girls improved to 5-1 with a rout of Shoals Christian.

King scored seven points in the first quarter, and Rayleigh Guin added six as the Lady Red Devils raced out to an 18-5 lead. They led 23-12 at the half and then put the game away with a big third quarter, out-scoring Shoals Christian 18-4 to open up a 41-16 advantage.

Vina made five threes as a team, including three by King. Guin finished with 12 points, nine assists, seven rebounds and four steals. Kaitlyn Athey added nine points, three assists and five steals.

Sarah Johnson and Lexie Collum each made a three-pointer, and Sara Scott had three points and seven rebounds. Abbie Petree added one point and six boards, and Hailey Cantrell handed out four assists.

Vina was scheduled to return to action Monday at Hubbertville before hosting area opponent Hackleburg on Tuesday.

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# Belgreen's unbeaten run ends with loss to Cullman in Hanceville

Staff reports

HANCEVILLE - A tough second quarter last Tuesday morning proved too much for Belgreen to overcome as the Bulldogs suffered their first loss of the season, falling 57-45 to Class 6A Cullman in the Hampton Inn Thanksgiving Bash at Tom Drake Coliseum on the campus of Wallace-Hanceville.

Belgreen (5-1 through Sunday) shot just 3-for-12 in the first quarter but only trailed 11-10 at the end of one thanks to eight points from sophomore guard Will Bonner. The Bulldogs struggled even more in the second quarter, shooting 2-for-9 and committing five turnovers as Cullman (3-3) out-scored them 18-4 to take a 29-14 lead into the locker room.

The margin swelled to 19 at 38-19 midway through the third before Belgreen made a little push, trimming the lead to 14 on a three by Scout Bragwell to close out the quarter. Will Donahoe scored to open the fourth and make it a 12-point game at 41-29, but the Bulldogs would get no closer.

Cullman shot 40 percent (17-for-43) from the floor and 21-for-29 from the line. Belgreen finished at 34 percent (16-for-47) from the field and 9-for-18 from the line. The Bearcats held a 29-27 edge on the glass.

Will Bonner led the Bulldogs with 14 points, adding three assists and three steals. Bragwell hit two threes and scored 12 points, 10 of which came in the second half. Collin Bonner scored all six of his points in the fourth quarter, and Isac Willingham finished with five points and six rebounds. Canaan Stough scored four points, and Donahoe and Bryant Hubbert each had two.

Sophomore guard Tucker Gambrell led Cullman with 15 points, going 9-for-11 at the line. Kaleb Heatherly, a 6'5 sophomore, added nine points and seven rebounds.

In other action at the Hampton Inn Thanksgiving Bash:

### Winfield 55 Red Bay 49

Red Bay's boys couldn't overcome 26 turnovers and a poor shooting performance last Tuesday afternoon against the Pirates.

The Tigers (1-1 through Sunday) turned the ball over seven times in the first quarter but still led 14-9 after one thanks to seven points from senior guard Clay Allison and five from junior reserve Jalen Vinson.

Both teams endured a rough second quarter, with Red Bay shooting 2-for-9 from the field with 11 turnovers and Winfield shooting 2-for-10 with seven turnovers. The Pirates (3-2) made up for it at the foul line, however, going 9-for-11 and out-scoring Red Bay 15-6 to take a 24-20 lead into the locker room.

The Tigers' best quarter by far was the third, when they shot 6-for-10 from the field and 5-for-5 from the line on their way to out-scoring Winfield 18-13. Trailing by seven at 31-24, Red Bay got two free throws from Gage Bays, a three from Braden Ray, a layup from Vinson and a steal and three-point play from Allison to go up 34-31. The Tigers had four steals, including three in a row by 6'6 junior Lane Shewbart, during that 10-0 run.

The lead grew to five at 38-33 when Arden Hamilton found Hunter Burks for a layup, but Winfield scored the final four points of the quarter to get back within one heading to the fourth.

Trailing by three, the Pirates got a four-point play from Ewan Henson to go up 43-42 with 5:29 left in the game. Ray scored in the post to put Red Bay back on top, but Winfield answered with a pair of free throws by Henson and a three from Brady Franks to go up 48-44.

The Tigers came right back with a three from Bays to get within one. After a bucket by Henson made it 50-47, Allison went 2-for-2 at the line to make it 50-49 with 1:17 remaining. Bays came up with a steal, but Red Bay missed three shots on its ensuing possession. The Pirates then went 5-for-6 from the line over the final 35 seconds to seal the win.

Winfield finished 26-for-32 at the foul line, compared to 12-for-14 by Red Bay. Both teams struggled to make shots from the floor [they each shot 34 percent] and take care of the ball [the Tigers committed 26 turnovers, the Pirates 22]. Red Bay held a 28-18 edge on the boards, but the free throw line proved to be the difference.

Logan Feltman, a 6'9 sophomore, shot 6-for-8 from the line and led the Pirates with 16 points. Henson went 10-for-11 at the line and finished with 15 points.

Allison led Red Bay with 14 points on 4-for-8 shooting from the floor and 5-for-5 from the line. He also had four rebounds and three steals. Ray added 12 points, nine boards and three steals, and Vinson scored 10 points before

See 'CULLMAN,' page 18



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## 'BAY,' from page 13

pretty much get to the basket and do what we wanted. When they went to the two-three zone, it really put the brakes on our offense. Our guys haven't played with each other a whole lot yet. I just got my football guys in yesterday, and we don't prepare against a zone in one day. So I knew we were gonna struggle with that.

"Offensively, we did good in transition. If it hadn't been for transition, we probably would have lost, if it had been strictly a half-court game. We got out and ran enough to score."

Red Bay figures to see a lot of zone from opponents this year, for a couple of reasons. One is the departure of three senior starters from a year ago—Gath Weatherford, Colton Corum and Hunter Bays—who combined to make 109 threes (including 75 from Weatherford alone). The other is the low-post presence of Shewbart and 6'3 junior Braden Ray, who combined for 21 points and 22 rebounds last Monday and will carry more of the offensive load this season.

"Last year's team shot the ball so well, people didn't want to play zone because we'd get open threes," said Torisky, whose team won a school-record 27 games a year ago and made the region-

al tournament for a second straight season. "We're built a little differently this year. I told the guards, we're gonna have to hit some shots. Still, at the end of the day, we've got big guys that if they'll learn how to move against a zone, we can really hurt people down low. We're a lot taller and longer than we were last year.

"Once we get the hang of it, it won't be a big deal. There's just a learning curve from dealing with these new guys and putting them in a position to succeed."

Shewbart, who averaged 4.5 points and 4.5 rebounds per game off the bench last season, is in line for a much more prominent role as a junior. He finished with 10 points last Monday, seven of which came in the fourth quarter. Ray, the team's leading returning scorer, had 11 points, eight rebounds, five steals and two blocks in Monday's win.

"Lane is obviously a pretty big kid down there," Torisky said. "He's strong, and he works really hard down there. I'm trying to get Braden to go to the offensive glass more. I tell him, 'That's where you're gonna get your easy baskets.' When he starts getting there a little more..."

"Between those two and Tanner [Hamilton] and Jalen [Vinson], who are both 6'2 and long, we really have four guys out there who can crash the boards. Zones against us right now are gonna be good, but once our guys feel out what they need to do and we start crashing the boards, it's gonna be tough to box us out in a zone. We just have to learn how to play it."

The Tigers have already attained graduate-level status on the defensive end on the floor, where they dominated night in and night out last season. They picked up right where they left off last Monday, holding Phil Campbell to just one field goal in the third quarter and 34 percent shooting (11-for-32) for the game.

Red Bay's ultra-aggressive style on D—spearheaded by the relentless, physical on-ball defense of guards Hamilton, Vinson and Clay Allison—resulted in 22 free throw attempts for the Bobcats, who gave themselves a chance to win by making 17 of them. [Junior guard Luke Garrison shot 13-for-15 from the line and scored a game-high 23 points.] But Torisky doesn't want to see his team back down one bit.

"When we got to halftime, I told the boys we needed to tighten up on defense and pick up the intensity," said Torisky, whose team forced 12 turnovers after the break and 16 for the game. "We were probably a little over-aggressive, but I'd rather have that and have them shooting some free throws from the bonus than give them open layups. I don't know how many baskets they scored in the second half, but it couldn't have been more than four or five. There were a lot of free throws, but I'll take that."

The Tigers didn't press much until the final three minutes of the game, but it was effective. After Brett Saint scored on a drive to cut Red Bay's lead to one at 41-40 with 2:45 remaining, the Bobcats went scoreless from the field the rest of the way and committed a couple of costly turnovers that led directly to transition points for the Tigers.

"I kind of held our guys back today, to be honest with you, because they hadn't played much together," Torisky said. "My goal is for these guys to be a team that picks up full-court pressure pretty much the whole game. We came out those last two or three minutes, after we called a timeout, and picked it up a little bit. That last minute, we got a couple of turnovers and kind of broke it open, and that's the way we want to be all game."

"It'll happen. Everything now is just piecing it together, slowly but surely."

Red Bay was up 42-40 with a little more than a minute remaining and preparing to spread the floor in a delay offense when Allison fired up what might have been an ill-advised three, given the time and situation. The shot found the bottom of the net, however, pushing the lead to five and sparing Allison a post-game chat with his head coach.

"I'm glad he made it. I'll leave it at that," Torisky said afterward with a smile. "If he would have missed that, we would be having a long talk. It's not a bad shot for him. But in that situation, it just wasn't what we needed."

"But it worked out well."

After Allison's three, a blocked shot by Ray led to a layup by Shewbart on the other end. Ray then came up with a steal, leading to a putback by Hamilton that made it 49-40 and capped off a game-sealing 8-1 run.

Vinson hit a pair of first-half threes last Monday and finished with 11 points and five boards. Tanner Hamilton added eight points, two boards, two



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Red Bay's leading returning scorer from last year, Ray (32) opened this season by averaging 11.5 points, 8.5 rebounds and 4.0 steals in two games at the Hampton Inn Thanksgiving Bash.





PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

**CHANGING LANE** - After averaging 4.5 points and 4.5 rebounds per game as a reserve last season (above), Shewbart (35) will fill a more prominent role as a junior. He opened the season with 10 points and 14 rebounds in last Monday's 49-41 win over Phil Campbell.

### 'BAY,' from page 16

assists and two steals. Allison scored six points, and Arden Hamilton had two.

Garrison led the Bobcats with 23 points on 5-for-10 shooting from the field. His basket late in the third quarter cut Red Bay's lead to 32-30, but then the Tigers opened the fourth with a layup by Shewbart and a three by Ray (both off assists from Gage Bays) to stretch the lead to seven.

Blain Goodson made two threes for Phil Campbell in the first quarter and finished with six points. Jonah Fisher added four, and Saint, Ben Williams, Nate Orrick and John Randle Herring each had two.

In other action at the Thanksgiving Bash last Monday:

#### **Carbon Hill 33 Tharptown 26**

The Wildcats led 15-8 at the half but then shot just 3-for-18 from the floor after the break as Carbon Hill rallied for the win.

Both teams struggled offensively from start to finish. Tharptown shot just 24 percent (8-for-34) and committed 21 turnovers, while Carbon Hill was just 11-for-49 from the floor. The Bulldogs shot 5-for-6 from the foul line in the decisive fourth quarter, out-scoring the Wildcats 13-7.

Winston Nolen led Tharptown with 11 points, adding five rebounds and three steals. Colton Simmons scored nine points, and Edward Lopez pulled down 12 rebounds.

#### **Varsity girls**

#### **Sparkman 52 Phil Campbell 27**

The Lady Bobcats turned the ball over nine times in the first quarter and found themselves trailing Class 7A Sparkman 20-6 at the end of one.

The Lady Senators (7-3) hit four threes in the first quarter and nine in the game—five of which came from Emma Bailey, who finished with a game-high 15 points.

Phil Campbell controlled the boards, out-rebounding Sparkman 34-19, but the Lady Bobcats couldn't get much else working. They shot just 9-for-32 from the floor, 9-for-22 from the foul line and turned the ball over 23 times.

Trinity Vandiver led Phil Campbell with seven points and also had five rebounds. Faith Cook scored six points, and Kenner Scott finished with four. Wallace-Hanceville signee Kallie Allen did not attempt a shot until the third quarter and took just three all game, finishing with three points and four rebounds.

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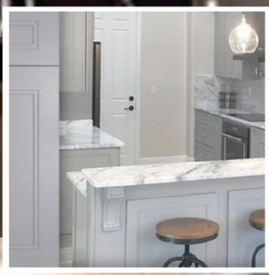
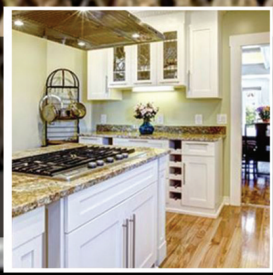
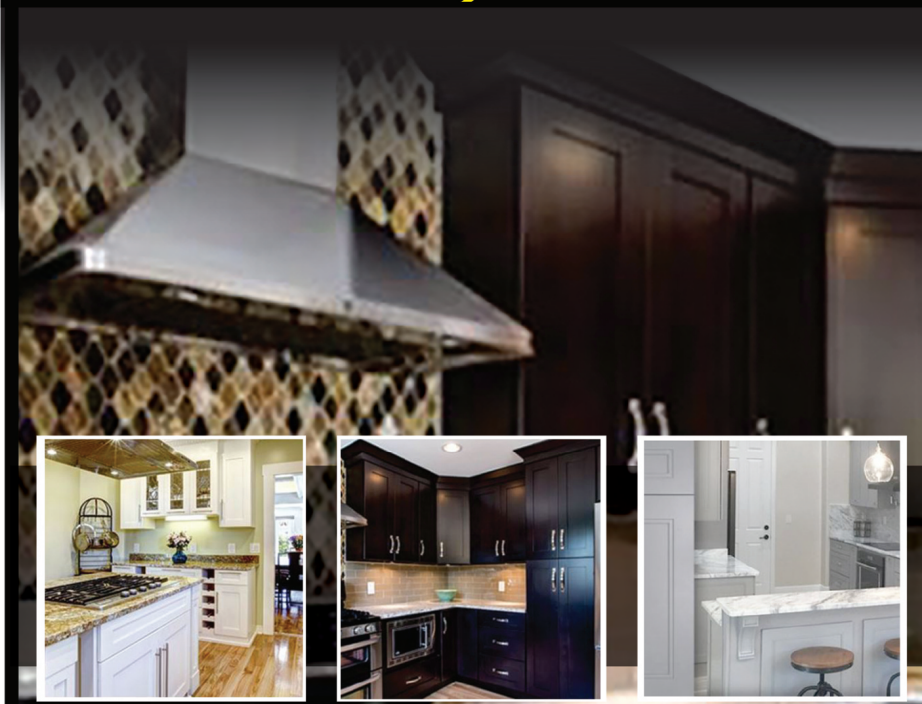


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## 'SEC,' from page 13

The guess here is that the fast-paced LSU offense will win this battle of strengths, making enough big plays and converting enough third downs to keep the tempo rolling and become the first team all year to top the 30-point mark against Georgia. [The Bulldogs gave up 20 just once all season, in their double-overtime loss to South Carolina.] The question becomes, can Georgia's much-maligned offense do enough against the Tigers equally maligned defense to keep up?

That seems doubtful, to say the least. Georgia hadn't scored 30-plus points in a game since October 5 prior to hanging 52 on a bad Georgia Tech team this past Saturday. The Bulldogs have struggled in the passing game all year, and they'll be without top receivers Lawrence Cager (done for the year with an ankle injury) and George Pickens (suspended for the first half after trading punches with a Georgia Tech player) for all or part of Saturday's game. Plus, tailback D'Andre Swift could be limited (at best) after suffering a shoulder injury against Tech.

Bottom line, Jake Fromm will be playing with less than a full deck on a day when Georgia's offense will need to be better than it's been all season. That's a lot to ask, especially against an LSU defense that has started to play lately like it has something to prove.

### The Pick: LSU 34 Georgia 20

Since there's only one SEC game this week, here are a few quick thoughts on the other Power 5 conference title matchups.

### Oregon vs. Utah (-6.5) - 7:00 Friday on ABC

Utah is in position to claim its first-ever playoff berth with a win over the Ducks on Friday night. Utah is elite defensively, leading the nation in rush defense and ranking third in both scoring D and total D.

Offensively, the combination of ultra-efficient dual-threat quarterback Tyler Huntley (75.5 percent completion rate with 16 touchdowns and just two interceptions) and workhorse tailback Zack Moss (1,246 yards and 15 TD) should be enough to keep the Utes (winners of eight straight games, all but one by at least 18 points) rolling right into the playoff.

### The Pick: Utah 27 Oregon 24

### Baylor vs. Oklahoma (-9.5) - 11:00 on ABC

If Utah spits the bit on Friday night, this Big 12 title game could well be for the fourth playoff spot. Oklahoma beat Baylor just three weeks ago, rallying from a 28-3 deficit to steal a 34-31 win in Waco.

The Sooners shouldn't have to work quite as hard this time around. They've been in a million of these games—as has Jalen Hurts.

### The Pick: Oklahoma 38 Baylor 28

### Virginia vs. Clemson (-28.5) - 6:30 on ABC

Since the bye week following the one-point win over North Carolina, Clemson has won seven straight games by an average margin of 40-plus points. Trevor Lawrence is on fire, having completed at least 72 percent of his attempts in five straight games with 16 touchdowns and zero picks. The defense...well, the defense has been fantastic all season, leading the nation in points allowed (10.1 per game) and ranking second in yards allowed per play (3.84). In other words, Clemson is back to being Clemson, and has been for a while now. The Tigers will carry a 28-game win streak into the playoff and will likely be the scariest No. 3 seed ever.

### The Pick: Clemson 42 Virginia 13

### Ohio State (-17) vs. Wisconsin - 7:00 on FOX

The Badgers would probably just as soon not have to deal with Chase Young again. The first time these two teams met, back in late October, Young recorded four sacks and generally wrecked everything Wisconsin tried to do in a 38-7 rout by Ohio State.

Wisconsin also didn't have any answers for J.K. Dobbins, who ran for 163 yards and two scores in the win. Meanwhile, Young and the Ohio State defense held Jonathan Taylor to a season-low 52 yards.

### The Pick: Ohio State 41 Wisconsin 14

## 'CULLMAN,' from page 15

fouling out. Bays finished with five points, and Shewbart had four points, eight boards and three steals. Burks and Tanner Hamilton each added two points.

### Athens 76 Phil Campbell 51

Brayden Grass scored a game-high 28 points for the Eagles, hitting four of their 12 three-pointers in a rout of Phil Campbell last Tuesday night.

The Bobcats (1-4 through Sunday) started strong, getting six points from Brett Saint, five from Luke Garrison and a three from Jonah Fisher in the opening quarter. Athens countered with five threes in the first and led 25-18 at the end of one. The Eagles extended the lead to 41-26 by halftime and then out-scored Phil Campbell 22-15 in the third to open up a 63-41 lead.

Saint finished with 16 points, going 6-for-8 from the line. Garrison added 14 points, making a pair of threes. Ben Williams and Nate Orrick scored six points apiece, Fisher had five and Blain Goodson finished with four.





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Congratulations to our weekly winners listed below, each of whom won a free "Beat Brady" T-shirt and the chance to pick in **this week's Grand Prize Contest**. Each weekly winner will submit their picks for this week's games, and the winner will take home the grand prize of \$100 cash! Remember, **only the people listed below are eligible** to win this week's Grand Prize Contest. Thanks to everyone who has participated in this year's contest, and, as always, thanks for reading the *Franklin Free Press*! The regular season is over, but the "Beat Brady" Bowl Pick'Em begins soon!

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Congrats to Week 14 winner AUSTIN MCCARLEY, who correctly picked all 10 games and also picked Auburn to beat Alabama 23-20!

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Week 15: Dec. 6-7

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Miami (OH) vs. Central Mich.	Central Mich.	
Louisiana vs. App. State	App. State	
UAB vs. FAU	FAU	
Cincinnati vs. Memphis	Memphis	
Hawaii vs. Boise State	Boise State	
Georgia vs. LSU	LSU	
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