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Dream Center helps spread Christmas joy

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

The holidays can be a tough time for some, and it can be especially difficult to find room for the holiday spirit. Pastor Shawn Reathford and the Russellville Dream Center wanted to make sure that no one was without this

See 'DREAM,' Page 3



PHOTO BY BRADY PETREE

The Russellville Dream Center served more than 200 local families at its seventh annual Christmas event on Saturday, December 21.

RCS Board approves personnel moves at final meeting of 2019

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

As the fall semester of 2019 wrapped up, the Russellville City School Board held its final meeting on Thursday, December 19 to discuss topics that will impact the school system next semester.

Items addressed included the approval of supplements for certain club sponsors, the approval of facilities to be used for certain events for the school system, and more.

The RCS Board:

- Approved Jackie Burch as a volunteer for the RHS softball program.
- Accepted the resignation of Molly Bates King as the RMS Scholars Bowl sponsor.
- Approved the employment of Josh Graham as sponsor

of the RHS cross country team.

- Approved the employment of Kayla Odom as the RMS Scholars Bowl sponsor.
- Approved a leave of absence for Kendra Howard effective January 28, 2020.
- Accepted the resignation of Peyton Balentine as custodian of RES effective December 20, 2019.
- Approved the temporary employment of Emili Crummie to fill the position left vacant by LeJoy Washington's leave of absence from November 6, 2019 to January 6, 2020.
- Accepted the retirement of bus driver Susan Scott effective January 1, 2020.
- Approved the employment of Larry Ballard as a custodian at RES effective January 6, 2020.

See 'BOARD,' 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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Maud Elizabeth Baker, Phil Campbell, age 87
 Died Thursday, December 26, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Blue Springs Cemetery in Phil Campbell.

Shelton Ray Everett, Russellville, age 78
 Died Sunday, December 22, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

Mary Josephine Fuller, Russellville, age 79
 Died Tuesday, December 24, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

Daisy Ann Parker, Phil Campbell, infant
 Died Sunday, December 22, 2019. Funeral held at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Interment in the adjoining church cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Charles Odell Shook, Tuscumbia, age 64
 Died Monday, December 23, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Crooked Oak Cemetery.

Hosea B. "Junior" Steward, Fulton, MS (formerly of Russellville), age 89
 Died Tuesday, December 24, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

Sheila C. Welch, Russellville, age 70
 Died Friday, December 20, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Spruce Pine Cemetery.



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.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at franklinfreepress.net!

NW-SCC holding registration this Saturday

Submitted to the FFP

With the spring semester right around the corner, Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) will host a registration event this Saturday, January 4, 2020 on the Shoals and Phil Campbell campuses.

This Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., NW-SCC will help new and current students apply and register for the spring semester.

The Saturday registration event will offer one-stop assistance in the registration process with admission to NW-SCC, course advising, financial aid, placement testing (for those who arrive by

12:30 p.m.) and with payments through the cashier's office.

The Saturday registration event will offer one-stop assistance in the registration process with admission to NW-SCC, course advising, financial aid, placement testing (for those who arrive by 12:30 p.m.) and with payments through the cashier's office.

On the Shoals Campus, Saturday registration will take place in the Victor P. Poole Administration Building (building 100), with the exception of placement testing (held in building 127).

On the Phil Campbell Campus, Saturday regis-

tration will take place in the Wallace Administration Building (building 301).

For those who have not yet applied for admission to NW-SCC, they can apply online at www.nwsc.edu.

Students who have not already applied for financial aid are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) immediately. The FAFSA can be submitted online at www.fafsa.gov, and the NW-SCC school code is 005697.

Spring semester classes begin January 7. The College reopens to the public following the holiday break on Friday, January 3.

'BOARD' from page 1

•Approved the contracts for Kenny Hallmark and Sammy Washington as school resource officers from October 1, 2019 to October 1, 2020.

In addition to the personnel moves made by the board of education, there were moves made concerning certain facilities to be used by different groups within the Russellville City School system.

The board approved the use of the West Elementary School Gym on January 15-16, 2020, for a mini cheer clinic fundraiser for the RHS cheerleading squad.

The next Russellville City School board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16 at 8 a.m. with the work session on January 13 at 3:30 p.m.

'DREAM' from page 1

Christmas and made sure that everyone who needed help was provided for.

Reathford and the Dream Center gave away thousands of pounds of food and water, along with clothes and toys for kids, at their annual Christmas Giveaway Event. In addition to the items people were able to take home with them, those who were in attendance on Saturday, December 21 were also served a hot meal, and the children were able to meet Santa Claus.

This year marks the seventh year that the Dream Center has hosted a Christmas event through which they give back to the community. During last year's event, the Center was able to give away a car to someone in need. While there was no car giveaway this year, the items given away included a 50-inch TV, \$500 in cash, gift cards and more.

Last year, the Center was able to give away food and items to close to 300 families. The event this year opened its doors at 11 a.m., and within half an hour the Center had already served more than 200 families.

Reathford said the Dream Center attempts to do certain things from year to year to ensure that local families have a great holiday season.

"We've got over a thousand toys to give away, and every child that comes through here will get two toys to take home with them. That really just makes the kids light up," Reathford said. **"Each year at these events there are three things we always try to do: Provide toys for the kids, provide food for the families, and provide clothing to those that need it."**

"We've got over a thousand toys to give away, and every child that comes through here will get two toys to take home with them. That really just makes the kids light up," Reathford said. **"Each year at these events there are three things we always try to do: Provide toys for the kids, provide food for the families, and provide clothing to those that need it."**

According to Reathford, the Dream Center partnered with the North Alabama Food Bank and Walmart and received more than 20,000 pounds of food that they were able to give away. The primary reason for starting this event seven years ago, Reathford said, was to connect and find a way to help out Franklin County.

"We started this because we saw where there was a need for this kind of thing in Franklin County and the surrounding areas," Reathford said. "Our heartbeat is to reach out either through our Dream Center or through our church. Our motto at our church is, 'We're a church with no walls.' So we believe that we are to get out into our community and meet, love and serve our people. We hope to also give them the love of Christ through this, too, and show them that God loves them."

For those who could not make it this year, don't worry. Pastor Reathford says that the event will happen next year, and if there is anyone in need throughout the year, all they have to do is reach out.

"This is a yearly event, but we do more on a daily basis. We give out food boxes to the families that are in need every single day," Reathford said. "We do outreach on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. All throughout our community and throughout all different times in the year, we're always out there helping our community in numerous ways.

"So come and be a part of these things that we're doing, and it will be a true blessing."



PHOTOS BY BRADY PETREE

The Russellville Dream Center gave away thousands of pounds of food and water at its annual Christmas event on Saturday, December 21. In addition to the items people were able to take home with them, those in attendance were also served a hot meal, and the children were able to meet Santa Claus.



Honey-Do: Ramp it up!

Ramps. If you are any kind of outdoor guy or gal in the South, you probably have a set. Ramps are important and useful for loading four-wheelers, lawnmowers and various sports and farm equipment. Whether homemade or store-bought, the use of loading ramps can be very dangerous if the proper safety equipment and the right style of ramp is not used.

•**Weight rating.** Ramps should be rated to handle the weight of the equipment to be loaded, plus anything added to the equipment plus the weight of the operator. Any manufactured ramp should be plainly marked with a load rating.

Check the manufacturer's published weight of your equipment, add the operator's weight and then add an extra 20 pounds for gasoline and added accessories. The combined weight should never exceed the published capacity of the ramps.

•**Length.** The length is calculated based on the height of the truck you are loading into. The formula is 2.2 inches of ramp length for each inch of height. If the truck bed is 30 inches from the ground, multiply 30 x 2.2 and you need a ramp that is at least 66 inches long.

•**Style.** Equipment with minimal ground clearance, such as a lawnmower, will usually load better with an arched ramp. This will keep the deck from hanging at the point the ramp meets the truck. Also, equipment with smaller tires will require a ramp with solid or closer mesh grid.

•**Width.** Measure the equipment across from the outside of each wheel and set the ramps accordingly to minimize the danger of running off the side.

•**Safety.** I have seen many people neglect to secure the ramps to the vehicle, and I have seen a few end up on their back on the ground. If your equipment pulls with the rear wheels, the ramp can be kicked out when the front wheels clear the ramp going onto the truck. The best way to secure ramps is to run a strap from about the middle of the ramp to the bumper of the truck and pull it tight.

•**Traction.** Most manufactured metal ramps have grids or holes in the bottom to provide traction. Many



Doug Green

See 'RAMP,' Page 8



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RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35653
256-332-0255

The *Franklin Free Press* is published weekly by Pilati Investments, Inc. Our publication is mailed to our readers at no charge.

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Letters to the editor

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Earning a debt-free degree

I know you want the very best for your teens. And, if you're like most parents, you'd do just about anything for them. That can make for some tough decisions when it's time to talk about paying for college.

The cost of college is one of the biggest stressors for parents (and kids) at this stage in the game. Last time I checked, college is expensive. With the way tuition costs have been skyrocketing, it seems like more and more people are relying on student loans to get through college. In fact, that's the norm at this point. Don't even get me started on the \$1.6 trillion student loan crisis in our country right now!

All the conversations around student loans might make you feel conflicted—like you don't know the best way to give your kids the future you want them to have. You might even be experiencing some guilt as you realize just how big a financial commitment college really is. I get it.

So, let's talk through how guilt can lead to choices that ultimately won't help your kids, and some alternatives that will help them.

Here are three reasons you might feel guilty as a parent when it comes to your kids' college education.

•You can't afford it.

Like I said, college is crazy expensive. A lot of people pretend they can afford it by taking out loans to cover the cost. But you know what? That only results in you, or your kids, having a huge burden of student loan debt to deal with when they graduate.

It's actually healthier to admit your family doesn't have the funds to pay for college. Talk with your teen about how college can still be a possibility by going to an in-state, public school. Also,

look into work-study programs, attending community college, getting high ACT/SAT scores, grants and scholarships. I'm looking at you, FAFSA form!

•You think your kids deserve to go to their dream school.

I say this all the time: The only dream school is one your kids can graduate from debt-free. I understand they might've been wearing Ivy League swag since they were little kids, but they shouldn't go there if they can't pay for it without loans.

The only dream school is one your kids can graduate from debt-free. I understand they might've been wearing Ivy League swag since they were little kids, but they shouldn't go there if they can't pay for it without loans.

Real talk: A degree is a degree, no matter where it's from. In the real world, the right employers are going to care far more about an employee's skill set, work ethic and character than where they went to school.

•You feel like you shouldn't fund your future if your kids can't fund theirs.

Listen, I'm all for higher education. But college is a privilege, not a right. If you have the financial means to help your kids pay for college and you choose to bless them in that way, that's awesome! But that shouldn't happen at the expense of your retirement fund.

Remember, college is not a guarantee—retirement is. Focus on building a fully funded emergency fund, paying off any debt you might have and investing 15 percent of your income into



Anthony O'Neal

See 'DEGREE,' Page 5



Starting off on the right path together

Dear Dave,
I'm getting married next summer. My fiancé and I are in agreement about how to handle money, and we both follow your plan. Do you recommend pre-marital counseling? If so, what do you feel are some of the important areas of agreement for couples before they get married?

Allison

Dear Allison,
Congratulations! I'm glad you're both on the same page with your finances, too.
I've worked with thousands of couples and numerous marriage counselors over the years. In that time, I've learned fights over money—and the resulting problems from those disagreements—are probably the biggest cause of divorce in America. In my opinion, in-depth pre-marital counseling is an absolute must. The idea of entering into something that's supposed to be a lifelong commitment without thoroughly addressing all the issues—and potential issues—is a really bad idea.
With that said, it's been my experience that couples have a high prob-

ability of a successful marriage if they agree on four things, in detail, before the big day—kids, money, religion and in-laws. With kids, the big question is do you want them? If so, how many and when? Are you going to let them run wild, or are you going to provide structure and make them behave?

When it comes to money, something it sounds like you two are already in agreement on, get all your cards out on the table, and construct an intelligent game plan for your finances that you both agree on. Staying away from debt, living on a written, monthly budget, and saving for the future are important parts of this.

Also, be in agreement on religion. Statistically speaking, two people from the same faith have a better chance of making a marriage work. And finally, when it comes to your future in-laws, you need to learn who they are and what you're getting into. What are they *really* like? What are the boundaries when it comes to their influence on your lives?

All these topics should be discussed at length, dealt with and agreed upon *before* the rings are exchanged. God bless you two, Allison!

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.*

'DEGREE,' from page 4

retirement. Then you can start thinking about your kids' college fund. There are so many ways your kids can get a debt-free education. And there are so many smart ways you can help them prepare for that next step!

Since 2003, Anthony has helped hundreds of thousands of students make smart decisions with their money, relationships, and education. He's a national best-selling author, and travels the country spreading his encouraging message to help teens and young adults start their lives off right. His newest book, Debt Free Degree, is now available. You can follow Anthony on YouTube and Instagram @AnthonyONeal and online at anthonyoneal.com or facebook.com/aoneal.

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What's Happening

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

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.

American Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, January 9 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The Shoals Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will meet in the Media Room at Park Place (500 N. Montgomery Avenue, Sheffield) on Thursday, January 9 at 2:30 p.m. Rev. Tommy Heaps will lead the study "The Word of Knowledge" from the book *Anointed to Heal* by Larry and Audrey Eddings. We believe that God heals spiritually, physically and emotionally. Prayer for healing will be offered. All are welcome.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre on Saturday, January 11 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 historic Roxy Theater.

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. For more info, call 256-324-2317. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. 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. The minimum age for membership is 12. Everyone welcome!

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.

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, Tuscumbia, AL. For more information, call First Colbert Heights at 256-383-8016.

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.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) weight loss support group meets each Monday evening at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Recreation Center. Weigh-ins begin at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to drop in for a free meeting visit. Call 256-446-5962 or 256-412-2855 for more information.

New Life Ministries invites you to join them for Sunday School at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings and for worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. On the first Sunday of each month, there will be a fellowship lunch after morning services. You and your family are invited to come worship and fellowship with the Lord of Hosts and his children. New Life Ministries is located on Hwy. 24 west toward Red Bay, behind Tompkins Feed.

Mountain Valley Hee Haw features live music every Saturday night. Show time is 6 p.m. Free admission. No alcohol or drugs. From Russellville, take 243 to Hwy. 79, turn right, go 1/4 mile, third building on left. For more information, please call 256-332-5479 or 256-810-4840.

Village Square Apartments in Russellville host George's Country Boys each Monday from 6-8 p.m. for some Gospel and Country singing!

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

Email your event information to us at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

Alabama ranks as one of nation's least boozy states

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

We often see Alabama ranked near the top of many undesirable national state rankings.

When it comes to poverty, obesity and education, for example, Alabama can be found at the wrong end of state rankings.

There is some good news, though, as a new survey finds Alabama to be the nation's sixth-least boozy state.

The study was done by QuoteWizard and ranks states from top to bottom as far as where the heaviest alcohol consumption is found as well as driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) arrests.

According to the Center for Disease Control, heavy drinking is defined for adult men as one who consumes 14 drinks or more per week. For women, it's seven drinks per week.

In state rankings for heaviest drinking, Alabama ranked 45th, with a 4.96 percent prevalence of heavy drinking among its residents. As far as DUI arrests, Alabama ranks 49th, meaning only Florida has fewer alcohol-related driving arrests.

Alabama is one of several Southern states that rank as some of the least booziest. According to Pew Research, evangelical Protestants are less likely to consume alcohol, and they view alcohol as more morally wrong than other religious and non-religious groups.

Additionally, availability of alcohol remains an issue in parts of Alabama. Of Alabama's 67 counties, 17 percent prohibit the sale of alcohol.

The average annual alcohol consumption per Alabamian is 1.97 gallons, with an average of 202.5 cans of beer per person, 9.4 bottles of wine and 5.6 bottles of hard liquor per person, according to a study done by www.thestreet.com.

An interesting correlation can be drawn between a state's ranking for heavy booze consumption and the state's rates of DUIs. Boozier states have higher DUI rates, and, conversely, the least booziest states are among the lowest in DUI arrests.

The states ranked even less boozy than Alabama were New Jersey, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Utah and West Virginia.

Vermont, Hawaii and Maine lead the nation with the highest percentage of heavy drinkers. The national average shows 6.21 percent of Americans meet the threshold to be considered heavy drinkers.

For more information on America's booziest states, log onto www.quotewizard.com/news/posts/americas-booziest-states.



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Merry Christmas, and,
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COURTESY PHOTO

Drew Edwards, left, was recently honored as Russellville Civitan Club's Civitan Member of the Year. Edwards received a plaque from president Eric Fike at the club's December 9 meeting.

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'RAMP,' from page 4

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Twelve local eateries earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Twelve of the 14 Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of December 9-13, 2019, had scores that fell into the "satisfactory compliance" range.

Health ratings are required to be prominently posted in all food/lodging establishments. Scores are graded by the Alabama Department of Public Health inspectors on a 100-point scale.

Establishments with scores of 85 to 100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are routinely inspected. Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again in 60 days, and those scoring between 60 and 69 will have another follow-up within 48 hours. Any establishment scoring below 60 will be immediately closed.

Areas of inspection by ADPH include management and personnel; food storage, preparation and service; equipment; utensils; linen cleanliness; plumbing and waste; poisonous or toxic material storage; and an inspection of the physical facility or property.

Twelve of the 14 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 100, received by Cedar Ridge Campstore, 140 Campground Road, Russellville.

Other inspection scores and violations of Franklin County businesses included:

•Waffle House #2186, 14005 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 84. (Gallon jugs of cleaner stored above various single service articles, no drying device at rear hand washing sink, heat sanitizing dish machine not reaching required temperature of 160 degrees.

Health ratings are required to be prominently posted in all food/lodging establishments.

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•CJ's Grocery, 14545 Hwy. 187, Russellville, 84. (Spray bottle of cleaner stored on shelf in cabinet with food items, reach-in cooler holding chicken salad and dairy/cream pies at 44-50 degrees, disposition, slaw and cheese dip exceeding time limit of seven days).

•Bojangle's Chicken and Biscuit, 13810 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 90. (Wires broken on fryer basket,

pork chops and chicken tenders being held out of temperature at 115-130 degrees).

•Mama Cortez d/b/a Rancho Viejo, 11797 Highway 43, Russellville, 93. (Sausage being held in prep cooler at 46-47 degrees).

•La Fogata Guerrerense, 412 Madison St. NE, Russellville, 94. (Employee using bare hand contact with ready to eat food).

•Russellville Hospital, 15155 Highway 43, 96.

•Russellville High School, 1865 Waterloo Road, Russellville, 97.

•Papa John's Pizza, 14520 Highway 43, Russellville, 97.

•East Franklin Junior High, 1815 Hwy. 89, Phil Campbell, 99.

•Dollar General #973, 3621 Broad St, Phil Campbell, 99.

•Cedar Creek Chevron, 11477 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.

•Backwoods Bargains, 30012 Hwy. 24, Russellville, 99.

•The Ville Nutrition, 112 South Jackson Ave, Russellville, 99.

Of the 26 inspections done in Colbert County from December 9-13, 2019, all received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 100 was received by Littleville Senior Center, 1400 Jackson Hwy., Littleville, and Glover-Payne Community Center, 1249 Second St., Cherokee.

Health ratings are available at www.foodscores.state.al.us and may be viewed by city or county.

Contentment is a heart issue, not a money issue

Another Christmas season has come and gone, and for many parents, it's all about managing their kids' expectations. They think they need to give their kids the biggest presents, the most presents and the coolest presents. But trust me: Little Sally won't be scarred for life if she didn't get a pony.

It's okay to want the best for your kids—we all do! But you should never put yourself in a financial bind to make their holiday dreams come true. That's not what Christmas is about. While other parents are shelling out hundreds or even thousands of dollars to give their kids the "perfect" Christmas, you can teach your little ones about contentment.

Contentment isn't a money issue, even though it has a huge impact on your child's future. It's a heart issue. Content people may not have the best of everything, but they *make* the best of everything. Without contentment, people often try to fill the void in their hearts by cramming it full of more and more stuff. As a parent, you've got to prepare your children to defend themselves against this threat.

There's lots of research out there showing children are aware of what they have in comparison to what others have at a super young age. Marketers fight for their attention early on, and by

default they're fighting for your money.

Make sure your kids know the newness of stuff isn't what funds their happiness or their value. Their worth goes far beyond a robo-unicorn, name-brand clothes, or the iPhone 73 that everyone else has.

If you have teens, let them know that if they pursue material things they're going to be a hamster on a wheel for the rest of their lives. They'll keep going around and around, always thinking the next thing is the one that will make them happy. But, of course, it won't.

Contentment isn't a money issue, even though it has a huge impact on your child's future. It's a heart issue. Content people may not have the best of everything, but they *make* the best of everything. Without contentment, people often try to fill the void in their hearts by cramming it full of more and more stuff. As a parent, you've got to prepare your children to defend themselves against this threat.

They'll just run in circles, wasting all their time and energy, and ultimately going nowhere. What God has in store for them is so much bigger than



Rachel Cruze

that!

One last reminder: Contentment isn't about age. It's about maturity. I've met eight-year-olds who get this and 48-year-olds who don't. Your child can probably tell where your heart is regarding material wants and desires. So be sure to give yourself a heart check and show your child what real happiness, joy and contentment look like.

If you or your kids are struggling with contentment in the wake of this holiday season, I have a whole episode of "The Rachel Cruze Show" with advice on how to have more gratitude over the holidays. Remember, more is caught than taught. When your kids see you acting out of gratitude, it can have a huge impact on how they view things, too!

As a #1 New York Times best-selling author and host of The Rachel Cruze Show, Rachel helps people learn the proper ways to handle money and stay out of debt. She's authored three best-selling books, including Love Your Life, Not Things and Smart Money Smart Kids, which she co-wrote with her father, Dave Ramsey. You can follow Cruze on Twitter and Instagram at @RachelCruze and online at rachelcruze.com, youtube.com/rachelcruze or facebook.com/rachelramseycruze.

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!



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Scott's career-high 22 points help RHS boys get by Central

Staff reports

Brooks Scott capped off a career-high 22-point performance with the go-ahead basket in the final 10 seconds last Friday afternoon, helping Russellville snap a two-game skid with a 58-56 win over Central-Florence in consolation action at the Helen Keller Hospital Bracy Invitational.

The Golden Tigers led by six with a little more than two minutes remaining before Central rallied to pull even on a three in the final half-minute. Russellville's Chandler Dyas got the ball ahead to Scott, who scored to give the Golden Tigers a two-point lead. Central (2-11) rushed the ball up the floor but missed a shot as time expired.

Scott, a junior post player, started fast with 10 first-quarter points, helping Russellville build a 19-10 lead by the end of one. He scored seven more points in the second quarter, and the Golden Tigers took a 31-23 lead into the locker room.

Payton Palmer hit three threes for Central in the third quarter, helping the Wildcats out-score Russellville 17-15 to trim the lead to six. Central pulled even late in the fourth, but Scott's bucket gave the Golden Tigers the win.

See 'RHS,' Page 17



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Scott (21) has averaged 18.0 points in two meetings with Central this season, leading the Golden Tigers to a pair of close wins.

Lady Devils go 3-0 at Waterloo Tournament

Guin scores 1,000th point in rout of Whitesburg



COURTESY PHOTO

JOIN THE CLUB - Guin (holding basketball) became the fourth Vina player in the last three years to reach the 1,000-point mark.

Staff reports

Vina's girls rode a huge first quarter to an easy win over Waterloo last Friday, cruising past the Lady Cougars 58-23 to finish unbeaten at the Waterloo Christmas Tournament.

The Lady Red Devils (13-3) got three early threes from Kaitlyn King and seven first-quarter points from Rayleigh Guin, racing out to a 24-5 lead by the end of one. Guin added nine more points in the second quarter, helping Vina out-score Waterloo 16-6 to take a 40-11 lead into the locker room.

Guin finished with 16 points, knocking down two threes and going 6-for-8 from the foul line. She also had six assists and four steals. King went 4-for-4 from the line and finished with 13 points, four rebounds and three assists. Sara Scott added 12 points and six boards, and Sara Harper scored six points.

Sarah Johnson and Hailey Cantrell each finished with four points. Kaitlyn Athey had two points, and Kassidie Gesler added one. The Lady Devils hit five threes as a team and shot 17-for-27 from the foul line.

In previous action at the Waterloo Tournament: **Vina 62 Whitesburg 46**
Sophomore guard Rayleigh Guin surpassed the

1,000-point mark for her career, finishing with 19 to lead Vina past Whitesburg last Friday.

Guin started fast with nine first-quarter points, helping the Lady Red Devils build a 20-6 lead by the end of one. She hit the 1,000-point mark on a three in the second quarter, becoming the fourth Vina player in the past three seasons to reach the milestone. [Guin, who had scored 1,022 career points through Sunday, joined current senior Kaitlyn King (1,458 points) and former Lady Devils Emma Humphres (1,665 points) and Abby Hester (1,696 points) in the 1,000-point club.]

Vina led Whitesburg 38-19 at the break and then got eight second-half points from Kaitlyn Athey, cruising to the win.

Guin hit two threes and shot 5-for-8 from the foul line, adding five assists, five rebounds and three steals to go along with her 19 points. King hit three threes and went 3-for-3 at the line, finishing with 12 points, eight boards and three assists.

Athey had eight points and five rebounds, and Sara Scott shot 5-for-5 from the line on her way to scoring seven points. Kassidie Gesler finished with five points, and Hailey Cantrell added four points and five boards. Keyara Umfress scored three points, and Kaley Attaway added two points and three rebounds.

See 'VINA,' Page 18

Murr scores 44, hits big shots to lead Lindsay Lane past Belgreen

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

TUSCUMBIA - Down by 13 early in the second half against Lindsay Lane last Thursday night, Belgreen's boys rallied to tie the game on three different occasions.

Each time, Tommy Murr had an answer.

Murr, a David Lipscomb signee and the state's all-time leading scorer, made several clutch shots down the stretch and finished with 44 points, leading the Lions to a 76-70 win over the Bulldogs in the quarterfinals of the Helen Keller Hospital Bracy Invitational at Deshler High School.

Will Bonner led Belgreen with 28 points, 24 of which came in the second half. Collin Bonner finished with 22 points for the Bulldogs, but Murr poured in 31 second-half points of his own to help Lindsay Lane even the season series between the two teams and earn a date with Deshler in last Friday's semifinals.

"It was a good game. I'm disappointed we lost, but I'm not disappointed in our effort," said Belgreen coach Marty Cooper, whose team had beaten Haleyville 55-30 earlier on Thursday while Lindsay Lane drew a first-round bye. "It's not an excuse, but when you play a whole game—even though it wasn't that tough of a game—and then have to guard Tommy Murr, it's a challenge. I'm really proud of our guys.

"Will got two fouls and had to come out there before the half, and it got away from us. I was really proud of the way we battled back. But every time we tied it, [Murr] hit a bomb, like two or three different times. You can't do anything about that. We're on him, and he just rises up and makes a shot."

Murr, a 6'1 senior guard, started slowly, missing his first six shot attempts. He rebounded his own miss on the sixth and beat the first-quarter buzzer with a putback, cutting Belgreen's lead to 15-14 at the end of one.

Will Bonner, the team's sophomore point guard, picked up his second foul on a charge early in the second quarter and spent the remainder of the half on the bench. With their floor general spectating, the Bulldogs turned the ball over eight times in the quarter. The Lions, meanwhile, shot 10-for-14 from the field, getting 11 points from Murr and eight from Charlie Morrison on their way to out-scoring Belgreen 25-14 to take a 39-29 lead into the locker room.

Murr made three critical plays in the final minute of the half. First, he knocked down a three to extend Lindsay Lane's lead to 34-27 with 55 seconds on the clock. After Will Donahoe scored for Belgreen, Murr fired a perfect skip pass into the corner to Morrison, who buried a three to make it 37-29. Murr then hung back and stole the ensuing inbounds pass, banking in a layup at the buzzer to send the Lions into the break with a 10-point lead.

After being held to 13 points on 5-for-15 shooting in the first half, Murr opened the third quarter with a three to make it 42-29. That's when the Bulldogs started the long climb back.

Will Bonner scored 10 points to spark a 21-8 run, and Belgreen pulled even at 50-50 on a putback by 6'4 senior Bryant Hubbert with 1:25 left in the third.

Murr immediately answered with a driving three-point play to put the Lions back in front 53-50 at the 1:18 mark.

Belgreen responded with back-to-back buckets from Collin Bonner and Will Bonner, taking a one-point lead at 54-53. Murr was fouled on a three-point attempt with 0.8 seconds on the clock and made all three free throws, giving Lindsay Lane a 56-54 lead heading to the fourth.

Murr finished the night 12-for-12 from the line. [He went 15-for-15 in that season-opening loss at Belgreen, scoring 47 points.]

"We wanted to keep him off the line," Cooper said. "I was yelling at our guys not to foul him, but it's hard not to."

After Murr's third free throw, Will Bonner took an inbounds pass deep in the backcourt and launched a high-arcing 75-foot shot that seemed to scrape the roof of the Deshler Dome before touching nothing but the bottom of the net. The Belgreen faithful went bonkers—but only briefly, as the officials ruled that Bonner's shot had not been released before the third-quarter buzzer.

"That would have helped," Cooper said with a smile after the game. "I thought it was good. With point-eight on the clock, you're supposed to be able to get a shot off. If I was an official, I'm like, 'I'm counting that, dude!' Too bad we didn't have instant replay."

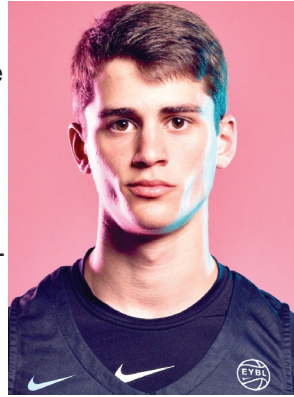
"It was a good game. I'm disappointed we lost, but I'm not disappointed in our effort," said Belgreen coach Marty Cooper, whose team had beaten Haleyville 55-30 earlier on Thursday while Lindsay Lane drew a first-round bye. "It's not an excuse, but when you play a whole game—even though it wasn't that tough of a game—and then have to guard Tommy Murr, it's a challenge."

Undeterred, Will Bonner opened the fourth quarter with a layup to tie the game, but Murr again answered with a three to make it 59-56 with 7:40 left in the game. Collin Bonner scored to cut the lead to one, but Murr pulled up again from well beyond the arc and drilled his fifth three of the night to make it 62-58 at the 6:50 mark.

The margin swelled to seven at 67-60 on a three by Morrison with 4:40 remaining, but Belgreen rallied one final time. Bonner converted a three-point play on a putback and then hit two free throws at the 3:22 mark to make it 67-65. After a couple of misses by Murr, Will Bonner assisted on a bucket by Collin Bonner that tied the game 67-67.

Murr answered yet again, drilling a deep three from the left wing to put Lindsay Lane back on top 70-67. Murr and Morrison combined to make six straight free throws down the stretch, helping the Lions hold on for the win.

Murr missed 10 of his first 12 shot attempts but recovered to go 11-for-21 the rest of the way. He finished 13-for-33 from the floor with six threes and went 12-for-12 from the line. He also had eight rebounds, four assists and two steals to go



Tommy Murr

with his 44 points. Morrison shot 7-for-10 from the field with three threes and finished with 19 points and seven rebounds.

Will Bonner shot 10-for-23 from the floor and 8-for-12 from the foul line. He had five assists and five boards to go along with his 28 points. Collin Bonner shot 11-for-20 from the floor and had five steals and four rebounds to go with his 22 points.

"Will played really well, and I thought Collin played really well," Cooper said. "We had enough offensive firepower. We just didn't get enough stops. The real killer, as much as [Murr] making those bombs, was when they did miss a few, they got some offensive boards at some times when we really needed to get the rebound."

Junior post player Isac Willingham posted a double-double for Belgreen, finishing with 10 points (on 5-for-6 shooting) and 12 rebounds. Donahoe had five points, and Hubbert had eight rebounds to go with his two points. Scout Bragwell, by far the Bulldogs' most prolific and consistent three-point shooter, knocked down his first three of the night but did not score again. The junior guard sat out much of the second half while dealing with a migraine and a fever. He finished 1-for-3 from the field.

Belgreen made just one three on the night, compared to nine by Lindsay Lane. The Lions shot 15-for-18 from the foul line, while the Bulldogs were just 9-for-16. Belgreen shot 51 percent (30-for-59) from the floor overall, compared to 47 percent (26-for-55) by Lindsay Lane.

Deshler beat South Lamar 71-64 in last Thursday's fourth quarterfinal. The host Tigers were joined by three Class 1A teams (Lindsay Lane, plus R.A. Hubbard and Covenant Christian) in last Friday's semifinals.

Belgreen went on to beat South Lamar 59-35 in a consolation game on Friday.

"There's great competition at this tournament," Cooper said. "I'm kind of prejudiced toward 1A, and there was a lot of good 1A basketball today. That tells me it's gonna be really scrappy in February, that's for sure."

In other action at the Bracy Invitational:

Lincoln County (TN) 49 Belgreen 34

Playing their fourth game in three days at the Bracy Invitational, Belgreen's boys ran out of gas last Saturday, going scoreless in the fourth quarter against Lincoln County (TN).

The Bulldogs (15-5) led 13-10 at the end of one quarter, but Lincoln County out-scored them 17-7 in the second to take a 27-20 lead into the break. Belgreen got six points apiece from Collin Bonner and Scout Bragwell in the third quarter, keeping the deficit at seven, but Lincoln County out-scored the Bulldogs 8-0 in the fourth to win going away.

Bragwell hit three threes and finished with 10 points. Collin Bonner also scored 10 points, and Will Bonner added six. Isac Willingham and Bryant Hubbert finished with four apiece.

Belgreen made three threes as a team and shot 7-for-10 from the foul line.

Belgreen 59 South Lamar 35

Scout Bragwell scored 16 points to lead four players in double-figures last Friday as the Bulldogs broke open a tight game at the half to rout fellow Class 1A contender South Lamar in

'Cats go 1-2 at Brooks

Staff reports

Brooks led Tharptown 44-17 at the half and finished last Friday's game with 12 threes, cruising to a 74-29 rout of the Wildcats at the Brooks Invitational. Brooks hit eight threes in the first half and three more in the third quarter, opening up a 66-26 lead. Kyler Murks led the Lions with 16 points. Eli McDonald added 11, and Carson Villalta had 10.

Winston Nolen led Tharptown with 10 points, and Edward Lopez added seven. Edwin Garcia finished with four points, and Hayden Moss had three. Colton Simmons and Luis Valdez each had two, and Tyler Amos added one.

The Wildcats (5-11) closed out the tournament on Saturday with a 66-46 loss to Lexington.

In previous action at the Brooks Tournament:

Tharptown 56 East Lawrence 49

Edward Lopez scored 17 points to lead four Tharptown players in double-figures last Thursday as the Wildcats won for the third time in their last four games, rallying from a six-point halftime deficit to beat East Lawrence.

Winston Nolen had 14 points for Tharptown, and Edwin Garcia and Colton Simmons each added 11.

Nolen came out hot with nine first-quarter points, helping the Wildcats build a 19-17 lead by the end of one. Peyton Kelly countered with nine points for East Lawrence (0-13) in the second quarter as the Eagles out-scored Tharptown 16-8 to take a 33-27 lead into the locker room.

Lopez, a senior post player, had seven points in the third quarter, helping the Wildcats out-score East Lawrence 16-7 to take a 43-40 lead. Garcia then put up five points in the fourth, helping Tharptown hold on and earn a date with tournament host Brooks on Friday.

Lopez finished with 12 rebounds to go along with his 17 points. Nolen shot 5-for-6 from the line and had five assists to go along with his 14 points. Tyler Amos had three points for the Wildcats, who won despite shooting just 8-for-19 from the foul line.

Kelly led the Eagles with 18 points.

'MURR,' from page 14

consolation action.

Leading by just two at the break, Belgreen got nine points from Bragwell and six from Will Bonner in the third quarter, out-scoring South Lamar 25-9 to open up a 49-31 advantage.

Bragwell finished the game with four threes, scoring 14 of his 16 points in the second half. Isac Willingham shot 5-for-7 from the line and finished with 15 points. Collin Bonner added 12 points, and Will Bonner scored 10. Bryant Hubbert had four, and Will Donahoe chipped in with two.

The Bulldogs made four threes and shot 9-for-12 from the line.

Belgreen 55 Haleyville 30

Will Bonner scored 10 first-quarter points for Belgreen last Thursday afternoon, helping the Bulldogs start fast on their way to a rout of short-handed Haleyville in the first round of the Helen Keller Hospital Bracy Invitational at Deshler High School.

Belgreen used full-court pressure to force eight Lion turnovers in the first quarter and led 19-8 at the end of one. The Bulldogs were still up 11 at the break and then pulled away in the second half, out-scoring Haleyville 26-12.

Haleyville dressed only five players for last Thursday's game due to illness and injury. The Lions were down only one at 7-6 with 3:00 left in the first quarter before Collin Bonner dropped in a floater to spark a 12-0 run by Belgreen. Will Bonner scored on a drive and then converted a three-point play off a steal and assist by Collin Bonner to make it 14-6.

Scout Bragwell buried a three, and then Bryant Hubbert scored on a put-back to cap the run and make it 19-6.

Haleyville hung around in the second quarter, trimming the lead to eight on a couple of occasions before Will Bonner set up Bragwell for a three that sent Belgreen into the locker room with a 29-18 lead. Collin Bonner scored seven points in the third quarter, helping the Bulldogs extend the lead to 43-24 heading to the fourth.

Will Bonner shot 7-for-14 from the floor and had five assists to go along with his 17 points. Collin Bonner was 4-for-8 from the floor and had three rebounds and three steals to go along with his 11 points. Bragwell scored six points, and Will Donahoe added six points and three assists.

Hubbert finished with four points, six boards and three steals. Isac Willingham had three points, 11 rebounds, three assists and two steals. Alex Betts and David Plott also scored three points apiece.

The Bulldogs shot 42 percent (22-for-53) from the floor with six threes and went 5-for-8 from the line. They turned the ball over 12 times, compared to 24 turnovers by Haleyville. The Lions shot 36 percent (13-for-36) from the field. They did not hit a three and went 4-for-5 from the line.



Emma Dempsey Junior Post Player, Belgreen

Dempsey averaged 22.0 points last week in three games at the Winston County Christmas Tournament, helping the Lady Bulldogs go 2-1. After scoring 17 points in a loss to Haleyville last Thursday, the 6'1 junior scored a career-high 27 points on Friday in a 59-34 rout of Carbon Hill. She followed that up with 22 points Saturday in a 69-38 win over Hamilton.

Dempsey was averaging 13.4 points per game through Sunday, helping Belgreen enter the New Year with a 13-4 record.



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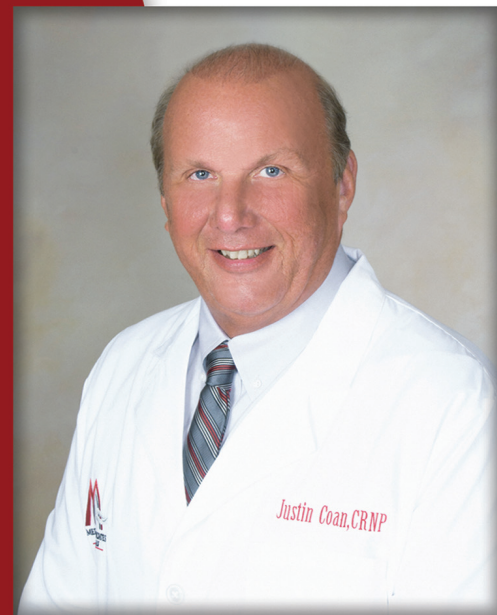
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Lady Bulldogs rout Carbon Hill, Hamilton

Staff reports

Belgreen's girls broke open a tight game against Hamilton by dominating the second and third quarters, cruising to a 69-38 rout of the Lady Aggies last Saturday at the Winston County Tournament.

Emma Dempsey scored eight first-quarter points for the Lady Bulldogs (13-4), but the game was tied 12-12 at the end of one. Belgreen then got two threes from Autumn Bragwell and another from Dakota Green in the second quarter, out-scoring Hamilton 20-11 to take a 32-23 lead into the locker room.

Bragwell had six more points in the third quarter as the Lady Bulldogs out-scored Hamilton 20-7 to open up a 52-30 cushion. Emma Dempsey and Gracie Dempsey each scored six points in the fourth quarter to help Belgreen pull away.

Emma Dempsey shot 6-for-6 from the foul line and topped the 20-point mark for the second straight game, finishing with 22. Bragwell added 15 points, and Gracie Dempsey had 11. Ansley Tate finished with nine points, and Katie Dempsey hit two threes and scored eight points. Green had three points, and Kaley Chandler added one.

The Lady Bulldogs made seven threes and shot 14-for-19 from the line.

In previous action at the Winston County Tournament:

Belgreen 59 Carbon Hill 34

Emma Dempsey scored a career-high 27 points for Belgreen last Friday afternoon, leading the Lady Bulldogs to a rout of Carbon Hill on day two of the Winston County Christmas Tournament.

Belgreen got nine points from senior post player Ansley Tate in the first

quarter, building a 14-5 lead by the end of one. The Lady Bulldogs extended the lead to 28-14 by halftime and then got 14 third-quarter points from Dempsey, out-scoring Carbon Hill 26-6 to open up a 54-20 lead.

Dempsey, a junior post player, shot 7-for-9 from the foul line and bested her previous career-high of 26 points by one. Tate finished with 14 points, and Autumn Bragwell added six, going 4-for-4 from the line. Dakota Green and Gracie Dempsey scored four points apiece, and Katie Dempsey and Kaley Chandler each had two.

Belgreen did not make a three but shot 15-for-20 from the foul line.

Haleyville 58 Belgreen 52

The Lady Bulldogs led by nine at the end of one quarter last Thursday but couldn't close the deal, falling to Haleyville in a tournament at Winston County High School.

Belgreen got three-pointers from Autumn Bragwell, Gracie Dempsey and Kaley Chandler in the first quarter, building a 16-7 lead by the end of one. Haleyville trimmed the lead to seven by the half and then dominated the third quarter, out-scoring the Lady Bulldogs 22-8 to take a 43-36 lead into the fourth.

Catie Aldridge led the Lady Lions with 21 points. Haleyville shot 16-for-29 from the foul line as a team.

Belgreen did not make a three after the first quarter and finished the day 11-for-17 from the foul line. Emma Dempsey led the Lady Bulldogs with 17 points, going 5-for-5 from the line. Ansley Tate added 14 points, and Bragwell had eight. Gracie Dempsey scored six points, and Chandler had three.

Dakota Green and Noelle Willingham each added two.

Red Bay boys drop tight one to Okawville

Staff reports

Red Bay's boys pushed Okawville (IL) to the wire last Saturday at the Mater Dei Christmas Tournament in Illinois, but the Rockets made enough free throws down the stretch to hold on for a 55-48 win over the Tigers.

Red Bay (9-6) got five first-quarter points from Tanner Hamilton, four from Landon Glover and one three-pointer apiece from Lane Shewbart and Clay Allison, but the Tigers still trailed 19-17 at the end of one.

Okawville still led by two at the half and at the end of three quarters before out-scoring the Tigers 17-12 in the fourth. The Rockets shot 9-for-14 from the foul line in the final period.

Shewbart finished with 13 points to lead Red Bay, and Hamilton added 11. Glover scored seven points, and Allison finished with six points on a pair of threes. Bryson Hacker had five points, and Gage Bays finished with four. Andrew Ray added two points.

The Tigers hit four threes as a team and shot 12-for-13 from the line.

In previous action at the Mater Dei Tournament:

Mascoutah (IL) 68 Red Bay 42

The Indians hit 11 threes in last Friday's game, pulling away from Red Bay after a tight first quarter.

The Tigers got seven first-quarter points from Clay Allison and one three-pointer apiece from Carson Corum and Dawson Wright, trailing by just four at 23-19 at the end of one.

Mascoutah, which hit three threes in the first quarter, made three more in

the second and three more in the third, opening up a 56-40 lead. The Indians then out-scored Red Bay 12-2 in the fourth.

Lane Shewbart led the Tigers with 11 points, and Andrew Ray added nine. Allison finished with seven points, and Landon Glover scored six. Wright, Corum and Tanner Hamilton each had three.

Red Bay made five threes as a team but shot just 3-for-7 at the foul line.

Red Bay 55 Highland (IL) High 44

Red Bay got 12 points from Lane Shewbart and 11 from Clay Allison last Friday afternoon, snapping a two-game skid with a win over Highland (IL) High School.

The Tigers trailed 11-8 before knocking down four threes (two by Bryson Hacker and one each by Allison and Carson Corum) in the second quarter, out-scoring Highland 17-11 to take a 25-22 lead into the locker room.

Red Bay extended the lead to 39-32 by the end of the third quarter, and then Shewbart and Allison helped seal the deal down the stretch. Shewbart, a 6'6 junior, scored seven points in the fourth quarter, and Allison added six. The senior guard shot 4-for-6 from the foul line in the final period.

Shewbart and Allison each finished 4-for-7 at the foul line. The Tigers struggled as a team at the line, shooting just 15-for-28. They made six threes, including two apiece by Corum and Hacker.

Landon Glover scored seven points for Red Bay. Corum, Hacker, Tanner Hamilton and Andrew Ray added six apiece. Gage Bays had one.

Mater Dei 51 Red Bay 33

Playing short-handed last Thursday, Red Bay's boys dropped their second straight game.

The Tigers made the trip without seven players, including two starters. Six of those players are football players who traveled with the Red Bay football team to Orlando, Florida, to celebrate the Tigers' 10-0 regular season at Disney World. Junior forward Braden Ray, the team's leading scorer, has the flu and also did not make the trip to Illinois.

Red Bay fell behind Mater Dei 15-6 after one quarter and trailed 27-17 at the break. The Tigers then got out-scored 15-7 in the third quarter.

Lane Shewbart and Clay Allison led Red Bay with seven points apiece. Carson Corum, called up from the B-Team for the trip, hit two threes and scored six points. Gage Bays added five points, and Tanner Hamilton and Andrew Ray each had three. Landon Glover, another B-Team call-up, scored two points.

The Tigers hit five threes as a team and shot 4-for-6 from the foul line.



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'RHS,' from page 13

Dyas posted his sixth game of the season with 20-plus points, finishing with 20 on the nose. The junior forward hit four threes, two of which came in his eight-point third quarter. Jeb Bishop, a 6'3 junior, scored nine of his 11 points in the second half, going 5-for-8 from the foul line.

Nathaniel Trussell had three points, and Levi Gist added two. Russellville hit four threes as a team and shot 14-for-25 from the line.

Lane McCay led Central with 20 points, hitting three threes and going 5-for-7 from the line. Dalton Hanback added 11 points, and Palmer had nine. Brodie Montgomery and Jake Hall each hit two threes and scored six points apiece. The Wildcats made 11 threes and shot 10-for-17 from the line.

The Golden Tigers (8-5) wrapped up play in the Bracy with a 68-61 loss to Tanner on Saturday. In previous action at the Bracy:

Covenant Christian 51 Russellville 48

Titus Griffin scored 12 of his 16 points in the second half last Thursday, helping the Eagles open their tournament title run with a first-round win over Russellville.

The Golden Tigers got six early points from Brooks Scott and one three-pointer apiece from Nathaniel Trussell and Chandler Dyas in the first quarter, building a 14-10 lead by the end of one. Russellville went cold in the second quarter, enduring nearly a six-minute stretch without a field goal and getting out-scored 10-5. Zeke Griffin scored five points in the second for the Eagles, helping them take a 20-19 lead into the locker room.

Both teams heated up in the third quarter. Trussell and fellow senior guard Levi Gist combined to score nine quick points for the Golden Tigers to open the second half, and Dyas drilled a couple of threes as Russellville out-scored Covenant 19-16 to take a 38-36 lead into the fourth.

Titus Griffin, held to just four free throws in the first half, followed up his five-point third quarter with seven in the fourth, hitting a pair of key threes to help the Eagles regain the lead.

Covenant was up three with just a few seconds remaining when Griffin missed the front end of a one-and-one. The Golden Tigers grabbed the rebound but turned the ball over near mid-court, failing to get off a shot and suffering their second straight loss on the heels of a five-game win streak.

Titus Griffin and 6'8 sophomore Haston Alexander each finished with 16 points to lead Covenant. The Eagles made five threes as a team and shot 6-for-12 from the foul line.

Dyas missed six of his first seven shots but finished with 17 points, hitting three threes and going 4-for-7 from the line. Scott, Trussell and Gist each scored seven points. Jeb Bishop and Boots McCulloch had four apiece, and Jamal Hubbard added two.

Russellville hit five threes and shot 5-for-9 from the line.

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Allen's season-high 30 points send Lady Bobcats past West Limestone

Staff reports

Kallie Allen scored a season-high 30 points for Phil Campbell last Friday, leading the Lady Bobcats to a 69-49 win over West Limestone on day two of the Keith Davis Memorial Christmas Tournament at Lauderdale County High School.

Phil Campbell's girls dominated the first quarter, getting seven points from Caitlynn Mills and six from Allen on their way to building a 19-3 lead by the end of one. Allen, a senior guard, then poured in 13 second-quarter points, helping Phil Campbell (7-4 through Sunday) take a 39-25 lead into the locker room.

West Limestone (4-11) trimmed the lead to nine by the end of the third quarter, but Allen had 10 points in the fourth as the Lady Bobcats closed with an 18-7 run to put the game out of reach.

Allen, who had already topped the 20-point mark five times this season, hit two threes and shot 10-for-14 from the foul line last Friday on her way to reaching 30 for the first time this year. Mills shot 6-for-8 from the line and finished with 17 points. Olivia Taylor and Madison Branch each had eight points, and Faith Cook and Kaci Harris

added three apiece.

Phil Campbell hit four threes and shot 19-for-26 from the line.

Carlie Belle Winter led West Limestone with 18 points, 14 of which came in the second quarter. Cassidy Winter added 17 points for the Lady Wildcats.

Phil Campbell was scheduled to play its final two games of the tournament on Monday against Florence at noon and Mars Hill at 6 p.m.

In previous action at the Keith Davis Memorial Christmas Tournament:

Central-Florence 56 Tharptown 26

Bryndall Mitchell hit five threes and scored 21 points to lead Central-Florence past Tharptown last Friday.

Laura Lee Keener added 14 points for Central, which led 18-4 at the end of one quarter and 35-8 at the half.

Gracie Montgomery led Tharptown (7-6 through Sunday) with 13 points. Brooke Daily had five points, and Jaiden Gaston added three. Adriana Borden scored two points, and Kyndall Morgan, Shaylee Wieting and Aly Vandiver each had one.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Allen had already topped the 20-point mark five times this season, including December 5 at Red Bay (above), prior to putting up 30 points in last Friday's 69-49 win over West Limestone.

See 'ALLEN,' page 18



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‘VINA,’ from page 13

Sarah Johnson chipped in with two points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals, and Sara Harper had three assists and two steals. Vina made 10 threes as a team and shot 14-for-22 from the foul line.

Vina 56 Woodville 29

Vina's girls dominated the second half against Woodville last Friday afternoon, pulling away to open the tournament with a big win.

The Lady Red Devils led by just five at the half before getting eight points from Rayleigh Guin in the third quarter and out-scoring Woodville 15-9 to open up a 37-26 advantage. Vina then got two fourth-quarter threes from Kaitlyn King and another from Hailey Cantrell, out-scoring Woodville 19-3 in

the final period to win going away.

Guin finished with 17 points and also had 10 steals and seven assists. King scored 12 points on four threes, adding four rebounds, four steals and three assists. Kaitlyn Athey knocked down two threes in the first quarter and three in the game, finishing with 11 points, four assists and three steals.

Sara Scott added six points, seven rebounds and four steals, and Cantrell scored all five of her points in the fourth quarter. Kassidie Gesler added three points, and Sarah Johnson had two points, four boards and four steals.

The Lady Red Devils hit eight threes as a team and shot 10-for-20 from the foul line.

‘ALLEN,’ from page 17

Tharptown was scheduled to play its final game of the tournament on Monday at 7:30 p.m. against the host school, Lauderdale County.

Tharptown 52 Elkmont 37

Gracie Montgomery came out hot for Tharptown last Thursday afternoon, helping the Lady Wildcats build a big early lead on their way to a win over Elkmont.

Montgomery, a sophomore guard, hit three early threes and scored 11 first-quarter points as Tharptown built an 18-8 lead by the end of one. Elkmont hung around and trailed by just six at 32-26 before the Lady Wildcats went 11-for-18 from the foul line in the fourth quarter to seal the deal.

Montgomery finished with 18 points, knocking down four threes. Brooke Daily scored all nine of her points in the second half, going 5-for-6 from

the line in the fourth quarter.

Shaylee Wieting had six points, and Autumn Montgomery, Aly Vandiver and Jaiden Gaston each finished with four. Sarah Mansell had three, and Adriana Borden and Kyndall Morgan added two apiece.

Tharptown hit six threes as a team and shot 18-for-30 from the foul line. Elkmont was 14-for-26 from the line.

Deshler 57 Phil Campbell 44

Deshler's girls hit five threes in the fourth quarter last Thursday, out-scoring Phil Campbell 22-7 in the final period to turn a two-point deficit into a 13-point win.

Trailing 25-21 at the half, the Lady Bobcats got seven points from Olivia Taylor and five from Katie Thomas in the third quarter, out-scoring Deshler

16-10 to take a 37-35 lead into the fourth. The Lady Tigers heated up down the stretch, getting two threes apiece from Chloe Siegel and Hannah Collinsworth and another from Shamari Thirkill on their way to snapping Phil Campbell's six-game win streak.

Siegel hit four threes and finished with 12 points. Thirkill also scored 12, and Collinsworth added three threes and 11 points. Deshler made nine threes as a team.

The Lady Bobcats hit just two threes and struggled from the foul line, finishing 15-for-30. Kallie Allen led Phil Campbell with 12 points, and Taylor added 10. Thomas and Caitlynn Mills scored six points apiece, and Kenner Scott finished with five. Madison Branch scored four, and Kaci Harris added two.

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“Beat Brady” is back for bowl season! Fill out the entry form on this page and mail it to us at 113 Washington Ave. NW, Russellville, AL 35653, or email your picks to us along with your name and phone number at franklinfreepress@ yahoo.com. All entries must be received by 11 a.m. on Friday, December 27! Only one entry per person, please. The winner of the “Beat Brady” bowl contest will receive \$50 cash! Everyone is eligible to play!

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Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Bowl Season	Bailey's Pick	Your Pick
Oklahoma St. vs. Texas A&M	Texas A&M	_____
Memphis vs. Penn State	Penn State	_____
Clemson vs. Ohio State	Clemson	_____
Oklahoma vs. LSU	LSU	_____
Florida vs. Virginia	Florida	_____
Michigan vs. Alabama	Alabama	_____
Minnesota vs. Auburn	Minnesota	_____
Oregon vs. Wisconsin	Wisconsin	_____
Georgia vs. Baylor	Baylor	_____
Indiana vs. Tennessee	Tennessee	_____
Tiebreaker Score:	Michigan _____	AL _____
Your Name:	_____	
Phone number:	_____	



PHOTOS/KG
BACK IN ACTION - Area play will heat up for local teams in January. Boots McCulloch (far left) and Russellville will visit West Point this Friday in search of their first area win. Also on Friday, Edward Lopez (23) and Tharptown will head to Sheffield for an area game, while Collin Bonner (3) and Belgreen will look to remain unbeaten in area play when they travel to face Phillips.

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When I'm touring on the road, I love to unwind with my favorite newspaper, the Franklin Free Press!

...Like Country Music Legend, T Graham Brown



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