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01.15.20

Robertson: Eliminating police jurisdictions not a good idea

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

When proposed legislation is introduced this year that could alter or eliminate police jurisdictions outside municipalities, don't expect Rep. Poncey Robertson (R-Mount Hope) to be among the bill's supporters.

Sen. Chris Elliott (R-Fairhope) introduced legislation last year that would have limited police jurisdictions and taxing authority for cities to the city limits. The bill cleared the Senate but not the House. Elliott plans to introduce similar legislation this year.

Police jurisdictions in Alabama are areas contiguous to city limits that may extend up to three miles for cities with populations more than 6,000 and 1.5 miles for towns less than 6,000. Russellville's three-mile police jurisdictions extends to the caution light on Highway 43 in Littleville, nearly to Tharptown on Hwy. 48, and to the bottom of Spruce Pine Mountain on Highway 43 South, according to Russellville Police chief Chris Hargett.

The western police jurisdiction ends near Hicks Body Shop on Hwy. 24 West.

Residents in police jurisdictions receive city services including fire protection and limited police protection and are subject to municipal building code regulations. Elliott believes it to be unfair that police jurisdiction residents don't have a say in electing city officials. His proposed 2020 legislation would allow counties to have referendums where voters decide whether to keep existing police jurisdictions.




Robertson

Robertson, a retired law enforcement officer, said eliminating services like police and fire protection and building code enforcement could create a financial hardship on residents in those police jurisdictions.

"If you eliminate those police jurisdictions, then you

See 'POLICE' Page 9

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Russellville juvenile charged with threat of school shooting

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

After making a threatening social media post 'on a dare,' a Russellville juvenile finds himself in legal trouble facing two criminal charges.

The juvenile was interviewed and charged January 7 with Making a Terrorist Threat and Harassing Communications after law enforcement linked a social media post back to him.

The post, made on Snapchat, included a photo of a firearm being held by someone with a caption indicating he was going to 'shoot Russellville High School up,' according to Russellville Police chief Chris Hargett.

"Our investigation indicated he made the post on a dare," Hargett said. "It included a firearm partially con-

cealed and being held by someone, with the caption 'I'm gonna shoot RHS up,' or something to that effect."

"I don't know what it will take for young people to understand the consequences of doing these types of things," Hargett said, "other than putting them in detention and going through the legal system."

According to www.webwise.ie, Snapchat is "a mobile messaging application used to share photos, videos, text and drawings. It's free to download the app and free to send messages using it. It has become hugely popular in a very short space of time, especially with young people.

"There is one feature that makes Snapchat different from other forms of texting and photo sharing: The messages disappear from the recipient's phone after a few

See 'THREAT,' Page 9

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James Thomas "Tommy" Blankenship, Russellville, age 64
Died Monday, January 6, 2020. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Bethlehem Cemetery.

Kenneth E. Carmack, Tuscumbia, age 59
Died Sunday, January 5, 2020. The family was planning to hold a memorial service at a later date. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville was assisting the family.

Gerald E. Jackson, Russellville, age 80
Died Friday, January 10, 2020. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Fulton Bridge Cemetery in Hamilton.

Martha Ann Massey, Russellville, age 76
Died Thursday, January 9, 2020. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Dempsey Cemetery.

Earline Burcham Mock, Phil Campbell, age 84
Died Sunday, January 5, 2020. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Macedonia Cemetery.

Rebecca Ann Baker Potter, Russellville, age 66
Died Monday, January 6, 2020. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Blue Springs Cemetery in Phil Campbell.

Mark Scott Smith, Spruce Pine, age 51
Died Saturday, January 11, 2020. The family was planning to hold a memorial service at a later date at Sunny Home Cemetery in Haleyville. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.

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The Best is History: Thomas J. Gantt, Galvanized Yankee

The Franklin Free Press was fortunate to be asked to publish a series of historical profiles on Franklin County residents. The well researched articles are the work of Patrick H. Graves, Jr. We appreciate Mr. Graves' efforts to preserve history and public awareness of the people who helped shape Franklin County.

Thomas John Gantt (1844-1936), Galvanized Yankee

By Patrick H. Graves, Jr.

Thomas John Gantt was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on December 1, 1844, to James Lawrence Gantt (1818 -1895) and Mary Elizabeth Merritt (1820-1859).

On February 6, 1864, he enlisted in the Confederate Army under the name T. J. Hughbanks and was assigned to 7th South Carolina Cavalry. Why he used this alias is unknown. He may have been a paid substitute for a Hughbanks. The practice of hiring substitutes reinforced the perception that it was "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight."

Two months later, Gantt was captured by 1st New York Mounted Rifles on April 28, 1864, at New Kent Courthouse, Virginia, and incarcerated at Point Lookout at the confluence of the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. In a grand coincidence, my great-grandfather, John Greenwald (1842-1923), was a member of that regiment.

To avoid dreadful POW camps or, worse, being paroled only to fight again, Gantt became a "Galvanized Yankee," volunteering for service in the Union Army on May 9, 1864. He was assigned to the 1st U. S. Volunteers, a regiment consisting primarily of ex-Confederates. The regiment served at Norfolk before being sent to Fort Rice in the Dakota Territory in response to Indian raids, marching the last 272 miles on foot.

On June 9, 1865, Gantt was sent to the General Hospital with a hernia and scurvy. He was discharged from the Army on June 26, 1865.

After the war, he lived in Carter and Scott counties, Tennessee, where he married Sarah Jane Strunk in 1876 after the death of this first wife. The union produced a large family of 11, the first of whom was born in Tennessee. The other children were born in Alabama. By January of 1878, the family was in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, where the 1880 census showed him keeping a saloon.

"He had a passionate love for justice and humanity. His passing increases greatly my own sadness of soul. If I inquire of myself why this sadness of soul, I can find no other answer but selfishness. Someone has said that Death is the only unpoisoned gift which Nature has in store for us. Certainly it is the only escape from the awful struggle for existence with which every individual born into the world is confronted. Why, there are hundreds of diseases to destroy our happiness and our lives. The floods, the storms, the heat, the cold and a thousand other things conspire to make life sad. Then why bewail the passing of one who has made such a long, hard fight in this struggle for existence? Rather, we should rejoice in the thought that henceforth, a long peaceful rest will be his...."

The 1910 through 1930 censuses found the family farming in Hills, Franklin County, between Saints Cross Roads and Mountain Star.

Southerners who joined the Union Army were pariahs in some Southern communities even 71 years after the war!

My grandfather, Dr. Alonzo Graves (1874-1941), abided by a proverb—"live and let live"—which means he tolerated the opinions and behavior of others so they would similarly tolerate his. This attitude made my grandfather a friend to many.

Alonzo spoke of Gantt in a humorous letter to an unidentified friend on December 7, 1936:

"I have had two unique experiences in my time....One was around 35 years ago....The other experience happened only this year. One day an old friend, a Union army veteran 90-odd years old sent his car in for me to go see him. In that way I made regular visits to him. By the end of the week he was dead. Don't know how much longer he would have lived had I not been on the job. However this may be, I was called upon to conduct the funeral services and did."

On Gantt's death on April 6, 1936, Dr. Graves was asked to give the eulogy:

"Friends! We have assembled here today because of the great love and respect we have for Thomas Gantt. He was born in Charleston, South Carolina, December 1, 1844. He lived a long and useful life. He made a good neighbor. He made a good citizen. The test of one's goodness is not to be found in the amen corners of society. If we want to find the true social value of any individual, we must go into his home, make inquiry among his neighbors and at the Sheriff's office or Police Headquarters.

"I have known Mr. Gantt for more than 20 years—have known him intimate-



COURTESY PHOTO

This photograph, circa 1900, shows Gantt, his wife, Sarah Jane Strunk (1855-1934), and children.

ly, and I have never known anything at all bad about him. I was always glad to see him come, for he spread joy and cheerfulness, and never sorrow or gloom. He found much joy in living, and he harbored no fear of the hereafter. He had friends by the score. If he had an enemy, I don't know of it.

"He was spiritually minded. His soul possessed, in abundance, the qualities that gave birth to the Golden Rule, to the story of the good Samaritan and to morals.

"He had a passionate love for justice and humanity. His passing increases greatly my own sadness of soul. If I inquire of myself why this sadness of soul, I can find no other answer but selfishness. Someone has said that Death is the only unpoisoned gift which Nature has in store for us. Certainly it is the only escape from the awful struggle for existence with which every individual born into the world is confronted. Why, there are hundreds of diseases to destroy our happiness and our lives. The floods, the storms, the heat, the cold and a thousand other things conspire to make life sad. Then why bewail the passing of one who has made such a long, hard fight in this struggle for existence? Rather, we should rejoice in the thought that henceforth, a long peaceful rest will be his.

"At the age of 19, he volunteered his service—volunteered his life—for the Union cause in the Civil War. As the years go by and prejudice fades, we come, more and more, to realize the goodness of the cause he espoused. We look about us and behold a united nation. And we sometimes shudder at the thought of what might have been, had the cause for which Thomas Gantt stood, been lost."

About the Author

Pat Graves graduated from Russellville High School in 1959 and from West Point in 1964. He was commissioned in the Infantry and after Airborne and Ranger Schools, was assigned to the 101st Airborne Div. at Fort Campbell, KY. He served in Vietnam with the First Brigade, 101st, July 1965-July 1966, as a rifle platoon leader. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion (Reinforced), 3d Infantry at Arlington National Cemetery August 1966-June 1968. He commanded the Honor Guard Company, performing interments, guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Kennedy gravesite, conducting ceremonies at the White House and other D.C. locations. He graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1972 and practiced law in Huntsville until 2010. Graves is married to the former Sara James, also from Russellville.

Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoon panels, 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 visit us online at www.franklinfreepress.net!

Honey-Do: Battery life

Batteries can be a sore subject this time of year. They are a huge part of our lives now in so many different ways: Power tools, cell phones, cars and trucks, and, of course, lawnmowers.

Here are a few tips on battery maintenance that may be useful.

•**USE IT OR LOSE IT.** Mowers tend to sit idle for several months over the winter, and batteries will go bad. It's a really good idea to crank your mower about once a month and let it run for a bit. Catch a decent day and take a drive around the yard, contemplating the coming spring's honey-do list. If you are fortunate to have a climate-controlled storage area for your mower, that will help with battery life as well.

•**Mowers tend to sit idle for several months in the winter, and batteries will go bad. It's a really good idea to crank your mower about once a month and let it run for a bit. Catch a decent day and take a drive around the yard, contemplating the coming spring's honey-do list.**

•**REMOVE AND STORE.** It's a good idea to remove your lawn mower battery for the winter and store it in a cool, dry place. Be sure

to store it away from gas cans, the water heater or furnace. Disconnect the battery cable from the battery, starting with the negative cable [it will have a minus sign].

Remove the battery and wipe it off with a cloth. Clean the battery terminal using a metal brush, or clean it with a battery cleaner product.

•**CHARGE IT.** Trickle chargers are available that will feed your battery a small charge to keep it built up. These chargers can be bought for around \$20, much cheaper than a new battery. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and set these up in a safe place away from any flammable liquids or materials.

If your engine won't turn over or clicks, your battery may be dead. If the mower makes no sound at all, the issue may be a safety switch or wiring problem. **REMOVE THE KEY FROM THE SWITCH** and then check the connections to the battery, making sure they are tight. There will be a red (positive, +) and a black (negative, -).



Doug Green

See 'BATTERY,' Page 5



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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 Helping others was just on this... a way of life back then

I had one of the sweetest Grandmas. When I was young, she lived in Leighton next to the railroad tracks. We'd sit on her porch and wave at the conductor as the train whizzed by with his horn a'blaring.

At nighttime, that train wasn't nearly as pleasant going by. At least two trains came by during the night. If it had been 15, I'd have heard them, too! Or I could just say I *felt* the train go by. The windows would rattle, and the stuff on the walls moved. It was an experience that I never liked, because I didn't know if something would really fall, and I was scared until I could hear the horn blow farther down the tracks.

Something else I experienced only at Grandma's house was the potty we'd have to use during the night. I'd always hope I didn't have to go. The floors were so cold. Of course, sitting on the pot was, too! Besides that, I hated getting out of that warm bed, weighted down with quilts to stay warm. That was one of my favorite things about cold bedrooms. I loved the way it felt with all those quilts.

A lot of folks dipped snuff back then, and my Grandma was one of them. I couldn't tell you how many times she tried to get me to take "a little dip." She told me I was the only one of her grandkids who had not tried it. I'd tell her I didn't want to. She'd show me time and time again how to do it, but I never did. I never thought one time I was better than my cousins who had done it. They were probably braver. Much braver!

Grandma would always want to ride anything she had never been on. She rode on motorcy-

cles, Go-Karts, a dragster and a jeep. I was surprised about the jeep, since my Grandma was so short, but she got up as good as I did.

She started telling us every Christmas that it would be her last Christmas. I'd ask how she knew, and she'd say, "I just know." After a few years of this, I asked her one Christmas why she was still here. She didn't quite understand my question until I told her she was supposed to have died years ago and she was still here.

I laughed, and she gave her famous response of "Awww!" and pinched me on my nose and laughed. She had such a great sense of humor. I enjoyed messing with her. But wait...I still enjoy messing with people! I don't hang around a lot of people without a sense of humor. Life is too boring that way.

I remember having my movie camera at Grandma's house, and I was filming her. She was just standing still and asked how much longer before I'd be finished taking her picture. I explained to her it was a movie camera and she needed to move, so she danced a little jig for me. She was just so much fun.

Life was simple and more stress-free back then, and it seemed helping each other was a way of life with everyone. Families helped families, and being paid never crossed their minds. Not once! Neighbors seemed to know when a neighbor needed help.



Gail Motes

See 'HELPING,' Page 11



**DAVE
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by Dave Ramsey

Thankfulness and boundaries

Dear Dave,
My fiancé and I are getting married in May. He's a youth pastor, and I'm in grad school. His mom and dad found a home they think we'll like, and they want to gift us money for a down payment. I'm not sure how I feel about this under our present circumstances.

Do you think we should go ahead and accept when I'll still be in school and we'll still have debt to pay off?

Emily

Dear Emily,
You need to get to know each other before you buy a house together. I always recommend that young couples rent for a year and concentrate on each other, the new marriage, cleaning up any debts you have and establishing an emergency fund. Then, after another year or so when you've had time to take control of your finances, the idea of looking for a home becomes much smarter.

It sounds like your future in-laws are really generous people. They're trying to do something nice for you two, but they kind of got out ahead of things with this idea. And in the process, they violated some boundaries in your relationship with your fiancé.

My advice is to have a conversation with your fiancé about all this and get on the same page about what is the smart thing to do. Then the two of you need to have a loving discussion with his parents. Let him do most of the talking and say thank you a lot, but let them know you both feel it would be best to start out by renting something for a year or so. Then after a little time has passed, tell them if they still want to help with a down payment you'd both very grateful.

'BATTERY,' from page 4

The battery can be tested with a multimeter. Test the battery's voltage by setting the multimeter to DC. Touch the red probe to the positive terminal of the battery and the black probe to the negative terminal of the battery at the same time. Read the meter. If it has 12.7 DC volts or higher, the battery is good and something else is causing your starting problem. If the voltage reading is lower, the battery is discharged to some degree but may perk up after charging. If it reads 11.5 volts or lower, the battery is weak or damaged and needs replacing.

When buying a new battery, take the old one with you so it can be matched up and turned in for recycling. Next week, we'll look at proper charging techniques.

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

I think this approach would be good for the boundary issues *and* for your finances!

Dave

Welcome to life

Dear Dave,
Our son just turned eight years old. Is it time to start giving him an allowance?

Dan

Dear Dan,
There's never a time for an allowance, no matter the child's age. In my mind, that kind of thinking is the best way to plant the seeds of entitlement. You don't want your son growing up with the idea that he's owed money simply because he's alive.

Instead, work out a plan to pay him commissions. Assign him weekly chores that are age-appropriate. Then, when the work gets done, he gets paid. And guess what? If the work doesn't get done, he doesn't get paid! Not only do we want to teach a healthy work ethic, but we also want him to learn that work creates money.

Of course, there are some things a child should be expected to do without financial reward. Everyone needs to pitch in and do certain things to help out when they're part of a family. But once you've taught him about work, make sure to also teach him about the three uses for money—saving, spending and giving.

Lessons on the basic handling of money are some of the best teachable moments you can have with your child. Not only does it make them more knowledgeable about finances, it also helps them learn about life!

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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What's Happening


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


 **R**ussellville Masonic Lodge 371 is selling Boston butts for Super Bowl Sunday. Butts are \$30. Pre-order by calling 256-810-1970. Pickup will be Saturday, February 1 from 8-10 a.m. at the Lodge on Coffee Street.


 **T**he Russellville Parks and Recreation Department is now conducting Soccer Registration for boys and girls through Saturday, February 8. The leagues are open to boys and girls ages 3-12 of all skill levels. The fee is \$35, with a discount for sibling registration. For more information, call 256-332-8770.


 **S**aint Paul CME Church (40 Hamilton Street SW, Russellville, AL 35653) cordially invites you to worship with them on Friends and Family Day this Sunday, January 19 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.


 **E**veryone is welcome to worship services at Duncan Creek Baptist Church, 3925 Duncan Creek Road, Russellville. Service times are Sunday School at 10 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m. and Bible Study at 5 p.m. Pastor is Bro. Joe Thorn.


 **S**pruce Pine Historical Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Next meeting is February 4. All members and friends are urged to attend.


 **T**he Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833 will meet Thursday, February 6 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. Everyone welcome!


 **T**he Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre on Saturday, February 8 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.


 **A**merican Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, February 13 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.


 **E**veryone is invited to a campaign rally for Tommy Tuberville for U.S. Senate. The rally is scheduled for Sunday, February 23 from 5-7 p.m. at the A.W. Todd Centre, 201 South Washington Avenue in Russellville.


 **Y**ou 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.


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

 **T**he 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.

 **T**OPS 0155 Russellville is now meeting at the Russellville Hospital Education Room at 4:30 p.m. each Monday. Everyone is welcome to drop in for a free meeting visit. Call 256-446-5962 or 256-412-2855 for more info.

 **N**ew 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.

 **M**ountain 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.

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

Six local establishments earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Although there were no Franklin County health inspections during the week of December 30-January 3, six Colbert County establishments all received health ratings 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 85-100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are routinely inspected. Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again within 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.

Each of the six Colbert County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range. The high score was 99, received by Mike's Meat Market, 1012 Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals.

Other inspection scores and violations of Colbert County businesses included:

- McDonald's #678, 1503 Woodward Ave., Muscle Shoals, 90. (leak in freezer dripping on food).
- OK Corral, 3106 Woodward Ave., Muscle Shoals, 91. (Meats not kept at 135 degrees or above).
- Cozumel Cantina LLC, 8255 2nd Street, Leighton, 92. (Dirty in and around grease trap).
- Bojangles Restaurant #5, 401 West Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals, 95.
- East Colbert Church of Christ, 5075 River Road, Muscle Shoals, 97.

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

Senior Farmers Market now taking applications

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Extension Office recently announced the opening of enrollment for the 2020 Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

The program provides low-income seniors with coupons and vouchers that can be used to purchase eligible foods at the local Farmers Market. Vouchers may be redeemed at state certified farmers markets, farmstands and u-pick operations.

An application must be completed for each person in the household who qualifies for the program's benefits.

Eligibility is based on income levels of the recipients' gross household income (income before taxes) and may not exceed the following limits:

- \$1,718 monthly for household of one.
- \$2,327 monthly for household of two.
- \$2,934 monthly for household of three.
- \$3,541 monthly for household of four.
- \$4,150 monthly for household of five.
- \$4,756 monthly for household of six.

Applicants must be at least 60 years of age the day of the application, and all applicants must reapply each year.

Go online to enroll at <http://fma.alabama.gov/seniornutrition/>, or call the Franklin County Extension Office at 256-332-8880.

To view a list by county of vendors authorized to accept the vouchers, log onto <http://agi.alabama.gov/docs/fma/RedemptionSites>.

Coupons will be mailed from the Farmers Market Authority in Montgomery during June or July.

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

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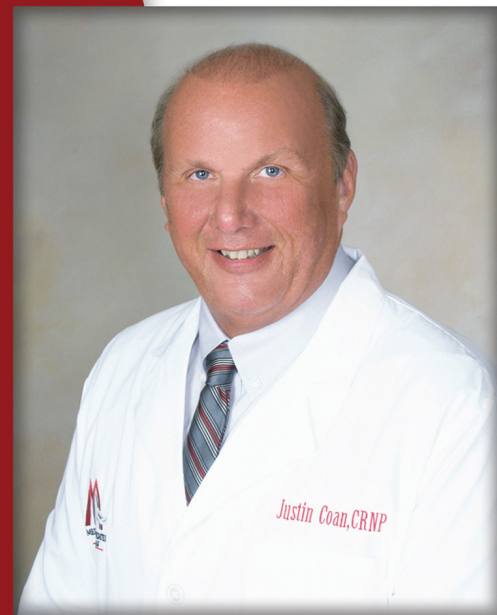
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ACIJ working to build strong presence in Franklin County

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The paths that led them to advocate for immigrant rights were very different, but for Allison Hamilton and Evelyne Rivera, the goal is the same—to advance and defend the rights of immigrants in Alabama.

Hamilton serves as the interim executive director of the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice, or ACIJ. Rivera is the organization's north regional organizer. They are working to build awareness of ACIJ in Franklin County and to let immigrants know the services provided by the coalition.

Hamilton, a Birmingham native, started with ACIJ two years ago. She is passionate about immigration issues and has the unique perspective of having been an immigrant in another country, so she's familiar with some of the challenges they face.

"Also, through many people I've known, I've always had friends who were immigrants to our country, and I see a variety of the issues they have to deal with," Hamilton said.

For Rivera, her personal experience in coming to the United States serves as a major motivator for her to reach out to other immigrants through ACIJ.

"From my experience as a DACA [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals], being an undocumented immigrant pushed me to help and get some experience working with a non-profit organization in Kentucky," Rivera said. "That pushed me to come back to my community and try and give back and make some kind of change. If we don't do it ourselves, who else is going to do it? This is a way to give back to others because I got a lot of help myself."

"We're trying to build up leaders in the community," Rivera said. "We'll be hosting meetings, and with the census coming up we want to help educate people about the census. Our goal is to inform people about anything they need based on the needs we see in the community. That includes hosting Know Your Rights workshops."

ACIJ's mission is to "advance and defend the rights of immigrants in Alabama." The coalition consists of six non-profit organizations and has hundreds of members statewide.

With the assistance of Rev. Charles Dale, Hamilton and Rivera are working to boost awareness of their coalition in Franklin County. With 54 percent of Russellville City Schools' enrollment

See 'STRONG,' page 11



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City of Russellville to host MLK Day celebration

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

This year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Day celebration will be hosted by the City of Russellville on Monday, January 20.

The annual event, which includes a commemorative march, rotates venues among Shoals cities, and this year it's Russellville's turn to host.

The march will begin at the A.W. Todd Centre, located at the corner of Washington Avenue and Montgomery Street. Participants will line up at 10:50 a.m., and the march will begin at 11 a.m.

The route will be from the Todd Centre to Jackson Avenue, where it will turn north to the Franklin County Courthouse, where there will be a short program.

Participants will then return to the Todd Centre by traveling south on Washington Avenue. A special program will begin at the Todd Centre at noon.

Devyn Keith, president of the Huntsville City Council, will be the featured speaker. Keith, the youngest person elected to the Huntsville City Council, is the great-grandson of Adam Stanford, a former teacher and principal at Reedtown School in Russellville.

Keith is a graduate of Sparkman High School and Samford University, where he was a scholarship athlete on the Bulldogs football team.

Junior speaker will be Laken Robinson. Robinson is a graduate of Russellville High School and the University of Alabama at Huntsville. She now resides in Huntsville.

The noon program will include a free lunch for all present. Event organizers have invited all local elected officials to attend.

City Council accepts bid for purchase of laptops

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council accepted a bid for the purchase of 23 laptop computers for police patrol vehicles at the council's January 6 meeting.

The lowest responsible bid was \$25,213 from SmartFox Solutions. The laptops will be installed in all Russellville Police Department vehicles. The funds for the purchase are coming completely from a Department of Homeland Security grant,

said Russellville mayor David Grissom.

In other moves, the council:

- Approved a resolution to declare certain vehicles and equipment in the Russellville Fire Department as surplus property. The vehicles include a 1987 Ford Econoline van and a 1993 GMC Sierra C/K 3500. The equipment includes a Ricoh Aficio 1022 copier, an Oce Imagicistics Finisher/laser printer/scanner and a Ricoh Aficio 1035P copier. The vehicles and property will be sold through GovDeals.com.

- Authorized the annual premium payment to the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund in the amount of \$84,249.

- Accepted a quote from Affordable Service HVAC for the purchase and installation of a 7.5 ton HVAC unit in the Russellville Police Department. The unit will cost \$9,994.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Russellville City Council is set for Tuesday, January 21, with work session at 6 p.m. and meeting to follow.

'POLICE' from page 1

eliminate not only police protection, but fire protection, and your insurance could increase," Robertson said. "Even losing code enforcement could cause your insurance to go up, because there wouldn't be a way to make sure those homes meet the fire codes."

One criticism of police jurisdictions is that their residents receive many of the benefits that city residents receive without having to pay municipal ad valorem taxes.

"Keep in mind they are getting reduced services," Robertson said. "The police are not patrolling out there in the police jurisdictions. They still provide back up and resources when needed, but it's not intrusive. From a law enforcement perspective, I lived just outside the city limits of Decatur. Would I want to wait on a deputy who may be in Lacey Springs, or would I rather have a city officer respond and be able to help? It's a benefit to those citizens at a minimal cost to cities.

"In my opinion, it actually saves money for the city and county to allow police jurisdictions."

Hargett said Russellville officers do not run traffic detail in the city's police jurisdiction. Alabama law prevents city police from writing speeding tickets in police jurisdictions, but they may issue other traffic citations, Hargett said.

"We don't go outside the city limits that often," Hargett said. "We do help the

county from time to time, but we don't regularly patrol police jurisdictions. The county responds to calls in police jurisdictions, but it's so close to the city, if it's a life-threatening situation they may ask us to go, and they know we'll respond."

Robertson said Elliott's legislation met opposition last year from the Alabama League of Municipalities, and he expects the agency to oppose any similar legislation this year.

A law passed in 2016 allows municipalities with populations exceeding 6,000 to reduce police jurisdictions down to 1.5 miles.

"A lot of cities want to eliminate police jurisdictions to encourage those folks on the outskirts to annex into the city," Robertson said. "Right now, any city that wants to cut back its police jurisdiction to less than three miles or to eliminate it already has authority to do that. It's not mandated that a city have a police jurisdiction."

Robertson said the city of Decatur recently reduced its police jurisdiction down to 1.5 miles.

"In my opinion, it's an unnecessary piece of legislation," Robertson said. "Currently the law says they may go out as far as three miles, but it doesn't say they can't take less than that. If a city feels it's using a lot of resources to cover that three-mile area, they can choose to cut it back."

'THREAT' from page 1

though, where there is not an actual finding of guilt. Instead, juveniles, if convicted, are adjudged to be delinquent. Sentencing, which can include probation, confinement, fines, etc., is determined by the juvenile court judge.

Harassing Communications is a Class C misdemeanor.

"We take student safety and statements about harm to schools very seriously," Grimes said. "We are thankful that our police department does as well and that they acted quickly in order to provide a safe environment for our students."

Russellville City Schools superintendent of education Heath Grimes said he was aware of the investigation, and he expressed his appreciation for the job done by RPD investigators and officers.

"We take student safety and statements about harm to schools very seriously," Grimes said. "We are thankful that our police department does as

well and that they acted quickly in order to provide a safe environment for our students."

Students returned to school on Wednesday, January 8. Hargett said there was no risk or danger to students or faculty upon their return.

With national news filled with stories about school and church shootings, Hargett said all reports of threats are taken seriously.

"If we don't follow up, and he returns today and starts shooting, it would be tragic," Hargett said. "We have to take these things seriously because of the times we live in. These types of threats will not be tolerated. We will investigate any type of threat to determine if there's any credibility to it or not. We wouldn't be doing our due diligence if we didn't.

"I don't know what it will take for young people to understand the consequences of doing these types of things, other than putting them in detention and going through the legal system."



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Town of Phil Campbell sets sights on HGTV series

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Ben and Erin Napier, hosts of HGTV's *Home Town*, are looking to 'breathe new life' into a town that's struggling and in need of a transformation, and the town of Phil Campbell is making a major move to be selected.

Entries are now being accepted for HGTV's *Home Town Takeover*, which will be a six-episode series scheduled to air next year.

'Brooklyn Phil' Campbell, who organized the many Phil Campbells from across the country together to first visit their namesake town in 1995, is helping spearhead the effort.

Campbell was dubbed 'Brooklyn Phil' when he first visited the town, because that's where he lived at the time.

When Campbell heard about HGTV's special event, he immediately knew the Town of Phil Campbell would be perfect for what producers are looking for.

Campbell will coordinate a video about the town for submission to HGTV. With an entry deadline of February 4, 2020, the project is a quick work-in-progress.

"I have an idea for the video we're going to do," Campbell said. "I'm talking with people in town right now, and we're going to shoot some film to include Phil Campbells from around the world sharing the story of the Alabama town that carries their name. "We'll remind folks of Phil Campbell's story and include an interview with [mayor] Steve Bell or someone in the town hall to give a tour of the town. And we'll lay out the problems and needs of the town."



COURTESY PHOTO

Ben and Erin Napier, hosts of HGTV's *Home Town*, are looking to 'breathe new life' into a town that's in need of a transformation, and the town of Phil Campbell is making a major move to be selected.

Campbell, who will be working from more than 900 miles away in his home of Queens, New York, has arranged for someone to produce the video that can be professionally edited by video producers he works with.

"We will include some footage from the 2011 tornado and get some amateur video shot with everyone contributing and get a professional look-over to tighten it up a bit," Campbell said.

He said the finished product, which will be sub-

mitted to HGTV, will be less than three minutes long.

Campbell was notified on Facebook about HGTV's project, and he eagerly committed to help. *Home Town Takeover* is limited to towns with populations of less than 40,000 people. Hosts Ben and Erin Napier helped rescue and build back their hometown of Laurel, Mississippi, which is featured in their show, *Home Town*.

The town that is selected will see a rehab of multiple individual family homes as well as the revitalization of public spaces, including parks, businesses and outdoor recreation areas.

Campbell said the response from residents in Phil Campbell has been terrific. And there's a way for anyone who wants to help to take an active part in the video.

"The big thing we're hoping for at the end of the video is a lot of people to turn out in a large place, like a stadium, and do a cheer for their hometown," Campbell said. "Students, residents, we want a lot of different people involved. The video will start with different Phil Campbells talking, then move to the mayor, and then we need all the people we can get for the final scene."

Campbell is working on the date and location of the final scene and hopes to have it set this week.

"The passion for this feels really real to me. I wouldn't try this if I believed the people in town didn't care about their community," Campbell said. "A lot of people have said to let them know how they can help. The best way is to come to the shoot. It will only take fifteen minutes or so, but getting everyone there is the challenge."

The story of Phil Campbell seems made for TV,

'STRONG,' from page 8

classified as Hispanic, a significant portion of the city's population is comprised of immigrants.

"We're trying to build up leaders in the community. We'll be hosting meetings, and with the census coming up we want to help educate people about the census," Rivera said. "Our goal is to inform people about anything they need based on the needs we see in the community. That includes hosting Know Your Rights workshops."

After the Alabama Legislature passed House Bill 56 in 2011, one of the nation's strictest comprehensive immigration laws, ACIJ "made a pretty powerful splash" on the state's advocacy scene, Rivera said.

"We partnered with a number of other organizations, including the ACLU, NAACP, Southern Poverty Law Center, Greater Birmingham Ministries, etc., and we have partnered with the Mexican state government to help facilitate tourist visas for parents who are living in Mexico," Rivera said.

With enforcement of illegal immigration increasing over the last two years, Rivera said there's a pressing need for counselors, as a lot of children are facing the traumatic situation of having their parents deported.

"They aren't getting the mental health resources they need," she said.

DACA is an American immigration policy that allows individuals whose entry into the United States was unlawful as a child to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation. And they then become eligible for a work permit.

That is the situation Rivera faces.

The vision of ACIJ, "an Alabama that values justice, nurtures equality, and protects the rights of everyone, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical ability or migratory status," conflicts with the feelings of many Alabamians, who steadfastly support President Donald Trump's goal of building a border wall and hastening the swift removal of illegal immigrants.

Last year, Alabama congressman Mo Brooks and the State of Alabama filed a lawsuit seeking to exclude illegal immigrants from being counted in the 2020 census, even if they complete the census forms. Their contention is that states with large numbers of illegal immigrants would benefit unfairly in the number of Congressional seats they would have due to the inclusion of illegals.

Hamilton regularly hears the concerns of Alabama residents that immigrants should not have come to the United States illegally and that it's unfair to legal immigrants. A major problem, she believes, is that it's difficult if not impossible for immigrants to go through the legal channels to enter the United States.

"People just don't realize the line is out the door and is never going anywhere. The big thing we want to see is comprehensive immigration policy reform," Hamilton said. "We all agree the way it is right now, it's not working."

"We need reform in our federal policies dealing with immigration. There are differences as far as what people think the solution is. But there's not much awareness about what's going on in the countries where these people are coming from and how the United States has contributed to these problems, particularly in Central America."

A major tenet of ACIJ is civic engagement for Alabama immigrants.

"When people realize they have avenues to affect change in their community, we want to help them do that," Hamilton said. "We want to see them get involved and participate. That really builds a stronger sense of empowerment and creates opportunity for non-immigrants to interact in a healthy way to build better trust and bond the community."

Hamilton said in areas like Franklin County, with large immigrant populations, the legal system is often unequipped to provide interpretation as required in Alabama courts.

"Some schools ask parents to show a drivers license to get their kids. That's not legal," Hamilton said. "We want to see the state and local education implement policies to better protect families from those kinds of problems."

"Drivers licenses are a big issue here, because public transportation is almost non-existent. We've been able to expand drivers licenses to be available to people with work permits. But undocumented people still aren't able to get drivers licenses, and that's something we'd like to see happen."

For more information on ACIJ, log onto www.alimmigrant.org.



Letters to the Editor

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'HELPING,' from page 4

I've helped my neighbors get up cows, and I wasn't asked. It's really simple. You see a cow in your yard and your neighbor trying to maneuver it back home. I automatically knew a little help would be good.

Respect, love and helping others was a way of life in the old days, but guess what? There are some things that should never be forgotten.

And I never have.

'SERIES,' from page 10

with a small town that went through a major tragedy and residents who showed resilience and pride in where they live. And they're receiving help from some friends around the world who happen to have the same name as their town.

Campbell encouraged anyone

interested in helping to check the PCHS Facebook page for updated information. He said there will be a need for people to stand in as extras in part of the video as well.

For more information on HGTV's *Home Town Takeover* series, log onto www.hgtv.com.

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THS girls get to 5-0 in January

Staff reports

Gracie Montgomery came out hot with three threes and 15 points in last Friday's first quarter, helping Tharptown's girls jump out to a big early lead on their way to earning a fifth straight win, 65-22 over Vina.

Leading 22-10 at the end of one, Tharptown (12-7) got 10 second-quarter points from Aly Vandiver and out-scored Vina 16-3 to take a 38-13 lead into the locker room. Autumn Montgomery had six points in the third quarter, and Jaiden Gaston added five as the Lady Wildcats out-scored Vina 18-4 to open up a 56-17 lead.

Gracie Montgomery finished with 17 points, and Vandiver added 13, hitting a pair of threes. Autumn Montgomery had 11 points, and Gaston and Brooke Daily scored seven apiece. Sarah Mansell chipped in with six points, and Shaylee Wieting and Adriana Borden each added two.

Tharptown hit six threes as a team and shot 7-for-14 from the foul line.

Vina (15-5 through Sunday) played without leading scorer Rayleigh Guin last Friday. The sophomore point guard, averaging a county-high 18.0 points and 6.3 assists per game, sat out with a leg injury. Sara Scott led the Lady Devils with seven

See 'GIRLS,' Page 15



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Montgomery (14) and the Lady Wildcats beat Colbert County, Hackleburg and Vina last week, running their win streak to five.

Bouncing back



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Guin (23) battled through a lingering injury to score 18 points for the Lady Red Devils, but Green (seated, far left) and the Lady Bulldogs had an answer on both ends of the floor. Belgreen shot 49 percent from the field and out-rebounded Vina 43-20.

A month after a loss at Vina sent them into a mid-season lull, Belgreen's girls exacted a measure of revenge on the Lady Devils and continued their recent run with a 75-47 rout

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

BELGREEN - With the Franklin County Tournament tipping off this week and the all-important area tournament looming next month, Belgreen coach Chad Green understands that now is the time for his talented, veteran team to start trending up on a consistent basis.

Last Thursday night against Vina, the Lady Bulldogs looked like a team rounding into post-season form.

Belgreen got 21 points from Autumn Bragwell, a double-double from Ansley Tate and a solid defensive effort across the board, routing the Lady Red Devils 75-47 to tie the season series at one win apiece and pull even with them in the area standings.

The Lady Bulldogs (16-5, 5-2 in Class 1A, Area

12) followed up the victory over Vina with a 68-18 blasting of Brilliant last Friday, winning their third straight game on the heels of a 4-4 stretch that began with a 54-53 loss at Vina on December 11.

"I think we're coming back," said Green, whose team recorded 17 assists on its 26 field goals last Thursday night. **"We played well early in the season, then we hit a lull, and now we're coming back to that point. We're getting up and down the floor better."**

"I think we're coming back," said Green, whose team recorded 17 assists on its 26 field goals last Thursday night and also out-rebounded the Lady Red Devils 43-20. "We played well early in the season, then we hit a lull, and now we're coming back to that point. We're getting up and down the floor better. I've got shooters, I've got guards, I've

See 'BACK,' Page 18

Wildcats bury 13 threes, threaten century mark in rout of Red Devils

Staff reports

Edwin Garcia scored a career-high 22 points to lead five Tharptown players in double-figures last Friday night, and the Wildcats nailed 13 threes on their way to routing county rival Vina 95-48.

Winston Nolen and Edward Lopez scored nine first-quarter points apiece, helping Tharptown (8-13) build a 35-12 lead by the end of one. Garcia, a senior guard, caught fire in the second quarter, pouring in 12 points as the Wildcats out-scored Vina 21-18 to take a 56-30 lead into the locker room.

The 'Cats continued to pour it on in the third quarter, getting seven points from Colton Simmons and five apiece from Garcia and Luis Valdez. Tharptown hit five threes in the third, out-scoring the Red Devils 29-8 to open up an 85-38 lead.

Valdez hit the Wildcats' final two threes of the night in the fourth quarter. The sophomore finished with four threes and 16 points. Garcia hit three threes on his way to topping the 20-point mark for the first time this season. Nolen, Simmons and Lopez each hit one three and finished with 13 points apiece.

Ruben Alfaro, Yovani Gomez and Hayden Moss also hit one three each. Alfaro scored eight points, Gomez had seven and Moss scored three. Tharptown threatened the 100-point mark despite attempting only 12 free throws on the night and making just four.

Hunter Griffith, Braden Pardue and Lawrence Stidham each scored nine

points to lead Vina.

In previous action:

Tharptown 51 Hackleburg 40

Winston Nolen matched his season-high with 26 points last Wednesday, scoring 16 in the second half to help Tharptown pull away for a home win over Hackleburg.

The Wildcats led by just one early in the third quarter before taking control with an 11-0 run. Nolen, a 6'2 junior guard, had five points during the run, including a two-handed dunk on a breakaway following a Hackleburg miss. He capped the run moments later with a layup, extending the lead to 31-19.

Anthony Whisenant hit a pair of threes as the Panthers (3-9) trimmed the lead to eight by the end of the third. Luis Valdez opened the fourth quarter with a three for Tharptown, but Braxton Loveless answered with a three for Hackleburg to cut the lead back to eight.

Winston knocked down a jumper to make it 42-32, and then Edward Lopez forced a five-second violation with aggressive on-ball defense. Following the turnover, Edwin Garcia set up Nolen for a three that pushed the lead to 13 at 45-32, and Hackleburg got no closer than nine points the rest of the way.

Nolen shot 11-for-25 from the field on his way to topping the 20-point mark for the seventh time this season. He also had seven rebounds. Yovani Gomez hit a pair of threes and had eight points and six boards. Valdez finished with eight points and five steals, and Garcia added five points and four rebounds. Lopez had 11 rebounds and two blocks to go with his four points.

The Wildcats shot 34 percent (20-for-58) from the floor, though they were much better in the second half (11-for-25, or 44 percent). They hit five threes on the night and went 6-for-14 from the foul line. Tharptown led 20-18 at the half and then out-scored the Panthers 31-22 after the break.

Hackleburg shot just 31 percent (16-for-52) from the field with six threes. The Panthers were 2-for-8 from the line and turned the ball over 16 times.

Josh Cooper led Hackleburg with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Whisenant added eight points, and Daniel Cooper had five points and 13 boards. Gavin Pyburn hit two threes in the first quarter and finished with six points.

Colbert County 62 Tharptown 58

The Indians broke open a tie game late in the fourth quarter and hit enough free throws down the stretch to earn just their second win of the season.

Tharptown (1-6 in Class 2A, Area 16) led 15-14 at the end of one quarter, but Colbert County (1-5) out-scored the Wildcats 20-13 in the second to take a 34-28 lead into the locker room. Tharptown cut the lead in half by the end of the third quarter, but the Indians out-scored the Wildcats 18-17 in the fourth to secure their first area win.

Edwin Garcia and Luis Valdez each finished with 14 points to lead Tharptown. Garcia shot 5-for-10 from the floor and 3-for-4 from the line. Valdez knocked down four threes and also grabbed four rebounds.

Winston Nolen finished with nine points, six assists and five boards. Edward Lopez scored eight points on 3-for-5 shooting, adding four rebounds and three steals. Tyler Amos shot 3-for-3 from the field and scored seven points, and Yovani Gomez scored six points on a pair of threes.

The Wildcats shot 8-for-22 from beyond the arc as a team and 12-for-14 from the foul line. They finished at 40 percent (19-for-47) from the floor.

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'GIRLS,' from page 13

points, and Kaitlyn Athey added six. Kaitlyn King finished with five points, and LaDava Davis and Sarah Johnson scored two apiece.

Vina hit two threes and shot 6-for-14 from the line.

In previous action:

Tharptown 61 Hackleburg 32

Tharptown's girls overcame a poor-shooting first half to rout the Lady Panthers last Wednesday afternoon, remaining unbeaten in January.

The Lady Wildcats got 19 points from Gracie Montgomery and a double-double from Brooke Daily, who finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Senior guard Shaylee Wieting added 10 points, seven boards and five steals.

Tharptown shot just 11-for-40 from the floor in the first half but still led 30-14 at the break, thanks in large part to even worse shooting by Hackleburg (7-7). The Lady Panthers were 5-for-29 in the first half (with 13 turnovers) and finished the game 9-for-57 from the floor.

Both teams were struggling to make shots in the second quarter before freshman Sarah Mansell knocked down back-to-back threes to give the Lady Wildcats a 19-4 lead. Daily hit a pair of free throws at the 4:48 mark, and then Montgomery followed with a layup off a steal and a short baseline jumper to make it 25-6. Wieting made two free throws at the 2:39 mark to cap off a 14-2 run and push the lead to 21.

Up 16 at the break, Tharptown shot a much more respectable 42 percent (11-for-26) in the second half. Montgomery, a sophomore guard, shot 4-for-6 from the field in the third quarter and had nine points, helping the Lady Wildcats out-score Hackleburg 17-7 to open up a 47-21 lead. The margin swelled to as many as 31 midway through the fourth quarter on back-to-back buckets by Daily.

Montgomery finished with six rebounds, three assists and two steals to go with her 19 points. Mansell had six points and six rebounds, and Aly Vandiver finished with five points. Kyndall Morgan added four points, and Jaiden Gaston chipped in with two points and three blocks.

Autumn Montgomery had two points and six rebounds, and Adriana Borden also scored two.

Tharptown shot 33 percent (22-for-66) from the floor on the day and out-rebounded Hackleburg 44-37.

Abbie Mitchell led the Lady Panthers with 10 points, all in the second quarter.

Tharptown 32 Colbert County 26

Gracie Montgomery and Shaylee Wieting each scored 11 points for Tharptown last Monday night, helping the Lady Wildcats improve to 5-2 in area play with a win at home over Colbert County.

Montgomery had six points in the first quarter as Tharptown built a 10-2 lead by the end of one. Wieting then had six points in the second quarter, helping the Lady Wildcats out-score Colbert County 8-5 to take an 18-7 lead into the break.

Colbert County (0-16, 0-6) out-scored Tharptown 11-5 in the third to climb back into the game, but the Lady Wildcats shot 5-for-8 from the foul line in the fourth quarter to seal the deal.

Montgomery finished 5-for-6 at the line, and Brooke Daily added four points for Tharptown. Sarah Mansell, Adriana Borden and Autumn Montgomery scored two points apiece. The Lady Wildcats did not hit a three and shot 8-for-14 from the line.

Keara Ricks and Treasure Nalls each scored eight points for the Lady Indians, who hit three threes as a team. They attempted only two free throws in the first half before shooting 17 in the second half, finishing the game 7-for-19 at the line.



Gracie Montgomery Sophomore Guard, Tharptown

Montgomery's breakthrough season continued last week as she averaged 14.3 points per game while leading the Lady Wildcats to three straight wins. After scoring 11 points in last Monday's win over Colbert County, Montgomery had 19 points, six rebounds and three assists in a rout of Hackleburg on Wednesday. She then scored 17 points (including 15 in the first quarter) in Friday's rout of Vina.

For the season, Montgomery averages a career-high 13.0 points per game.



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Lady Bobcats finish unbeaten in area play

Staff reports

Phil Campbell's girls blitzed East Lawrence 28-2 in last Friday's first quarter, cruising to a 66-30 win and wrapping up the right to host next month's area tournament.

Winners of four straight games and 11 of their last 13, the Lady Bobcats (11-5, 4-0 in Class 3A, Area 14) got three threes from junior guard Caitlynn Mills and eight points from junior forward Katie Thomas in the big first quarter. Sophomore Faith Cook had six points in the second quarter, helping Phil Campbell out-score East Lawrence 20-10 to take a 48-12 lead into the locker room.

Junior forward Olivia Taylor led the Lady Bobcats with 12 points, going 8-for-10 at the foul line. Freshman Madison Branch added 10 points, and Mills finished with nine. Thomas, Cook and Trinity Vandiver each scored eight.

Kaci Harris shot 4-for-5 from the line in the second quarter and finished with four points. Kallie Allen hit a three, and Gracie Vickery and Kenner Scott scored two points apiece. Phil Campbell made five threes and shot 17-for-29 from the line.

Phil Campbell, seeded fourth, will face fifth-seeded Red Bay in the first game of the Franklin County Tournament on Wednesday at 3 p.m. at Red Bay High School.

In previous action:

Phil Campbell 60 Fayette County 19

Olivia Taylor scored a career-high 16 points to lead three Phil Campbell players in double-figures last Tuesday night as the surging Lady Bobcats

stayed hot with a rout of Fayette County.

Phil Campbell also got 11 points from Kallie Allen and 10 from Caitlynn Mills. The Lady Bobcats held Fayette County (7-6) to just seven made baskets on the night.

Katie Thomas had four points in the first quarter, helping Phil Campbell build a 12-6 lead by the end of one. The Lady 'Cats then got seven points from Taylor and five apiece from Allen and Mills in the second quarter, out-scoring Fayette County 17-4 to take a 29-10 lead into the locker room.

Taylor scored six more points in the third quarter, and Allen added five as Phil Campbell out-scored Fayette 21-6 to open up a 50-16 lead.

Thomas and Madison Branch each finished with eight points. Trinity Vandiver added four, and Faith Cook had three. Phil Campbell made three threes as a team and shot 11-for-22 from the line.

Phil Campbell 44 Colbert Heights 19

Phil Campbell's girls rode a decisive first quarter and a dominant defensive effort to a rout of Colbert Heights last Monday night, remaining unbeaten in area play.

The Lady Bobcats got eight first-quarter points from Katie Thomas and seven from Faith Cook, building an 18-0 lead by the end of one. Colbert Heights shot 0-for-8 from the floor in the opening quarter and turned the ball over nine times.

Thomas, a junior forward, opened the game with a three-pointer and then made a pair of free throws at the 4:44 mark to make it 5-0. Olivia Taylor assisted on a basket by Cook, and then Thomas drilled her second three to stretch the

lead to 10-0.

Caitlynn Mills came up with a steal and layup, and freshman Madison Branch went 1-for-2 at the line. Cook, a sophomore, closed out the quarter with an 18-footer and then a buzzer-beating three from the top of the key (both off assists by Thomas) to make it 18-0.

Phil Campbell put it in cruise control the rest of the night. Fifteen players saw the floor for the Lady Bobcats, and 11 of them scored. Cook led the way with 10 points on 4-for-6 shooting, and Thomas finished with eight points, seven rebounds and four steals. Taylor added six points and five boards.

Mills and Abby Garrison each finished with four points, and Kaci Harris hit a three. Branch pulled down 10 rebounds and also had three blocks to go along with her two points. Makayla Baker, Trinity Vandiver and Kenner Scott also scored two apiece, and Allie Herring had one.

Senior guard Kallie Allen, a Wallace-Hanceville signee averaging 17.2 points per game on the season coming in, played only sparingly after the first quarter and essentially got the night off. She did not attempt a shot in the first half and finished with four rebounds.

Phil Campbell shot just 32 percent (16-for-50) from the floor and struggled from the foul line (8-for-20) as well, but the Lady Bobcats were dominant on the defensive end.

They held Colbert Heights to 12 percent (5-for-41) shooting from the floor and out-rebounded the Lady Wildcats 43-17.

PC boys earn right to host area tournament

Staff reports

Trailing by one at the end of a rough third quarter last Monday, the Bobcats got nine points from Luke Garrison in the fourth and out-scored Colbert Heights 17-7 down the stretch to pull away and clinch home-court advantage for next month's area tournament.

Brett Saint led Phil Campbell with 17 points, seven of which came in the first quarter and helped the Bobcats build an early 11-2 lead. Saint and Dylan Jeane had six points apiece in the second quarter as Phil Campbell out-scored the Wildcats 15-13 to take a 26-15 lead into the break.

Carson Shaw, held without a field goal in the first half, caught fire in the third quarter and poured in 13 points, helping Colbert Heights out-score the Bobcats 20-8 to take a 35-34 lead. Garrison, averaging a career-high 18.7 points per game on the season coming in, had just two through three quarters before hitting a pair of threes and going 3-for-4 from the foul line in the fourth. Blain Goodson added five points in the final period, helping Phil Campbell finish strong and clinch the area's top seed.

Garrison finished with 11 points, and Jeane added eight. Goodson scored seven points, and Jonah Fisher finished with five. Canaan Clay had two points, and Ben Williams added one. The Bobcats hit five threes and won despite shooting just 14-for-29 from the foul line.

Shaw led Colbert Heights with 21 points, 19 of which came in the second half. Caden Davis finished with 12 points. The Wildcats hit just one three and shot 15-for-23 at the foul line.

In other action last week:

Fayette County 63 Phil Campbell 56

The Bobcats shot their way to a big early lead with six first-quarter threes, but Fayette County rallied with a big second quarter and then got a pair of three-point plays from Jimmy Hammonds down the stretch to earn the win.

Phil Campbell (4-8) got two threes apiece from Luke Garrison and Dylan Jeane and one each from Brett Saint and Blain Goodson in the first quarter, building a 20-11 lead by the end of one. Fayette County (7-8) answered the

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Bonner, Bulldogs nail down area's top seed

Staff reports

Will Bonner scored all 21 of his points in the first half last Friday, helping Belgreen's boys blow past Brilliant 61-26 to remain unbeaten in area play and wrap up the top seed and home-court advantage for next month's area tournament.

The Bulldogs (18-5, 7-0 in Class 1A, Area 12) got eight points in the first quarter from Isac Willingham, six from Bonner and five from Scout Bragwell, building a 22-10 lead by the end of one. Bonner then went off for 15 points in the second quarter as Belgreen out-scored Brilliant 22-3 to take a 44-13 lead into the break.

Bonner shot 4-for-4 from the line and posted his eighth game this season with 20-plus points. Only Russellville's Chandler Dyas, with nine such games through Sunday, has more in Franklin County.

Willingham and Will Donahoe each finished with 12 points, and Bryant Hubbert added eight. Bragwell had five points, Hadden Taylor scored two and Brodie Vandiver added one. The Bulldogs hit two threes and shot 11-for-16 from the line.

In previous action:

Belgreen 79 Vina 20

Belgreen's boys rode a 35-point second-quarter explosion to a rout of Vina last Thursday night.

Leading 18-7 after one quarter, the Bulldogs proceeded to shoot 75 percent (15-for-20) from the floor and force 15 Vina turnovers in the second quarter on their way to out-scoring the Red Devils 35-3.

Belgreen's starting five didn't spend much time on the floor together last Thursday, but that unit dominated the first two-and-a-half minutes of the second quarter and the last two minutes of the half. Will Bonner opened the quarter with a layup off a steal, and then Scout Bragwell assisted on a bucket by Isac Willingham to make it 22-7.

Baskets by Collin Bonner and Will Bonner pushed the lead to 26-7, and then Bragwell buried a three off an assist from Willingham. Will Bonner scored moments later to cap off a 13-0 run, and the starters headed to the bench at the 5:29 mark with the Bulldogs leading 31-7.

The first unit returned just past the two-minute mark and helped Belgreen close the half on a 15-2 run. Collin Bonner scored six points during the run, and Bragwell and Will Bonner each connected from beyond the arc as the Bulldogs took a 53-10 lead into the locker room.

The majority of Belgreen's starting five sat out the entire second half.

Will Bonner finished with 12 points on a perfect 5-for-5 shooting from the floor. He also had three assists and three steals. Bragwell hit three threes and shot 4-for-5 from the floor overall, scoring 11 points. Collin Bonner added 10 points, and reserve Hadden Taylor scored nine on 4-for-4 shooting.

Will Donahoe had seven points, three boards and two steals, and Bryant Hubbert added six points and four rebounds. Carson Cox also scored six points, knocking down a pair of threes. David Plott finished with five points, and Brodie Vandiver had four points and two assists.

Willingham had three points and two assists, and Austin James had two points and three rebounds. Cole King chipped in with two points and four boards, and Jackson Galliano also had two points.

The Bulldogs shot 58 percent (32-for-55) on the night and made seven threes. They held the Red Devils to just 5-for-29 shooting.

'HOST,' from page 16

bell in the second quarter, out-scoring the Bobcats 19-8 to take a 30-28 lead into the break.

Phil Campbell out-scored Fayette 16-14 in the third to pull even, and the game was still tied with a little more than a minute left in the fourth when Hammonds converted back-to-back and-one opportunities to give the Tigers the win.

Garrison scored eight points in the first and eight in the fourth on his way to topping the 20-point mark for the sixth time this season. He finished with a game-high 23, knocking down five threes and going 4-for-5 at the line. Saint shot 4-for-4 from the line and scored 13 points.

Jeane and Goodson each hit two threes and scored six points apiece. Jonah Fisher had four points, and Easton Cummings and Ben Williams each added two. The Bobcats hit 10 threes as a team and shot 8-for-11 from the line.

Harrison Whitley hit four threes in the second half and finished with 20 points to lead Fayette County. Hammonds added nine points.

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'BACK,' from page 13

got post players—we've got what it takes. On any given night, we can beat anybody. We've got potential."

Last Thursday's win, in which Belgreen shot 49 percent (26-for-53) from the floor and 75 percent (18-for-24) from the foul line while holding Vina (15-4, 4-2) to just 30 percent (16-for-54) from the field, was a step in the right direction, but Green said it was by no means perfect.

"I don't feel like we played our best ball game tonight—not by a long shot," he said. "We can defend a lot better, and we left a lot of points on the floor by missing some shots right around the basket. But I did like how we came out of the gate and continued to progress all night long.

"Sometimes we come out and do well early, and then we get a little lackadaisical as the game goes on. Good, veteran ball teams can't do that."

The inside-outside combo of Tate, a senior post player, and Bragwell, a senior guard, helped ensure there was no let-up for the Lady Bulldogs last Thursday night. Bragwell hit a pair of threes and scored 10 points in the third quarter on her way to reaching the 20-point mark for the fifth time this season. She finished 8-for-15 from the floor with four threes and also had five rebounds and four assists to go along with her 21 points.

Tate, meanwhile, added six points in the third quarter to help Belgreen—which led by 25 at half-time—out-score the Lady Devils 22-21 to keep them at bay. Tate shot 5-for-8 from the field and 4-for-4 from the line, finishing with 14 points, 15 rebounds, three assists and two steals.

"She's a double-double machine," Green said of Tate, who has nearly doubled her scoring average from 7.6 points per game last season to 14.6 per game this season—tops on the team. "Every time she steps on the floor, she gets double-figure points and double-figure rebounds. That's good to know you've got that every game. It doesn't matter who we're playing—Vina, Phil Campbell, Bear Creek, Russellville, whoever. She's a double-double machine, and she's just so consistent.

"She shoots the ball from five feet or closer most

of the time, she gets offensive boards and she makes free throws. She's doing a lot better job this year of pump-faking and pivoting under the basket, using that left hand."

The 5'8 Tate (who, according to Green, plays like a much taller player because of her long wingspan) teams with 6'1 junior Emma Dempsey to give Belgreen a dynamic duo in the post that would be the envy of most any team. Dempsey scored 11 points in last Thursday's win and is now averaging 13.4 per game on the season, third on the team behind Tate and Bragwell (13.5 points per game).

"They're total opposites," Green said of Tate, who plays primarily on the low block, and Dempsey, who typically operates in the high post. "As far as a combination in the post, they're two of the best post players I've ever had together. Emma is long and athletic, and she shoots the jump shot. Ansley is strong, she has long arms, and she'll bang down low. She's just a bruiser under the basket. She's gonna get fouled and go to the free throw line, and she's gonna get rebounds. They're a good match."

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The Lady Bulldogs prefer to play through their post combo, but it was the guards who helped them start fast against Vina. Bragwell opened the game with a three, and senior point guard Gracie Dempsey scored seven first-quarter points as Belgreen built a 21-7 lead by the end of one.

When Gracie Dempsey picked up her second foul late in the first quarter, freshman Noelle

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PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Belgreen players and coaches honor America during the playing of our National Anthem prior to last week's game with Vina.

'BACK,' from page 18

Willingham provided high-quality minutes off the bench. Willingham scored six points in the first half and finished the night with eight on 3-for-4 shooting from the floor. She also had five rebounds and four assists.

"Noelle is really coming on," Green said. "Man, I'm so pleased with her coming off the bench. She's another point guard on the floor. She hustles, she rebounds, she gets loose balls, she can handle the ball. Like Gracie, she's so unselfish. She's looking to give the shooters the ball, give the post players the ball. Tonight, she took some more shots, which is good. Her confidence is really coming on."

Gracie Dempsey shot 5-for-6 from the foul line and finished with 10 points and three steals. She also drew the primary defensive assignment of guarding Vina sophomore Rayleigh Guin, who entered last Thursday's action averaging a career-high (and county-best) 18.0 points per game.

Guin, still hampered by a leg injury she sustained recently in a win over Brilliant, led the Lady Devils with 18 points, five rebounds and four assists. She finished 5-for-12 from the floor and 7-for-12 from the line, doing most of her damage in the second half.

"Our focus all week long was on Rayleigh," Green said of Guin, who scored 20 points and made the go-ahead basket in the final seconds of that mid-December win over Belgreen. "Our focus was on her. She's an outstanding player and a talented young lady. We knew we had to focus on her. We still gave up too many uncontested outside shots, but I thought we did a lot better job on her tonight."

Green said he didn't feel the need to use last month's loss to Vina as a motivational tactic for last Thursday's rematch.

"I didn't have to mention anything about that," he said. "We watched some game film yesterday. Our kids know. They knew going in what it was. We wanted to get up and down the floor, hustle, rebound the ball, defend Rayleigh and the shooters on the outside. That was our game plan.

"We talked about transition, getting up and down the floor. We knew we had an advantage down low, and we wanted to use that. I thought we did a good job going inside, especially early in the game."

Emma Dempsey finished 5-for-6 at the line and also had three rebounds and three assists to go with her 11 points. Senior Katie Dempsey shot 3-for-3 from the field and finished with six points, four boards and three assists. Sophomore Kaley Chandler chipped in with five points and five rebounds off the bench. Eighth-grader Lily Blackburn and seventh-grader Dacota Green each grabbed three rebounds, helping Belgreen dominate the boards.

Senior guard Kaitlyn King scored nine points for Vina on three threes. Sara Scott had eight points and five rebounds. Freshman Kaitlyn Athey, who drilled five threes in last month's home win over Belgreen, didn't connect from beyond the arc until the fourth quarter on Thursday and finished with six points.

Senior Sarah Johnson scored two points before aggravating a shoulder injury and heading to the bench. Sara Harper and LaDava Davis also had two points apiece.

"We're a little banged up right now," said Vina coach Richie Hester, whose team had won six straight heading into last Thursday's game. "But I thought our girls showed a lot of heart in that second half. I'm proud of the way they kept fighting. We'll be back."

"Our focus all week long was on Rayleigh," Green said of Guin, who scored 20 points and made the go-ahead basket in the final seconds of that mid-December win over Belgreen. "Our focus was on her. She's an outstanding player and a talented young lady. We knew we had to focus on her. We still gave up too many uncontested outside shots, but I thought we did a lot better job on her tonight."

In other action last week:

Belgreen 68 Brilliant 18

Playing without three starters last Friday night, the Lady Bulldogs got 19 points from Kaley Chandler and 14 from Ansley Tate, cruising to their third straight win.

Seniors Gracie Dempsey and Katie Dempsey and junior Emma Dempsey all missed the game due to an illness in the family. Chandler, a sophomore, stepped into the starting lineup and hit three first-quarter threes, scoring 13 points to help Belgreen build a 23-2 lead by the end of one.

Senior guard Autumn Bragwell and seventh-grader Dacota Green each had five points in the second quarter, helping the Lady Bulldogs out-score Brilliant 18-11 to take a 41-13 lead into the locker room. Tate, a senior post player, got rolling with 10 points in the third quarter as Belgreen out-scored the Lady Tigers 19-5 to open up a 60-18 advantage.

Bragwell finished with 11 points, going 3-for-4 at the foul line. Green shot 6-for-6 from the line and scored nine points. Eighth-grader Lily Blackburn also had nine points, and Noelle Willingham finished with four. Hannah Borden added two points.

The Lady Bulldogs hit four threes and shot 14-for-23 from the foul line.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Belgreen's Ansley Tate (33) battles Vina's Sara Scott for position on a rebound during last Thursday's showdown. Tate, a senior post player, finished with 14 points and 15 rebounds, helping the Lady Bulldogs snap Vina's six-game win streak with a 75-47 victory.

Belgreen 55 Russellville 47

Ansley Tate and Emma Dempsey combined to score 35 points and made a handful of key plays down the stretch for Belgreen last Monday night, helping the Lady Bulldogs finish off a season sweep of Russellville.

The game was tied 41-41 heading to the fourth quarter before senior guard Autumn Bragwell nailed a three to put Belgreen in front. A basket by Tate pushed the lead to five, but Russellville hung around and trailed by just three at 49-46 with a little more than a minute remaining.

Out of a timeout, the Lady Bulldogs got the ball inside to Tate, who scored to make it 51-46. Dempsey, a 6'1 junior, then came up with a big block on the other end and followed it up with a bucket of her own to stretch the lead to seven with less than a minute to go.

Dempsey scored again moments later to seal the deal and finished with 15 points despite battling foul trouble for much of the night. Tate, a senior post player, reached the 20-point mark for the second time this season against Russellville and the fourth time overall. She finished with 20 on the nose, shooting 6-for-10 from the foul line.

Belgreen got seven points from Tate and a three from Katie Dempsey in the first quarter, building an 11-7 lead by the end of one. Emma Dempsey got going with eight points in the second, but the Lady Golden Tigers countered with one of their best offensive quarters of the season. They got six points from Madison Murray, four apiece from Autumn Logan and Jayna Poss, and a three-pointer from Krista Sikes right before the break, out-scoring Belgreen 21-16 to take a 28-27 lead into the locker room.

Murray had eight points in the third, but the Lady Bulldogs answered with a timely three from Bragwell and a three-point play from Gracie Dempsey, out-scoring Russellville 14-13 in the quarter to pull even.

Bragwell finished with eight points, all of which came in the second half. Gracie Dempsey added five points, Katie Dempsey had four and Kaley Chandler knocked down a three.

Belgreen made four threes as a team and won despite shooting just 13-for-26 from the foul line.

Murray hit a pair of threes and finished with 15 points, reaching double-figures for the ninth straight game. Lexi Glass added nine points, and Logan and Sikes scored six apiece. Poss finished with five, and Jenna Whitfield, Fallin Cox and A.J. Taylor each had two.

Russellville also hit four threes and shot 11-for-23 at the line. The Lady Golden Tigers turned the ball over 23 times.

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