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Portion of Franklin County will benefit from broadband funds

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

More than \$29.5 million will pour into northwest Alabama, including a portion of Franklin County, as part of funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ReConnect Pilot Program, which will assist four projects across the state designed to bring high-speed rural broadband internet to rural Alabama areas.

The announcement came last Thursday as part of a \$62.3 million investment into Alabama in a loan-grant combination.

The \$29.5 million was awarded to Tombigbee Communications, owner of freedomFIBER, and it represents the largest award of the four announced last Thursday.

Tombigbee Communications will construct a fiber network in Marion County. Once complete, Tombigbee will expand the construction into Franklin, Lamar, Fayette, Winston and Walker counties.

According to Doug Aaron, Franklin County Water Coordinating and Fire Prevention Authority manager, the area to be served through the loan-grant is the portion of Franklin County served by Alabama Power.

"This is a step in the right direction and represents the first actual dollars coming into our county for broadband internet services," Aaron said. "This is some of the most rural parts of Franklin county. They are showing you can do this in very rural areas."

The project, as a whole, is expected to light up 2,152 households, 20 farms, 15 businesses, 10 critical facilities, five educational facilities and one health-care facility, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture press release. Tombigbee Communications, through freedomFIBER, will offer ultra high-speed fiber optic service to more than 1,100 square miles that are presently without high-speed internet. FreedomFIBER

See 'BROADBAND,' Page 9



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Franklin woman facing manslaughter charges stemming from ATV accident

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A Franklin County woman faces two counts of manslaughter as a result of the death of two foster children placed in her care who died in an ATV accident last year.

Last month, a Franklin County grand jury indicted Carol Davis on two counts of manslaughter. Manslaughter is a Class B felony and carries a two- to 20-year prison sentence upon conviction and up to a \$30,000 fine.

Davis turned herself in last week and was released November 30 after posting a \$25,000 bond, according to Franklin County sheriff Shannon Oliver.

Davis was allegedly operating an ATV on August 25, 2018, and two young children were aboard as additional riders. According to a civil complaint filed in the case, the

two children were not wearing helmets.

The children had been placed through foster care with Davis. The fatal accident occurred on Mill Creek Road off of Highway 19 near Vina.

A civil wrongful death lawsuit has been filed against Davis by Emily McCalpin, the mother of eight-year-old Roman Hartline and four-year-old Haven Hartline, the two children who died in the accident. The complaint alleges two counts, negligence wrongful death and wantonness wrongful death, against Davis.


The complaint alleges that Davis swerved to avoid a deer on the roadway and as a result, her ATV overturned and the occupants were thrown from the vehicle. Both children were pronounced dead at the scene after the ATV overturned on them, according to the complaint.

Although McCalpin did not have legal custody of her

See 'ACCIDENT,' Page 3

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(L to R) - Shannon Smith, Wynoka Bostick, Brenda Rodriguez, Dr. Steve Hammack, Kelly Powers, and Lauren Sims.

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Patricia Ann Elliott, Nashville, TN (formerly of Russellville), age 74

Died Saturday, November 30, 2019. It was Mrs. Elliott's wish to be cremated and fondly remembered by all of her family and friends. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Myrtle Fuller Guinn, Brook Park, OH (formerly of Russellville), age 89

Died Sunday, December 1, 2019. Funeral service held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Crooked Oak Cemetery.

Billy Don "Bulldog" Hester, Russellville, age 76

Died Saturday, December 7, 2019. Graveside service held at Franklin Memory Gardens. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Jack W. Nix, Russellville, age 81

Died Sunday, December 8, 2019. Visitation will be Thursday, December 12, 2019 from 5-8 p.m. at Pinkard Funeral Home. Funeral will be held Friday, December 13, 2019 at 1 p.m. at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment will be in Shady Grove Cemetery at Liberty Hill.

WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS!

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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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Council hears update on AL-24 project

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

At a short meeting last Monday evening, the Russellville City Council heard an update from mayor David Grissom about the scheduled improvements at the intersection of Alabama 24 and Lawrence Street/Walnut Gate Road.

The project, which includes installation and expansion of turn lanes and a traffic light at the intersection, was scheduled to begin in January. At a pre-construction meeting held in November, the

project engineer and Alabama Department of Transportation officials decided to delay beginning the project until March 1, 2020.

Grissom said this was due to the winter weather and that lights and poles were on order and had not arrived.

As a result of the three-month delay, the council voted to refund \$57,565 to Mark "Yogi" Welborn's Lineco, Inc. Welborn previously paid the money as his portion of the paving improvements that are not covered by either the State of Alabama or the City of Russellville.

Once the project is set to begin, Welborn will pay the same amount to the city.

"Since there was a delay, he asked if we could return the money in the meantime. It's a large sum, and I understand his request," Grissom said.

The short agenda did not include any other action items other than approval of payment of accounts payable and minutes from the previous meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council is set for December 16, 2019, with work session at 6 p.m. and meeting to follow.

FBC to present *Here Comes Christmas*

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

There will be holiday music for all tastes at a Christmas musical set for Sunday at First Baptist Church Russellville.

The church will present *Here Comes Christmas* this Sunday, December 15 at 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 213 North Jackson Avenue. Everyone is invited to attend this free special event.

According to Bert Fowler, associate pastor of worship and senior adults, *Here Comes Christmas* will feature traditional Christmas carols and Southern Gospel along with a diverse selection of music from Bill Gaither, Pentatonix and Mannheim Steamroller.

Fowler is directing the musical along with FBC Children's Choir director Lauren Ritter. *Here Comes Christmas* will be a full-stage presentation and will include the Russellville High School Drum Line, an orchestra and the FBC Praise Band. The First Baptist Worship Choir and Children's Choir will

provide the vocals.

"We will be using all our soloists," Fowler said. "There will be some really good music and some really talented soloists. There will be Christmas carols the congregation will join in and some sing-along in the middle of the musical." Fowler said the choir began rehearsing for the musical in September, but there will only be a limited time to practice with the praise band and orchestra.

"We won't put the band and orchestra together until the week of the show. The first time everyone will be together will be Wednesday, December 11," Fowler said.

The FBC Worship Choir has 35 members, and the Children's Choir has 20 to 25 members. With 10 musicians in the orchestra, the stage will be full on Sunday evening. Make plans to attend this very special musical celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

For more information on Sunday's production, visit the First Baptist Church Russellville page on Facebook.

RFD helps local women receive free screenings

Submitted to the FFP

More women in Franklin County can receive a free screening mammogram thanks to a generous donation by the Russellville Fire Department. The Fire Department donated \$2,548.00 to Russellville Hospital on December 3 to help uninsured women get screening mammograms.

Many women who qualify for financial need will receive screening mammograms free of charge thanks to the Russellville Fire Department donation. In 2019, many women received free breast cancer screenings. It is estimated that 1,400 total mammograms will be performed this year.

Many women who qualify for financial need will receive mammograms free of charge thanks to the Russellville Fire Department donation. It is estimated that 1,400 total mammograms will be performed this year.

"We are very thankful to the Russellville Fire Department employees for this generous gift," said Christine Stewart, CEO, Russellville Hospital. "Early detection of breast cancer is the key to successful treatment and survival, and this donation will help many women and could save lives."

"We are very thankful to the Russellville Fire Department employees for this generous gift," said Christine Stewart, CEO, Russellville Hospital. "Early detection of breast cancer is the key to successful treatment and survival, and this donation will help many women and could save lives."

The Russellville Fire Department raised these funds through T-shirts sales. If you are uninsured, please call 256-332-8688 to see if you qualify for a free screening mammogram.

"This is just another way we chose to serve the community," said Randy Seal, captain, RFD. "We have had several RFD family members affected by breast cancer, and it has become a cause dear to our heart."



COURTESY PHOTO

Russellville Hospital CEO Christine Stewart (third from right) accepts a donation from Captain Randy Seal (second from right) and the Russellville Fire Department to help with mammogram costs.

'ACCIDENT' from page 1

children at the time of the accident, she filed the lawsuit on their behalf as their next of kin.

She is requesting punitive damages from Davis in an amount to be determined by a jury.

Davis is represented in the civil action by attorney Brandy Lee of Jasper. The mother's lawsuit was filed by Tusculum attorney Grant Wright.

According to Franklin County district attorney

Joey Rushing, Davis's criminal trial will be scheduled some time in 2020. The next step in that process will be an arraignment, where Davis will enter a formal plea to the charges.

Honey-Do List: Holiday paws

Christmas and other holidays can certainly be stressful for us, but what about the pets who find their space invaded by strange visitors, trees in the house, funny-looking packages and unfamiliar smells of candles, food and potpourri?

Why, it's enough to send a canine to the crazy-house.

More than 79 million U.S. households (65 percent) have at least one pet. More than 54 million have a dog, and more than 42 million have a cat. This information is easily found at www.humanesociety.org, along with quite a few other amazing facts concerning pets.

These statistics are why we need to look at some holiday safety tips for the four-legged members of the family who don't understand that they shouldn't play with shiny glass balls, chew on electrical cords and eat chocolate candy dropped by the kids. You can't watch them constantly, so use caution and everyone can have a happier holiday.

Dogs and cats should never be allowed to eat or chew on batteries, snow globes (may contain anti-freeze), styrofoam, plastic wrap, twist ties, ribbon, children's toys, medicine or medicine bottles. People food such as table scraps

can cause a pet to gain weight. Chicken bones can splinter and do terrible damage to gums and digestive systems. Never give a pet chocolate, as it can be toxic to dogs and cats. Plants such as holly, poinsettia and mistletoe are also toxic and should be kept out of reach. If you notice diarrhea or vomiting, a trip to the vet is in order.

When decorating your tree, place breakable ornaments higher up and out of reach. Cats love to climb, so make your tree stable and secure, even if you have to tie it off to the wall. Real food decorations (strung popcorn) can be a real attraction and could result in a toppled tree.

If your pet is nervous around strangers, it's a good idea to invest in an indoor kennel that can be kept in an unused room. Familiarize your pet with these arrangements ahead of time and provide plenty of water and favorite toys or blankets.

It's very easy to get busy this time of year and forget little things that can have a huge impact. Always be safety-minded, and remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green



FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35653
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Correction Policy

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

Letters to the editor

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

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My take Kind words mean more on this... if you really mean them

I'm so excited about being back. I've missed my friends, and being told you have missed my articles does make this girl feel "needed."

We all know how good that makes us feel, and nowadays it's not heard often enough. Sadly, there are some who never hear it. With that thought in mind, do you have any idea how long it's been since you've told your spouse or your children how much they mean to you and how much you need them in your life? What about the grandparents who are raising your kids? Do you ever take the time to show your appreciation?

Even when the grandparents choose to raise them, there are so many different changes, challenges and sacrifices that are required. They really deserve your positive recognition.

Life is difficult and full of highs and lows, but being told you are needed in someone's life and appreciated for what you do (and, of course, loved) makes a big impact on one's heart. We all know that a happy heart makes for a happy life.

Compliments and saying kind words mean so much, but I do have my own take on this! Only say it if you mean it! I don't appreciate or accept a "fake compliment." I bet that just blew your mind! All this time, I've been saying how important it is to give appreciation to the ones in your life that deserve it. I haven't changed my mind, but the reason behind saying it is meaning it!

I hate to even have to admit this, but it's true. There are people who don't care if it's true or not; they just want to hear it. The truth isn't important to them. Of course, it's simple for me; I won't compliment you just to make you happy.

Even as a young child, my mother always warned (yes, you read it correctly, she *warned*) anyone who asked my opinion about something that I wouldn't tell them what they preferred to hear. They would get my honest opinion, and, with that, some would ask and some would not.

So that means if you only want to accept or expect positive answers, you probably shouldn't ask my opinion. You will have a 50/50 chance to hear what you want. For some reason, that makes me think about Clint Eastwood in the movie where he would say, "Go ahead! Make my day!"

I realize people sometimes feel the need to say nice things to avoid hurting someone's feelings. Maybe I should do that sometimes... no, sorry! That's just not who I am. The people who really know me wouldn't expect any different from me. Besides, I feel good about saying what I think. This brings me to another thought. If you will be who you are and not someone you believe a person would like more, it should give you a happier you! Be true to yourself.

It's a compliment when someone says to me or about me, "What you see is what you get." I dislike "fake people," and do you remember the other fake thing I don't like? In case you have forgotten, I'll be glad to remind you. A fake compliment!

Wishing all my amazing friends and my followers a very good and amazing week! Until later...



Gail Motes



Cash them in and do something better!

Dear Dave,
My wife and I are following your plan, and recently we found some old savings bonds that had been given to her by her grandfather when she was a kid. Do you think we should go ahead and cash these in before they reach their final maturity date in a few months?

John

Dear John,
Absolutely! Every one of those savings bonds is accruing interest at the appropriate rate for the type of bond it is. The problem is every one of those rates stinks. I hate savings bonds. We're talking about some very low interest rates.

Another reason I don't like savings bonds is they're not financial instruments which cause you to be responsible with them. People lose them, they forget about them, and then maybe they turn up in an old lock box somewhere down the road after making a whopping two or three percent.

Back in the day, they used to be positioned as patriotic and all that. But who wants to finance the stuff *this* government does? We're not supporting World War II anymore, you know? Cash them in and, depending on what Baby Step you're on, put it toward your emergency fund, your debt snowball, retirement, your mortgage—just be proactive, and do something *better* with the money!

Dave

Decisions and sacrifices

Dear Dave,
We have two preschool kids, and

I'm a stay-at-home mom. My husband brings home about \$2,500 a month, and our mortgage payment is \$1,000 a month. Recently, we've had to tap into our savings in order to pay the bills. Should I go back to work? There are a couple of reputable daycare centers near us, but I'm just not sure if this is the right thing to do.

Tammy

Dear Tammy,
Being a full-time mom is a wonderful thing. And honestly, I can't blame you for wanting to stay home with your children when they're so young.

The biggest problem I see is that 40 percent of your husband's paycheck is going toward your mortgage. That's way too much! A house payment should never be more than 25 percent of your take-home pay.

I know trying to live on the \$1,500 that's left is hard, especially with two babies in the house. But it doesn't sound like a lot of fat can be trimmed right now. One of you might consider taking on a part-time job nights or weekends for a while, or he could look into enhancing his education. Either one of these would help get your income up. Selling the house is an option, too. But I'm not a fan of that one except in the most extreme circumstances.

Right now, I'm viewing this as a math problem with three components. The components are income, house payment and lifestyle. You and your husband need to sit down, and have a serious heart-to-heart talk about things.

There will have to be some sacrifices in order to make things better, but only the two of you *together* can determine exactly what's best for your family. God bless you all.

Dave

**Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

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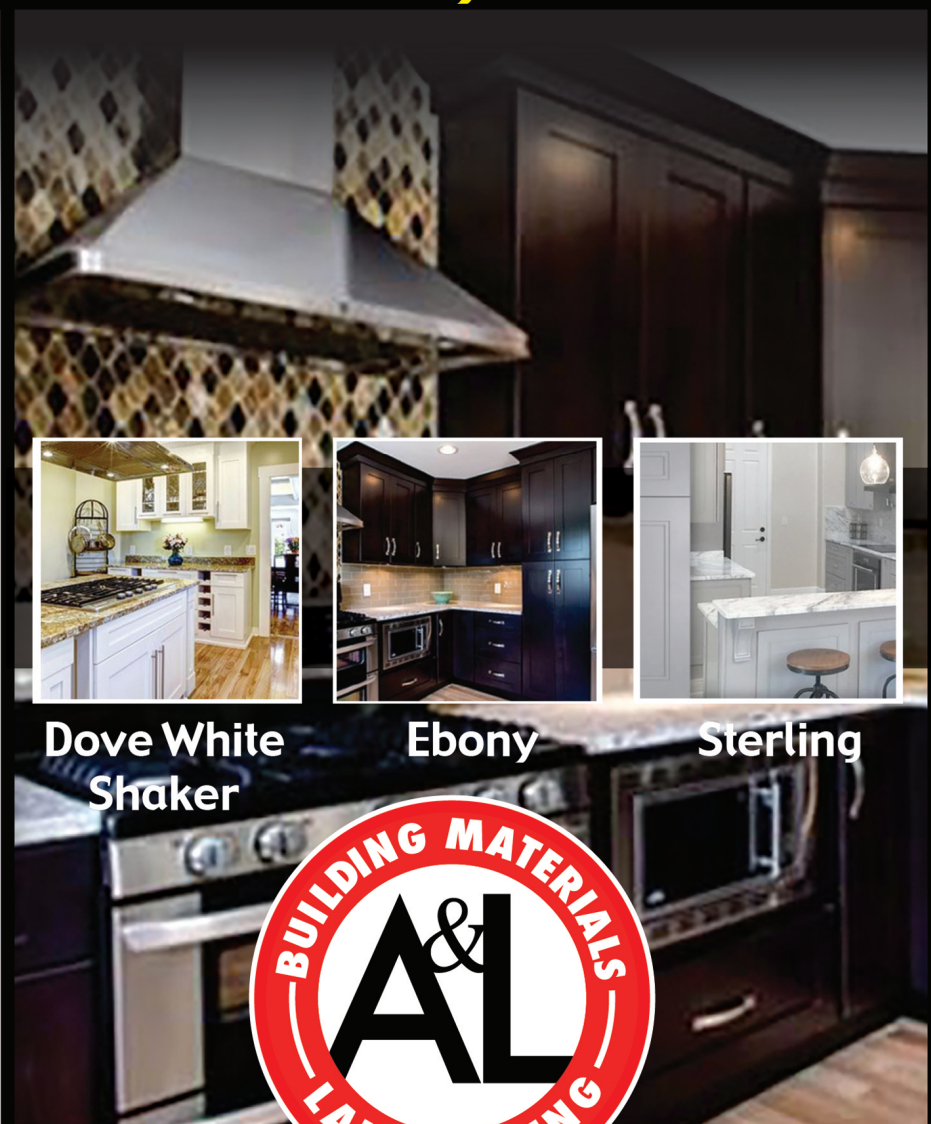
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What's Happening


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


 Russellville 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.


 American 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.


 Breakfast With Santa, including a delicious Pancake Breakfast, will be held at North Russellville Baptist Church (1401 Waterloo Road, Russellville) this Saturday, December 14 from 8-10:30 a.m. \$5 per person includes breakfast and pictures with Santa! All proceeds benefit the North Russellville Baptist Youth.


 The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guest Robin Akers at the Roxy Theatre this 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.


 Book Lovers Study Club will hold its annual Holiday Tour of Homes this 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.


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


 Peggy Barnes' book, *I Knew You by Name: The Search for My Lost Mother*, will be discussed at the December 18, 2019, 10 a.m. meeting of the Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club. The club meets at Coldwater Books, 101 West Sixth Street, Tusculmbia. For more info, email nancy537481@yahoo.com.


 You're invited to a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at First Presbyterian Church Russellville. The service begins at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24. Please join us for this special time of worship and be blessed! The church is located at 201 N. Green Avenue in Russellville.


 Spruce Pine Historical Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Next meeting is January 7. All members and friends are urged to attend.

 Saint Paul CME Church (40 Hamilton Street SW, Russellville, AL 35653) cordially invites you to worship with them on Friends and Family Day on Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 3 p.m. Guest evangelist will be Rev. Benjamin Massey and congregation from New Enoch Missionary Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa. Dinner will be served. For more information, call 256-332-6177.

 The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833 will meet Thursday, February 7 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!

 DivorceCare, a special help seminar and support group for people experiencing divorce and separation, will be held on Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church Colbert Heights. DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include "Facing My Anger," "Facing My Loneliness," "New Relationships," "KidCare" and "Forgiveness." Meetings will be held at 6000 Woodmont Drive, Tusculmbia, AL. For more information, call First Colbert Heights at 256-383-8016.

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

 The NACOLG SenioRx Medication Assistance Program supplies free and low-cost medications for anyone in Alabama with a disability or a chronic illness, regardless of age, that requires daily medication. Medicare recipients may also be eligible. For more information, contact NACOLG SenioRx today. There is no charge for this service. Call 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463) or 256-389-0529 and ask for Paula Pardue. This program is in partnership with the state of Alabama and Alabama Department of Senior Services.

Have an event we can help publicize? Call us at 256-332-0255.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us online at www.franklinfreepress.net. Send your letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

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'Tis the Season!



COURTESY PHOTO

The NW-SCC Jazz Band performs at the 2018 Christmas Celebration! Concert at the Lou B. Beville Center on the Phil Campbell campus.

Northwest-Shoals set to hold Christmas concert

Submitted to the FFP

Northwest-Shoals Community College's Music Department will hold a Christmas concert and show choir performance this Thursday, December 12 at 7 p.m. in the Lou B. Beville Center on the Phil Campbell campus.

The concert will feature two of the college's musical groups: The Northwest-Shoals Show Choir directed by Jonathon Romero and the Northwest-Shoals Jazz Band directed by George Crummie. Choreography of the show choir will be directed by April Smith Spencer.

Admission for the concert will be free.

The concert, set for this Thursday, December 12 at 7 p.m. in the Beville Center on the Phil Campbell campus, will feature two of the college's musical groups: The Northwest-Shoals Show Choir directed by Jonathon Romero and the Northwest-Shoals Jazz Band directed by George Crummie.

Choreography of the show choir will be directed by April Smith Spencer.

Northwest-Shoals Show Choir members are Austin Balding of Russellville, Graham Barley of Hamilton, Zarek Barnett of Hamilton, Lydia Bentley of Hamilton, Savannah Berryman of Tuscumbia, Anna Bond of Tuscumbia, Wesley Cook of Russellville, Destiny Cooper of Russellville, Stephanie Garcia of Russellville, Rachel Griffin of Russellville, Evelyn Grimes of Tuscumbia, Trinity "Shae" Higgins of Hamilton and Hayden Pendergrass of Haleyville.

Northwest-Shoals Jazz Band Ensemble members are Ayla Cole of Rogersville, Hayden Chrisman of Muscle Shoals, McKinley Copeland of Russellville, Carley Franks of Russellville, Rudy Huardas of Russellville, Alexander Laman of Muscle Shoals, Christian Marbutt of Double Springs, Makayla McDonald of Double Springs, Logan Smitherman of Haleyville, Elijah Tidwell of Haleyville, Sebastian Villareal of Russellville, April Walker of Phil Campbell and Matt Wilson of Phil Campbell.

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.

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Signing Day



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2019 IMAW Machinist Apprenticeship Program at NW-SCC signees were Timothy Wagnon of Haverhill, MA; Condre Cole of Leighton, AL; Braxton Daniel of Iron City, TN; Kanyon Robertson of Florence, AL; Robert Lambdin of Florence, AL; Tristan Bevis of Killen, AL; Clyde Riddle of Tuscumbia, AL; Samuel Pierce of Spruce Pine, AL; Hunter Thomas of Killen, AL; and Jorge Arizmendi of Russellville, AL.

NW-SCC signs ten new machinist apprentices

Submitted to the FFP

The Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) department of Workforce Solutions partnered with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) District 711, Local 65, to sign 10 machinist apprentices into the second class of the Machinist Apprenticeship Program recently on the Shoals campus.

The IAMAW Machinist Apprenticeship Program at NW-SCC is a non-credit pathway to a challenging and well-paying career as a machinist for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and its partner contractors. Program apprentices will begin a four-year training program that includes 1,200 hours of classroom training and 6,400 hours of on-the-job training. This is the second class of students to start this apprenticeship.

"It is so exciting to continue our partnership with IAMAW," said NW-SCC president Dr. Glenda Colagross. "The investment they are making into these students will make a tremendous impact toward filling the skills gap in the machining industry."

Apprentices take classes two nights a week at NW-SCC and work for the TVA Power Service Shop during the day.

"The IAMAW has been working toward an apprenticeship program for machinists for several years, and it is great to see it come to fruition and be successful," said Wendell Dean, program administrator. "The first class was selected in December of last year, and we hope this pipeline of machinists through Northwest-Shoals continues for many years to come."

The 2019 IAMAW Machinist Apprenticeship Program at NW-SCC signees were Timothy Wagnon of Haverhill, MA; Condre Cole of Leighton; Braxton Daniel of Iron City, TN; Kanyon Robertson of Florence; Robert Lambdin of Florence; Tristan Bevis of Killen; Clyde Riddle of Tuscumbia; Samuel Pierce of Spruce Pine; Hunter Thomas of Killen; and Jorge Arizmendi of Russellville.

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Mayfield opens new pharmacy in Phil Campbell

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When Wes Mayfield opened Russellville Drugs in 2014, there were admittedly some growing pains as he built his new business.

Five years later, with the opening of his newest pharmacy, Franklin Discount Drugs in Phil Campbell, Mayfield doesn't have to worry about many of the unknowns he faced with his first location.

Instead, his focus will be on building relationships of trust and respect with his customers in an area he believes will benefit from a new pharmacy.

Mayfield opened Franklin Discount Drugs December 2 at 3145 Hwy. 237 in the former Blue's Diner location.

"I believe there is a need here, and that was important in my decision to open in Phil Campbell," Mayfield said. "A lot of our customers in Russellville come from Phil Campbell, and I thought this would provide convenience for them. We want to provide the same customer care here as in our other locations. If you treat people right while providing a needed service, that translates well anywhere, but especially in a small town."

Mayfield, for the foreseeable future, will work full-

time at Franklin Discount Drugs along with Kyle Buchanan. Pharmacy hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Franklin Discount Drugs offers a convenient drive-thru and free local delivery on prescriptions in and around the Phil Campbell area.

In addition to Russellville Drugs, Mayfield also owns Medical Arts Drugs in Haleyville, which opened in February of 2018.

"A lot of our customers in Russellville come from Phil Campbell," Mayfield said, "and I thought this would provide convenience for them. We want to provide the same customer care here as in our other locations. If you treat people right while providing a needed service, that translates well anywhere, but especially in a small town."

When he decided to purchase the building next to Phil Campbell High School, Mayfield faced the challenge of converting a restaurant into a pharmacy. So he called on a renovation expert he has in the family—his father, Rex.

"Dad has immense talents in that area," Mayfield said. "We took the cook tops and equipment out, along with the hot bar. We had to do a good bit of cleaning to make sure it felt like a health care establishment and not a restaurant."

Mayfield works with his customers to fill an

important role in their overall health care. To do that as a pharmacist, he believes it requires compassion, respect and trust.

"We want our Phil Campbell location to be like Russellville is after five years there. Basically, we feel like we're friends with our patients," Mayfield said. "But I want them to feel comfortable telling me something they may not feel comfortable telling most people, because we care about their health and respect their privacy. We can help communicate that important information to their doctor or help get them appropriate treatment or therapy for their situation."

With pharmacies now in Russellville, Phil Campbell and Haleyville, is Mayfield done expanding? He's not sure about that, but at least the growing pains are a thing of the past.

"When I bought the Russellville location, there were a lot more risks and challenges. We worked through those with trial and error," Mayfield said. "Now, we can take those lessons learned the hard way and try to use that experience and not make the same mistakes."

"I'm very excited about being a part of the Phil Campbell community, and I hope we can help people live healthier and happier lives."

To contact Mayfield at Franklin Discount Drugs, call 205-993-4554.

Nelson running for office of Revenue Commissioner

Submitted to the FFP

My name is Charlie Douglas Nelson, and I am a candidate for the office of Franklin County Revenue Commissioner in the March 3, 2020 Republican Primary.

It has been my dream for many years to serve my home county as a public servant. I attended Tharptown Junior High from kindergarten through ninth grade before transferring to Russellville High School in 2003.

I'm a graduate of Russellville High School class of 2006.

I'm currently employed at Tiffin Motorhomes in Red Bay, and I also work part-time and weekends in the funeral business. I'm passionate about serving the public and feel this would be a great opportunity for me to fulfill my dream of being involved in politics on a local level.

I am a member of Waco Church of Christ. Some of my hobbies include running, swimming, fishing and watching local high schools sports in Franklin County. I spent ten years of my life working in the funeral business, so I understand the importance of being on call and being there when the public is in need of your assistance.

Therefore, being on call 24/7 comes easy for me as a public servant.

I lost both of my parents a month apart in 2012, which really took a major toll on my life and halted my plans of running for office in 2014. I know that



Nelson

the strongest person and my biggest supporter (my mother) will be in Heaven pulling me through. I gracefully ask of you as fellow citizens of Franklin County to grant me the opportunity to serve you as the next Franklin County Revenue Commissioner.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I promise that my office staff and I will always treat you like family and not just another taxpayer! The door will always be open to my office in case you as a taxpayer need my help. I also pledge to keep you informed of the ever-changing tax laws that might affect your personal property or business taxes before it happens and becomes a major setback to your family's income.

I hope to see each of you in the coming days and weeks ahead. I would be so honored to serve you and your family. I humbly ask for your prayers over the next few weeks and thank each of you in advance for your support and consideration.

'BROADBAND' from page 1

currently serves Hamilton and Winfield, with infrastructure projects underway for Haleyville, Hackleburg, Vernon and Sulligent.

The time frame for completion is expected to be between three and five years.

According to Doug Aaron, manager of the Franklin County Water Coordinating and Fire Prevention Authority, the area to be served through the loan-grant is the portion of Franklin County served by Alabama Power.

In 2014, Franklin County voters overwhelmingly approved a local constitutional amendment that allows the Franklin County Water Coordinating and Fire Prevention Authority to provide sewer services and broadband internet services in the county. This allows the authority to apply for grant funding for broadband projects.

Aaron said the authority board approved a resolution that gave Tombigbee Communications permission to apply for the grant and to come into Franklin County to complete the project.

The grant does not impact Franklin Electric Cooperative customers, as Tombigbee Communications did not have an agreement or receive any authorization to proceed for the grant on Franklin Electric's behalf.

Aaron said the area of Franklin County impacted by last Thursday's broadband announcement shows that a business model to light up rural areas can work.

"This is a step in the right direction and represents the first actual dollars coming into our county for broadband internet services," Aaron said. "This is some of the most rural parts of Franklin county. They are showing you can do this in very rural areas."

Alabama Power serves the southern part of Franklin County, from Spruce Pine south, and the Hodges-Vina area, with County Road 16 serving as the break between Alabama Power and Franklin Electric, Aaron said.

Last Thursday's announcement comes years after former Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow formed the Franklin County Broadband Task Force. Morrow repeatedly called for action toward building the required infrastructure for high-speed broadband during his tenure in Montgomery.

Donald LaVoy, USDA's deputy under secretary for rural development, said his agency realizes the success of rural America is directly related to broadband access.

"Think of the front door of your home. Closed, nothing comes in or out. Open, friends and neighbors enter, you go out to work, school, connect with friends. Broadband is a door opener," LaVoy said. "You can connect with anyone and any number of people and any resource that you so choose."

"One of the things I really like about this program is it allows you to live anywhere you choose to live in this wonderful country of ours and still have access to the world."



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2019 Filing of Application for Consent to Transfer of License and/or Construction Permit, FCC Form 316

On December 1, 2019, Pilati Investments, Inc., filed with the Federal Communications Commission Form 316 requesting consent to Transfer License and/or Construction Permit.

This application results from the death of shareholder Jimmie W. Pilati on January 26, 2019. The application requests that her shares be transferred to her husband, Karl H. Pilati.

The filed form is available for inspection at the following link: publicfiles.fcc.gov.

The request applies to the following stations and/or Construction Permits:
WGOL-AM 920, #60506; WKAX-AM 1500 #57623, W228EC Construction Permit Off Air #200937, W264BN, FM Translator #150931, W299CV, Construction Permit Off Air, #200936.

Individuals who wish to advise the FCC of facts relating to the application and to whether the stations have operated in the public interest should file comments and/or petitions with the Commission. Further information regarding the process for doing so may be obtained from the FCC at www.fcc.gov.

THE ELECTRIC BOARD OF THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA, A CORPORATION, NOTICE OF SALE OF UNNEEDED PROPERTY

WHEREAS, The Electric Board of the City of Russellville, Alabama, a municipal corporation, owns the following property described herein and identified thereon, neither specifically dedicated for public use nor subject to common law dedication for public use; and

WHEREAS, such property is surplus and no longer needed for municipal purposes; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE ELECTRIC BOARD OF THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA THE ELECTRIC BOARD OF THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That it is hereby established and declared that the above described property has not been dedicated to public use and is no longer needed for public or municipal purposes.

Section 2. Said property being declared as surplus is as described below; a

2005 55' Bucket Truck
Model 4300 SBA 4X2
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Section 3. Said 2005 55' Bucket Truck can be viewed from the 16th day of December, 2019 through the 20th day of December, 2019, along with a copy of the maintenance records for the vehicle can be reviewed. The 2005 55' Bucket Truck may be viewed at the Russellville Electric Board Warehouse located at 1012 South Jackson Avenue, Russellville, Alabama. The maintenance records for the 2005 55' Bucket Truck will be provided upon request.

Section 4. Sealed Bids may be submitted to the following address:

Russellville Utility Office
Attn: Russellville Electric Board/Charles Canida
721 Jackson Avenue South
Russellville Alabama, 35653.

Section 5. All persons desiring to purchase the above described property must submit a sealed bid. Said sealed bid must be either hand delivered and/or delivered in such a manner that said bid is filed with The Electric Board of the City of Russellville, Alabama, on or before 12:01 p.m. central time, on the 30th day of December.

Section 6. Sealed Bids will be opened at Russellville Utilities Office located at 721 Jackson Avenue South, Russellville Alabama at 2:00 p.m. on January 6th 2020.

THE CONVEYANCE BY THE ELECTRIC BOARD OF THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, OF THIS 2005 55' BUCKET TRUCK MODEL 4300 SBA 4X2 IS BEING MADE "AS IS" NO WARRANTY IS BEING MADE OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING THE WARRANTY FOR FITNESS OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR FOR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. SPECIFICALLY, THE ELECTRIC BOARD OF THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WILL TRANSFER TITLE TO THE VEHICLE REFERENCED TO HEREIN "AS IS WITH ALL FAULTS", THEREFORE, SAID VEHICLE IS BEING SOLD "AS IS"/"WHERE IS".

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Kiel: County to receive \$40,000 Census Grant

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Representative Jamie Kiel recently announced that Franklin County is the recipient of a \$40,000 Census Grant from The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA).

The purpose of these grants is to increase participation in the 2020 Census statewide, especially in areas where the previous Census participation rate has been low.

"In Franklin County, we only had an estimated participation rate of 73 percent in 2010. Our goal in 2020 is 90 percent," Kiel said. "It is important that we count everyone so that we receive needed state and federal funding for our schools and roads and in other areas that we receive funding. In addition, legislative lines will be redrawn according to the census count, and we want to be sure that Franklin County is properly represented."

Increasing the Census participation rate will directly impact tens of millions of federal dollars that are distributed based on Census population data. Accurate census counts may also allow Alabama to retain current Congressional representation.

Dr. Susan Hargett, who wrote the grant, noted that Franklin County was fortunate to be selected from the many who applied and was one of the few entities that received the maximum amount of \$40,000.

Dr Hargett noted, "This grant enables Franklin County to have extra manpower and avenues to ensure opportunities for all people to be counted. This will ensure Franklin County gets their fair share of federal funding for our schools and services for residents."

According to Census Committee member Dick Rowland, this grant will help in achieving more unity in the community.

"Good neighbors watch each other's backs. Doing the 2020 Census is giving your neighbors a helping hand as well as serving yourself," Rowland said. "A unified community works together. Working together gives us more strength in common purpose. This is an enormous step. Others will follow."

Kiel also noted the hard work of the Franklin County Census Committee. "I am thankful for all of the hard work of our Census Committee members," Kiel said, "especially the work of Dr Susan Hargett, who wrote the grant."

The 2019-2020 Alabama Education Trust Fund Budget provided the funding for these grants.

"I was happy to use my position on the Budget Committee to bring these needed funds back to Franklin County," Kiel said. "An accurate count will bring thousands of additional dollars to Franklin County."

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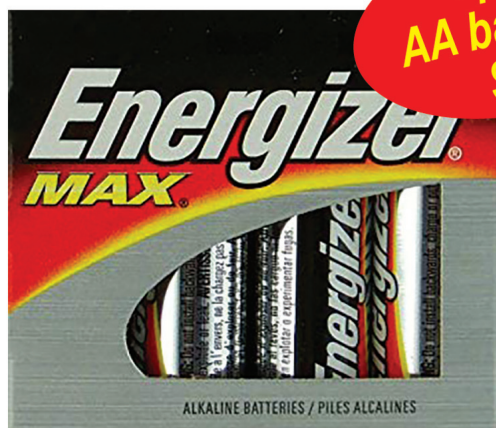
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Lady 'Cats lock down Red Bay in blowout win

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

RED BAY - Phil Campbell's girls rode a big night from Kallie Allen and a dominant defensive effort across the board to an easy win at Red Bay last Thursday, routing the Lady Tigers 52-14.

Allen, a senior guard, knocked down three threes and shot 7-for-14 from the field and 3-for-3 from the foul line, finishing with 20 points. She also had seven steals, teaming up with junior guard Caitlyn Mills (six steals) to wreak havoc on the defensive end.

"We watched a lot of film on how they break the press," said head coach Craig Thomas, whose team harassed Red Bay into 14 turnovers by the end of the first quarter and 30 on the night while holding the Lady Tigers to just 4-for-31 shooting from the field. "We knew where they were going probably as well as they knew where they were going. We studied their press-break and matched up well, and our girls reacted well to it. The long passes we thought they were gonna make, we got the ones we should have got."

"This was a big county rival, and we wanted to win. The press helped us more than anything. We play a pretty solid man-to-man. We probably could have played them man-to-man in the half-court tonight and been just as well off."

The Lady Bobcats (2-3) dominated defensively from the opening tip to the final buzzer, but it took them some time to find a rhythm on the offensive

See 'LOCK,' Page 18



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Allen scored 20 points and also had seven steals, helping Phil Campbell force 30 turnovers in a 52-14 rout.

Comeback kids



PHOTOS/KYLE GLASGOW
Cox (5), Taylor (below) and the Lady Golden Tigers split their two area games last week.

Russellville's late-game push against Lawrence County last Tuesday ran out of steam. Three nights later against Hamilton, the Lady Golden Tigers rallied again and would not be denied.

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

HAMILTON - Three nights after their fourth-quarter comeback attempt against Lawrence County came up just short, Russellville's girls staged another late-game rally last Friday night at Hamilton.

This time, they finished the job. Down 12 midway through the fourth, the Lady Golden Tigers closed the game on a 15-0 run, snapping a five-game losing skid and evening their area record at 1-1 with a 55-52 win.

Senior guard Madison Murray made a pair of go-ahead free throws in the final minute and shot 7-for-10 from the line in the fourth quarter on her way to finishing with 16 points. Senior post player Autumn Logan scored 11 of her season-high 14 points in the second half, and Russellville (2-5, 1-1 in Class 5A, Area 14) used pressure defense to harass Hamilton (5-5, 1-2) down the stretch and hold the Lady Aggies scoreless over the final four minutes or so.

See 'COMEBACK' Page 15



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Lady Bulldogs cap off big week with rout of Brilliant

Staff reports

Senior guard Autumn Bragwell poured in 15 of her game-high 28 points in the first quarter last Friday night, helping the Lady Bulldogs build a huge early lead on their way to a 75-19 rout of Brilliant.

Bragwell nailed three threes in the first quarter, and Emma Dempsey added six points as Belgreen (8-1 through Sunday, 3-0 in Class 1A, Area 12) raced out to a 30-5 lead by the end of one.

The Lady Bulldogs then got seven points from Katie Dempsey, six more from Emma Dempsey and five apiece from Kaley Chandler and Gracie Dempsey in the second quarter, out-scoring Brilliant 25-5 to take a 55-10 lead into the locker room.

Bragwell made four threes on the night, posting her fourth game of the season with 20-plus points—and her third with at least 28. Katie Dempsey finished with 13 points, and Emma Dempsey added 12. Chandler hit two threes and scored eight points, and Gracie Dempsey and Ansley Tate each had seven.

The Lady Bulldogs made eight threes as a team and shot 5-for-6 from the foul line.

In previous action:

Belgreen 54 Winfield 52

Ansley Tate scored 23 points for Belgreen last Thursday night, helping the Lady Bulldogs continue their impressive start to the season with a 54-52 win at Winfield.

Emma Dempsey added 11 points for Belgreen, which improved to 3-0 on the year against teams that played in the Final Four last season. [The Lady Bulldogs finished off a two-game sweep of Winfield, a Final Four team in Class 3A last season, and previously knocked off reigning Class 1A state champion Phillips.]

Belgreen led Thursday's game by two in the final seconds when Winfield (3-5) missed the front end of a one-and-one. The Lady Bulldogs grabbed the rebound and held on for the win.

Tate scored six points in the first quarter, but Presley Guin countered with a pair of threes for Winfield to help the Lady Pirates build an 18-16 lead by the end of one. Tate, a senior post player, put up six more points in the second quarter, helping Belgreen out-score Winfield 10-7 to take a 26-25 lead into the locker room.

The Lady Pirates rallied to claim a 40-36 lead at the end of three, but the Lady Bulldogs got eight points from Tate and seven from senior guard Gracie Dempsey in the fourth quarter to out-score Winfield 18-12 and pull out the win.

Emma Kate Tittle scored all 12 of Winfield's points in the fourth quarter and finished with 21. Guin hit three threes and scored 13 points. The Lady Pirates made seven threes as a team and shot 7-for-13 from the line.

Gracie Dempsey finished with nine points for Belgreen, going 5-for-7 from the line. Autumn Bragwell was 3-for-4 from the line and scored eight points. Kaley Chandler added three. The Lady Bulldogs made two threes as a team and shot 12-for-22 from the line.

Belgreen 57 Phillips 45

Belgreen's girls built an early 10-point lead against area rival Phillips last Tuesday night and made enough free throws down the stretch to hold on and beat the reigning state champs 57-45.

The Lady Bulldogs got a pair of threes and eight points from senior guard Gracie Dempsey in the first quarter, jumping out to a 19-9 lead at the end of one. Emma Dempsey and Katie Dempsey each had four points in the second quarter, helping Belgreen out-score Phillips 15-12 to take a 34-21 lead into the locker room.

Phillips out-scored Belgreen 14-10 in the third quarter, but the Lady Bulldogs went 11-for-20 from the foul line in the fourth and held on for a huge early-season win.

Emma Dempsey led Belgreen with 15 points, going 7-for-9 from the line. Gracie Dempsey added 13 points, and Katie Dempsey finished with 12. Ansley Tate had nine points, and Autumn Bragwell shot 5-for-6 from the line and finished with eight points. The Lady Bulldogs shot 18-for-31 from the foul line on the night, compared to 9-for-12 by Phillips.

Ally McCollum scored a game-high 20 points to lead Phillips, whose other four losses this season have come against large-school powers Deshler, Central-Tuscaloosa, Homewood and Vestavia Hills. Alli Temple added 14 points, and Gracie Hallman scored seven.

Belgreen's girls were scheduled to visit Red Bay on Monday night before traveling to Vina for an area game Tuesday. They'll play at Tharptown on Thursday and then visit Phil Campbell Friday night.



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'COMEBACK,' from page 13

"Madison Murray just said, 'Give me the ball' and kind of took it over down the stretch," said head coach Jermaine Groce, whose team finished 19-for-25 from the foul line and won for the first time since the season opener on November 21 at Colbert County. "That kid has got ice in her veins. She asked me late in the fourth quarter, 'Hey, what offense are we running?' I said, 'Get the ball to Madison, and everybody else watch out.'

"We went to a 2-2-1 press late in the game, and it gave us some easy transition points. They hadn't seen it on film, and it gave them some trouble."

That's putting it mildly. Hamilton turned the ball over time and again down the stretch, and the result was often Murray attacking the basket in transition and getting fouled. She finished the night 11-for-14 from the line—with none bigger than the two she made to give the Lady Golden Tigers a 53-52 lead with roughly 30 seconds remaining.

The 15-0 run ended on a slew of Murray free throws (plus one late one from A.J. Taylor), but it began with five straight points from reserve guard Jenna Whitfield. One of four players who moved up from the junior varsity level to play with the varsity [there was no jayvee girls game on Friday], Whitfield sparked the big finish by getting a steal and converting it into a layup. She then banked in a three from the top of the key to bring Russellville within seven at 52-45.

Whitfield finished with seven points, Leah Rushing made two free throws in the third quarter and Jayna Poss gave the Lady Golden Tigers solid minutes in the post—particularly on the defensive end.

"Our young girls played an important role tonight," Groce said. "We've got a lot of talent in that jayvee group. We thought we would move them up and try to get them some experience tonight. They played with us in the Hartselle tournament [over Thanksgiving], so they've been in this environment before. They came through big

for us." Trailing by seven, Russellville pulled closer when senior guard Krista Sikes took a drive-and-kick pass from Murray in the left corner and buried her third three of the night to make it 52-48. Murray scored the next six points from the foul line, giving the Lady Golden Tigers the lead.

Hamilton, meanwhile, struggled just to get the ball up the floor against Russellville's pressure D. After scoring 22 points in the third quarter—13 of which came from senior guard Anna Frost—to open up a 43-32 lead, the Lady Aggies managed just four baskets in the fourth quarter and got out-scored 23-9.

"We went to a zone early in the third quarter, just trying to give them a different look after we played all man-to-man in the first half," Groce said. "They knocked down four threes in the third quarter. Then, at the start of the fourth quarter, we went to this defense we haven't showed all year. We've practiced it, but we hadn't used it in a game. That's where the jayvee girls helped—they gave us the depth to run that defense."

Logan, meanwhile, had her best offensive game of the season, converting a three-point play in the first quarter and another as part of her seven-point fourth quarter. Lexie Glass, another senior post player, scored just three points but pulled down eight rebounds in the first half alone on her way to finishing with double-digit boards.

"They kind of bottled up Lexie Glass, so we went in and talked about finding a way to get the ball in the post," Groce said. "We went to a different set that got Autumn open a little bit, and she definitely gave us the interior presence we needed."

Logan went 4-for-4 from the line, and Sikes finished with nine points. Taylor scored three points but made a much bigger impact on the defensive end, where she spent much of the night hounding Hamilton point guard Mia Hollingsworth all over the floor.

"A.J. is all over the place," Groce said with a

smile. "She's like the energizer bunny. She plays great defense, gets some steals and tries to get out in transition."

Hollingsworth, an eighth-grader, finished with 15 points on Friday but only managed two baskets in the second half. Frost led Hamilton with 16 points, and Paisley Sorrells added 11. The Lady Aggies were 9-for-12 from the foul line.

Lawrence County 52 Russellville 45

Sadie Thompson scored 18 of her game-high 21 points in the second half last Tuesday, helping Lawrence County hold off a late rally by Russellville in the area opener for both teams.

The Lady Golden Tigers trailed by 13 at 41-28 early in the fourth quarter before getting on a roll. Senior guard Krista Sikes knocked down a three and a 15-footer to cut the lead to eight, and she later converted a three-point play to cap off a 15-3 run and bring Russellville within one at 44-43.

Thompson answered with a bucket to push the lead back to three. The Lady Golden Tigers cut it to one again at 46-45, but Thompson scored the final five points of the game to cap off her 12-point fourth quarter and seal the win.

Thompson shot 9-for-14 from the foul line, and Lawrence County (3-3, 1-0) was 15-for-25 as a team. Anna Claire Hutto had 10 points.

Madison Murray led Russellville with 11 points. Sikes scored nine of her 10 points in the fourth quarter, and senior post player Lexie Glass scored all 10 of her points in the second half. She also blocked five shots before fouling out in the final minute.

A.J. Taylor scored seven points for the Lady Golden Tigers, Fallon Cox finished with five and Autumn Logan added two.

Russellville shot just 10-for-22 from the foul line as a team.

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For the week, Guin averaged 23.3 points, 7.0 assists and 5.3 steals per game. For the season, she was averaging 17.9 points through Sunday.



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Clay's day



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Allison (1) scored 14 points in last Thursday's 68-38 rout of the Bobcats, pushing him past the 1,000-point mark for his varsity career.

Allison reaches career milestone as Red Bay rolls by Phil Campbell

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

RED BAY - When Clay Allison made the first of two free throw attempts with 6:09 remaining in last Thursday's game against Phil Campbell, the home crowd at Red Bay High School went wild.

Allison's foul shot had pushed the Tigers' lead to 30 points at 62-32, but the triggering of the hot clock wasn't what had the home fans on their feet. With that free throw, Allison—a senior guard now in his third season at Red Bay after transferring from Vina—reached the 1,000-point mark for his varsity career.

"Clay is one of those kids...when he came here, we had a good group of kids, and everything was moving in the right direction. He just kind of jump-started that," said head coach John Torisky, whose team cruised to a 68-38 win on Thursday and improved to 48-20 overall with two trips to the Northwest Regional since Allison arrived as a sophomore. "He was kind of the spark plug for the past couple of years. He was another guy that we had who took us to another level. The last two years have been great with him, and this is just another thing he's done in his career.

"You think about someone like Clay who's 5'6 on a good day, but he has the heart of a giant, and he plays so hard."

Allison finished with a team-high 14 points on 5-for-10 shooting last Thursday night, but he makes an even greater impact night in and night out with his relentless effort and energy on the defensive end.

"The way he shoots the basketball, he could look for his shot more," Torisky said. "But we stress defense, and the shots will come when they come. Tonight, he got into the flow of the game. I don't think he forced it as much as he did Tuesday [in a 44-31 win over Winston County]. On Tuesday he was thinking about it a little bit. Tonight he just played, and that's what he needs to do.

"On the defensive end, he never takes a night off."

The same could be said of the Tigers (3-1), who broke open Thursday's game with a dominant defensive second quarter, forcing seven Phil Campbell turnovers and holding the Bobcats to just 3-for-13 shooting. On the offensive end, meanwhile, Red Bay knocked down four threes—one each from Allison, Gage Bays, Dawson Wright and Kiser Jackson—and out-

‘ALLISON,’ from page 16

scored the ‘Cats 18-7 to take a 36-19 lead into the locker room.

The Tigers then put the game away with their best offensive quarter in the third, shooting 8-for-12 from the floor (including 3-for-4 with another three by Allison) to out-score Phil Campbell 20-13 and open up a 56-32 lead. They went on to win by 30—a vast improvement over the eight-point win they posted over this same Bobcat team just ten days previously.

“The first two games were terrible,” said Torisky, whose team followed up that 49-41 win over Phil Campbell in the season opener with a turnover-plagued loss to Winfield. “Winston County was a good game; we just didn’t shoot well. We shot awful. We’re better shooters than that. Tonight we kind of loosened up. The defense was there as usual, like we expect, and the offense opened up tonight. I think that’s more like what we should look like. “I don’t think we’re gonna shoot great every night, but we’re gonna hit three or four threes and crash the boards and get a lot of transition points. That’s how we’re built to score this year.”

The Tigers dominated the boards again last Thursday, out-rebounding Phil Campbell 31-13. They generated a lot of second- and third-shot opportunities and also forced 24 Bobcat turnovers on the night, fueling a strong transition game. Red Bay shot 46 percent (22-for-48) from the field with seven threes and went 17-for-27 from the line while committing 10 turnovers—only one of which came in the second half.

“By far,” Torisky said when asked if last Thursday’s performance represented his team’s best all-around game to date. “The first and third quarters were really strong. In the third quarter, our guys came out focused. You could tell they were ready to put the game away.”

Allison added seven rebounds, three assists and two steals to go along with his 14 points. Junior post player Braden Ray scored 13 points on 4-for-6 shooting from the field, and 6’6 junior Lane Shewbart added nine points, four boards and two blocks. Tanner Hamilton chipped in with eight points and six rebounds, and Wright came off the bench to hit two threes and score six points. Alex Kennedy had four points and six rebounds, and Bays added three points and three steals. Jackson and Arden Hamilton also scored three points apiece, and Hunter Burks and Jalen Vinson each had two. Jayden Anderson added one point, as all 12 players who touched the floor for the Tigers scored.

Phil Campbell (1-5 through Sunday) shot 41 percent (14-for-34) from the floor and 7-for-12 from the line. Brett Saint led the Bobcats with nine points, and Luke Garrison added eight. Nate Orrick scored six, and Dylan Jeane and Blain Goodson each had four.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Bays (3) and the Tigers played their most complete game to date, shooting a solid 46 percent from the floor and finishing plus-18 on the boards while forcing 24 Phil Campbell turnovers.

Tennis, anyone?



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured above are the USTA 18U Junior Tennis Tournament runners-up. Team members (from left) are Avary Miller (sophomore, RHS), Ellyse Strickland (senior, RHS), Anna Woods (senior, RHS), Anna Grace Rye (senior, Florence) and Peyton Parrish (eighth grade, Russellville).

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'LOCK,' from page 13

end following an eight-day layoff. [They hadn't played a game since beating Guntersville 62-27 on November 26.]

Phil Campbell missed its first nine shots from the field last Thursday but still led 8-3 late in the first quarter thanks to an 8-for-8 start from the foul line. A steal and layup by Allen made it 10-3, and then reserve guard Kaci Harris buried a three from the left wing. Allen came up with another steal and layup and then assisted on a three by Mills that made it 18-3 at the end of one.

"I was really worried about how we would come out. I thought we might come out a little flat," Thomas said. "And I felt like we did come out flat. We didn't shoot the ball real well early. We attacked the basket, but we didn't make layups. We should have had some and-one opportunities, but we didn't get 'em. Free throws helped us a lot early in the game."

Freshman Madison Branch opened the second quarter with a three, and Allen connected from beyond the arc to make it 26-6 with 6:40 left in the first half. Allen came up with another steal moments later and converted a three-point play, stretching the lead to 29-6.

Both teams struggled to score for the remainder of the half, and Phil Campbell took a 32-9 lead into the break. Red Bay (1-4) had more turnovers (20) than shot attempts (16) in the first half, making just two baskets.

Allen, a Wallace-Hanceville signee, knocked down two more threes to open the second half, and Mills had a steal and layup to push the lead out to 42-9. The Lady Bobcats out-scored Red Bay 14-0 in the third, forcing eight more turnovers and holding the Lady Tigers to 0-for-8 shooting from the field.

Phil Campbell finished with six threes on the night and shot 12-for-16 from the foul line.

"We are starting to shoot a little better," said Thomas, whose team opened the season 0-3 but had won two straight going into Tuesday's area opener against East Lawrence. "We probably weren't getting the same kind of open looks at the start of the year that we were getting tonight. But our girls have been staying after practice and shooting a whole lot. The work ethic is still there. They're working hard on their shooting, and I feel like this is one of the best shooting teams I've had at Phil Campbell. It's starting to come around."

"We don't want to play our best right now. We want to play our best later in the year."

Allen has now topped the 20-point mark three times in five games and twice in a row. The Lady Bobcats are 2-1 when she scores 20-plus and 0-2 when she doesn't.

"I'm proud of her," Thomas said. "The last two games, she's had 20-plus both games. She's been a little more assertive. We're trying to get her 20 a game."

Mills added 10 points on Thursday, shooting 5-for-6 from the foul line. She also had five rebounds and two assists. Olivia Taylor finished with four points, and Trinity Vandiver added three points and four boards. Harris and Branch also scored three apiece.

Macy Faulkner had four points and four rebounds for Red Bay. Destiny McCollister, a 6'2 junior, got into early foul trouble and finished with three points, six boards and three blocks.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Phil Campbell's Katie Thomas defends Red Bay's Lila Blackburn (22) in last Thursday's game at Red Bay High School.



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