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04.15.20

Fatal accident reignites concerns about 243/79 intersection safety

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

After a fatal accident March 31 at the intersection of Alabama 243 and County Road 79, some residents want to see safety enhancements made at the intersection. Milton Alexander, 82, died when his vehicle was struck by another car at the intersection the night of March 31. Franklin County Sheriff Shannon Oliver recalls several accidents at the intersection, and Oliver said many of those result from eastbound traffic on 79 attempting to cross 243. "It is difficult for vehicles coming from Bear Creek to see northbound traffic when crossing 243," Oliver said. A sharp curve on 243 just south of the intersection with 79 allows for minimal time for northbound vehicles on 243 to react if another vehicle is crossing on 79. Although vehicles on 243 have the right of way, motorists complain



COURTESY PHOTO

Concerns have been raised over the safety of the 243/79 intersection after a recent fatal accident.

See 'CLOSED,' page 7

Bolton discusses community banking issues with President Trump via teleconference

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press


If you follow Community Spirit Bank CEO/President Brad Bolton on social media, you already know about the difficulties many community banks are dealing with not being able to access the Small Business Administration system to process Paycheck Protection Program loans as part of the recently passed CARES Act. Bolton, who serves as Vice-Chairman of the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), said that more than one-third of all community banks, which are the ones primarily working to help small businesses navigate through the PPP loan process, haven't been able to get into the system as of April 7th. Along with ICBA Chairman Noah Wilcox, who serves as CEO/President of a community bank in Minnesota, Bolton represented the nation's community banks in an April 7 teleconference with President Donald Trump to discuss the status of the PPP. Bolton told the President that community banks make at least half of the nation's small business loans.

"Being accessible and responsive to our customers is what community bankers do, and I am proud to wear the title of a community banker," Bolton told Trump. "I ask that you deploy the resources necessary to get every community bank in the country in the system. "I am confident that if we can unleash the full power of all community banks, small businesses will be restored, paychecks will be restored and our communities can begin recovering and flourish-




Brad Bolton
 See 'BOLTON,' page 9

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Hugh Ray Harbin, 78,
of Russellville, died on Thursday,
April 9th. Pinkard Funeral Home
assisted the family.

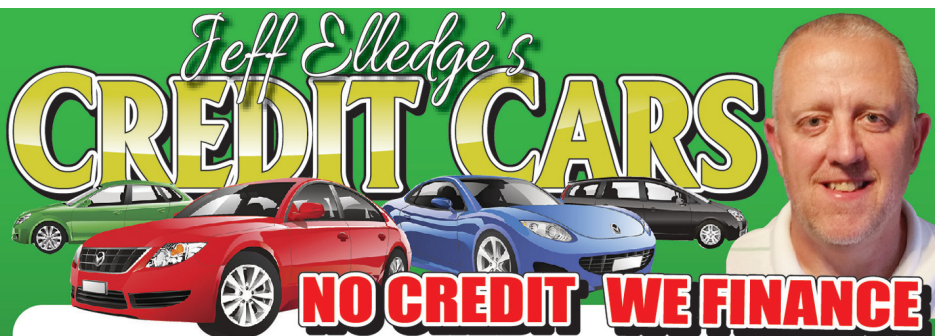
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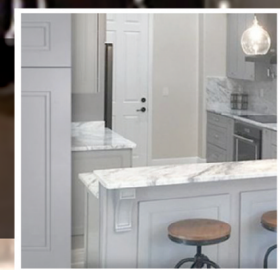
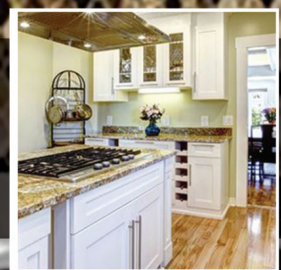
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Pilgrim's giving back to Russellville Hospital employees

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Zack Cummings described it as "food heroes helping health care heroes," as he and other Pilgrim's of Russellville employees unloaded 220 10-pound bags of chicken breasts Tuesday morning to give to every employee at Russellville Hospital.

Cummings, the plant manager for Pilgrim's of Russellville, said the chicken bags were just a small way of saying 'thank you' to health care workers on the front lines battling to keep us safe right here at home.

All Russellville Hospital employees received a 10-pound bag of Pilgrim's newest product, Chef's Exclusive boneless, skinless chicken breasts. Pilgrim's Complex Manager Kevin Touchstone said the product is available at Sam's Club, Walmart and other retail locations.

The addition of the Chef's Exclusive 10-pound bags created additional infrastructure in the form of a new line at Pilgrim's, as well as the addition of 75 new jobs.

"We are so thankful for our employees and we very much appreciate our health care workers in our community, too," Touchstone said.

Pilgrim's continues at full production as the plant is classified as an 'essential' business. Touchstone said he's appreciative of the company's employees for remaining dedicated to their jobs during a difficult time for everyone.

And Russellville Hospital employees are appreciative to Pilgrim's for the company's gift of 2,200 pounds of chicken produced right here in Franklin County.



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Doing their part to help out workers on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19, Pilgrim's Pride donated 220 10-pound bags of chicken for every employee at Russellville Hospital.

We love to hear from you! Please send your guest columns, cartoon panels, letters to the editor, recipes and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.



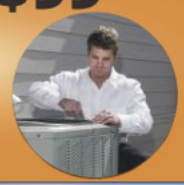
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NWSCC registration begins Emergency state extended

Submitted to the FFP

Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) will begin summer and fall registration in a little different way beginning next week. Advising and registration will be conducted exclusively online beginning Monday, April 13 (registration begins for students with 30+ earned hours).

On Wednesday, April 15, registration will begin for students with less than 30 earned hours and on Monday, April 20, registration will begin for new students. Summer classes begin Tuesday, May 26.

NWSCC is working to make decisions that are in the best interests of the health, safety, and academic success of its students. "The health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff come first," said NW-SCC President Dr. Glenda Colagross. "We believe we have put together a new virtual registration process that will best help our students register for the summer and fall semesters in our current environment."

NWSCC staff will be available by email and WebEx chat links to meet all the needs of current and prospective students and answer any questions they may have about Summer and/or Fall Registration. Faculty, staff, and administration will do their best to respond to all e-mailed questions on the same day.

NWSCC has set-up a Summer/Fall Registration webpage (<https://www.nwsc.edu/2020-summerfall-registration>) to walk current and prospective students through the registration process. Students can click on the link and sign up for advising appointments online. Advising appointments are conducted in a one-on-one virtual environment where students and advisors have the opportunity to interact face-to-face through the college's WebEx communication software. The *Advising/Registration* link is also located at the top of the NW-SCC website (www.nwsc.edu).

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

For more information, please contact Dr. Crystal Reed, Assistant Dean, at cingle@nwsc.edu.

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council approved an extension of the city's Declaration of State of Local Emergency Resolution at a short meeting held April 6.

The council extended the resolution through May 4, the date of the next regular scheduled council meeting.

Russellville Mayor David Grissom declared a State of Local Emergency declaration on March 16, following the lead of President Donald Trump and Gov. Kay Ivey.

The Code of Alabama provides that a local government may declare a State of Emergency based on the fact that the governor has done the same at the state level.

The resolution authorizes the mayor to perform certain duties that ordinarily would require approval of the city council, including entering into contracts dealing with the COVID-19 emergency situation and making certain personnel moves that may be necessary in response to the emergency.

District One City Councilman David Palmer asked the council to modify the resolution to be applicable only in the event that a majority of the city council would be unable to attend a meeting.

"I don't think the mayor wants to be in a position where he has to make some of these decisions," Palmer said. "If there is some reason that prevents a quorum from being present at a meeting, I would agree with the resolution."

"Otherwise, I would like input into any decision made on behalf of my constituents," Palmer added.

Palmer made a motion to approve the amended declaration with the condition that City Attorney Danny McDowell include the language about the mayor's authority being triggered only by a quorum of the council being unable to meet.

The motion passed unanimously.

The council also approved a claim of \$269 from Russellville resident Jeff Harbin for damage to his mailbox at his Waterloo Road residence. The mailbox was accidentally damaged by the city's leaf collector while picking up debris on the side of the road.

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Census numbers up, but could be higher according to local officials

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Although Franklin County residents have responded to the 2020 Census at a rate slightly higher than the national average, the numbers show cause for concern that the county will again be underrepresented, according to Dick Rowland, Senior Coordinator of the Franklin County Census Committee.

Through April 3, 2020, the self-response rate for American households is 43.9 percent. Across Alabama, the rate is 43.9 percent and in Franklin County, it's 43.1 percent.

The 2010 Census showed Franklin County's population to be 31,704, a number Rowland believes is significantly under the actual number of residents. He said the goal in 2020 is to beat that number by 30 percent. That would require an additional 9,500 county residents to respond.

"Those residents are here, we believe. We just have a bunch of people who are reluctant to respond," Rowland said, referring to Latino residents.

"Many are newer arrivals who do not know that we can trust the Census Bureau not to reveal anything personal about them to law enforcement or any other agency."

Federal law provides that Census information in the possession of the government may not be released to other agencies, as explained at www.census.gov: "The U.S. Government will not release personally identifiable information about an individual to any other individual or agency until 72 years after it was collected."

What happens with the Census information translates to Alabama and Franklin County federal funds allocated to local schools, road construction and maintenance, medical aid and emergency services. That averages approximately \$1,600 per person per year over the next 10 years, Rowland said.

Conversely, for every person not counted in the Census, the state and community incur a loss of \$16,000.

"That's not good for the neighborhood. It's not a good neighbor action for anyone to fail to do the Census," Rowland said. "These losses must be made up in lack of services or time, effort, money, etc. of all the neighbors of families not answering the Census."

Census self-response continues through August 31, 2020. In May, Census workers will begin knocking on doors of Franklin County residences whose occupants have not responded.

The committee's tiered goals for Census response in Franklin County are:

—by April 15th, 55 percent.

—by May 1st, 100 percent.

—by May 15th, 115 percent.

—by June 1st, 125 percent.

—by August 31st, 130 percent.

If county residents hit that goal, it could result in more than \$15 million of new federal cash flow into county and city coffers, Rowland said.

The highest reporting Census tract in Franklin County to date is Red Bay South/Burnout, reporting at 47.3 percent. The lowest percentage is found in Russellville East, with only 38 percent responding.

A 'Heart'-felt Thank You!

"We love our business policy holders and we thank each of you for your business! We want to ask our community to support these businesses during these difficult times. It's always important to 'Shop at Home' but even more important now more than ever! We love you and we support you! –Rhett Bradford, State Farm Insurance Agent, Russellville

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

Ronnie McDowell returns to Russellville to celebrate his 70th birthday with a special show at the Roxy Theatre on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. Joseph Baldwin and Johnathan Len will open the show. Tickets are on sale now. Reserved seats are \$20-\$35, and general admission balcony seats are \$15. For ticket information, call 256-415-3270. Proceeds will benefit the Roxy Restoration Fund.

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

The Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts has announced that its next production, *Cheating Cheaters*, that was to be performed April 23-26, 2020, will be postponed until June. They apologize for any inconvenience, but hope everyone stays well and they look forward to seeing everyone in June.

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

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 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.

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.

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'INTERSECTION,' from page 1

they can only see a limited distance to the sharp curve and while it may look clear, there could be a vehicle traveling north coming seconds later that they had no way of knowing about.

Two residents who live on CR 79 contacted the *Franklin Free Press* with concerns about the intersection. One asked whether a flashing caution light could be installed, and/or caution signs on 243 south and north of 79 to alert motorists there is an intersection ahead.

One Phil Campbell resident described the intersection as a 'bad place.' "Look, look, look, then stomp on the gas and pray nothing's coming," the resident said on a social media post.

For Patrick Taylor, he believes the 243/79 intersection to be the most dangerous one in the three counties in which he regularly travels.

"The northbound traffic on Hwy 243 is going uphill and into a blind curve as they approach this intersection. Traffic coming from either direction on Hwy 79 has so little time to react that it is very unsafe at the best of times," Taylor said.

"Aerial maps are a little deceiving when you look at this intersection, because you cannot see clearly how much the change in elevation and the curve on Hwy 243 contributes to an extremely blind intersection here. I shudder to think about school buses crossing Hwy 243 here in route to or from East Franklin School, which is near here," he added.

Arenna Orozco agrees. And she says the danger is compounded certain times of the year when trees along 243 are not trimmed.

"There's also a noticeable difference when the trees have been trimmed back versus when they haven't been. I'm not sure what could fix this, but it's been a big issue for years for those of us who often travel these roads," Orozco said.

Phil Campbell resident Barry Pounders believes something should be done to slow down motorists on 243 as they approach 79.

"A big problem is speed on Hwy. 243, 70 MPH or more. They need to install rumble strips to remind people to slow down," Pounders said

The *FFP* contacted Franklin County Engineer David Palmer about the intersection. Palmer said since 243 is a state maintained road, the State of Alabama, through the Alabama Department of Transportation, is responsible for maintaining the intersection as well.

"We cannot even install road signs on Highway 243," Palmer said.

Mark Dale, ALDOT Operations Engineer, said citizens who have concerns about the 243/79 intersection should contact him with a detailed explanation of why they believe a traffic study should be conducted there.

"What I would tell people is if you drive either of those roads or go through that intersection regularly, and you're very familiar with it, explain the reasons for your concerns and provide your contact information," Dale said.

"You need to express more than just saying it's a dangerous intersection. If you're regularly traveling through that intersection, let me know why your believe there is a problem, so someone like me, who would rarely go through it, can understand. For example, if your experience is when I pull out from the west side of 79 I can't see northbound traffic on 243, explain that so I can better understand the situation," Dale added.

Dale's email address is dalema@dot.state.al.us.

"By sending us a detailed email, that will provide a good record of citizen concerns about that intersection," Dale said.

If ALDOT officials determine it to be necessary, a traffic impact study may be conducted on the intersection to determine what, if any, enhancements could be made to increase safety at the location.



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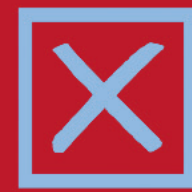
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'BOLTON,' from page 1

spent and they maintain their workforce. Bolton said this is one program that can directly help people in his community.

"These are real dollars flowing back to our small businesses, which are the backbones of our communities. But lots of community banks are still locked out of the system," Bolton said.

The first day for filing loan applications under the program was Friday, April 3. But banks and lending institutions across the country experienced problems with the SBA portal throughout the day.

Bolton said banks had received very little guidance on how to do the PPP loans, and that's created frustration among borrowers, banks and accountants who are being asked to compile information necessary to file for the loans.

"Customers hear on TV that everyone else is getting money and there's only \$350 billion allocated and as of Tuesday, \$70 million has been funded," Bolton said. "So they think if I don't get my money now, I'll be left in the cold. That puts added pressure on the borrower, accountant and banker. It's far from a perfect process."

Even with its problems, the PPP and CARES Act is a good thing for the country, Bolton believes.

"I am thankful Congress, for once, acted here and did something good for Main Street and rural America, which is where most small businesses exist," Bolton said. "I'm honored to have represented our bank and our community for that rural perspective. We want to make sure those people have a voice.

"If community banks aren't part of the process, small businesses will get left out because the bigger companies are not going to make those smaller loans," he added.

The ICBA represents the interests of community banks across the country. With more than 50,000 locations nationwide, community banks comprise 99 percent of all banks.

For more information, visit www.icba.org.

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Why is the Census important to me or my family?

The Census affects the amount of funding that Franklin County receives and how the community plans for the future along with representation in government. The data from the 2020 Census will be used for:

- Public services and funding for schools, hospitals and fire departments.
- Planning for businesses, new homes and improvement in neighborhoods.
- Determine how many seats Alabama is allocated in the House of Representatives.

Can Census data drive business growth and development in Franklin County?

Census data is an important tool that is used on every economic development project.

How does this information aid in new businesses coming to Franklin County?

The first thing Companies that are interested in relocating to Franklin County want to know about is workforce. Census data is the first step in determining workforce. Also, if a new company or an existing industry in Franklin County wants to expand but need infrastructure improvements, census data is used to determine what grants are available.

If residents of Franklin County do not fill out their Census form how will this impact economic growth?

When a company is interested in Franklin County, we at the economic development office have to rely on census data for ten year periods. It helps the company to determine a baseline for workforce in the area, and will determine how much infrastructure improvements will be possible, when needed for the next ten years. Existing industry and manufacturing provide more employees per company than other areas of business. So, it plays a big role in bringing new jobs to our county.



Sherye Price,
Executive Director, Franklin
County Development
Authority



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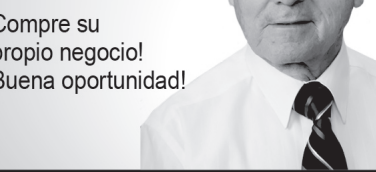
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Returning to normalcy

It has been one month since the world as we know it to be was turned upside down. Schools shut down, businesses closed their doors temporarily, and churches began broadcasting services via internet streaming.



Brady Petree
Sports Editor

All of this due to the COVID-19 virus, Of course, the sports world wasn't immune to the COVID-19 pandemic either. In fact, some sports leagues were the first major businesses to take action to attempt to prevent the spread of the virus.

When the NBA announced the suspension of its season on March 11th after multiple players tested positive for the virus, all other major sports leagues would follow suit soon thereafter.

No March Madness, no Opening Day, no spring football. All of these decisions happened within weeks of each other leaving a sense of emptiness in sports fans across the country.

After all, sports are supposed to be our escape from everyday life. A much needed break from reality whenever we want it.

During this unprecedented time we have all found ways to cope with what is going on around us. Whether that be writing, working on those projects we put off until the last minute (now that we have nothing but time on our hands), or simply calling up family and friends to check on them and chat.

We have slowly adapted to a world without sports.

There is hope on the horizon perhaps as we may not have to go without our beloved escape from reality for much longer.

Multiple leagues are developing plans for a return to action for their respective sports.

Major League Baseball has been toying with close to a dozen scenarios in order to get their season underway. One of which involves having teams play at their respective spring training facilities in Florida or Arizona and realigning divisions accordingly according to reports.

With this plan comes a tentative start date towards the beginning of June.

While this is not the ideal situation, it does provide some sense of optimism for sports fans everywhere.

Once one of the major sports is able to either resume their suspended season or begin theirs altogether, it is almost certain that all other sports will follow suit in some sort of fashion.

Once these leagues get back underway and we are able to spend our free time indulging in them, there will still be some notable changes more likely than not.

The question of whether or not fans will be allowed to attend these sporting events still looms large and a stadium with no fans in it while a game

Lighting the way

In a time of uncertainty, Heaps putting Golden Tiger Stadium to good use by spreading a message of hope



COURTESY PHOTO

Stadium lights illuminate an empty Golden Tiger Stadium in an attempt to instill hope in both students and community members alike. Heaps hopes to continue to light up the stadium for weeks to come.

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

No games were being played. No practices of any kind were going on. The field wasn't even being tended to.

So why exactly were the lights on at 8:20 P.M. every night for the past week at Golden Tiger Stadium?

The answer lies with Russellville baseball coach Chris Heaps.

Heaps has been going to the stadium for the past week at the same time each night to cut on the stadium lights and play music to remind people of one simple message in these unprecedented times: have hope.

"There's a lot of darkness out there right now and this is sort of a sign that there's a light at the end of the tunnel. This is a message of hope and a message to our kids and community to let them know that we're thinking about them," Heaps said. "This is a depressing situation for our players and our coaches and we just want to let the kids know that we are thinking about them and let

our community know that there's a light of hope that will be there when this is all done."

The idea of lighting up Golden Tiger Stadium came to Heaps through a parent of one of his players and an administrator from RHS after they had seen similar examples on Facebook.

The lighting is not the only significant part of this display of hope, as the time in which it is done is key as well.

Heaps cuts on the lights for 20 minutes at 8:20 P.M. every night, which in turn translates to 20:20 in military time.

Heaps understands the community's affinity for baseball and other spring sports and how the loss of sports for the year could be damaging for the morale for the community. Although Heaps hopes that by doing what he's doing with the stadium lights will lift the overall spirits of the community.

"Sports can be a very therapeutic thing for a lot of people. The community always rallies around what we do in the spring whether it's baseball, softball, tennis or any other sport," Heaps said. "There's hope and turning on these lights hopeful-

'NORMALCY,' from page 11

is being played will undoubtedly feel a tad bit eerie. However, if we are allowed to watch our favorite teams compete in a safe and secure manner while we ride this situation out, we will begin to see glimpses of hope.

The most important thing we as people can use during this time of uncertainty is a sense of normalcy. The return of sports would bring us that normalcy and hopefully provide us with optimism towards our future and the belief that when this pandemic is behind us, life will be perfectly normal again.

Send your letters to the editor, guest columns, cartoon panels and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

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'HOPEFUL,' from page 11

ly shows the community that we're here for them and we will get through this no matter what."

As their season came to an abrupt end, Heaps made sure to remind his players of the situation going on and encouraged them to stay upbeat and positive as best they can.

"I encouraged the guys to follow the protocols of what's going on right now and told them the more we obey these guidelines the quicker we can hopefully get through this," Heaps said. "I told them to use this time to recapture some of that time with their family that they normally do not get this time of year and just reminded them to control the controllables. Nothing really happens to us, it only happens for us and maybe this is an opportunity for them to reconnect spiritually with God. I hope they use this time to improve all around as a person and not just as a vacation."

The Golden Tigers finished their shortened season at 10-6 including wins over James Clemens, Guntersville and Austin. Not lost on Heaps is the fact that his seniors won't be able to finish out their final high school season. However, Heaps hopes his players take the experiences they have been through and learn to appreciate things while they have them.

"The silver lining that we all get out of this is we realize how much we take for granted. We never realized how good we have it. I hope the players will come back from it and appreciate the opportunities that they have," Heaps said. "One thing that we preach all the time is that we *get* to play ball, you don't *have* to play ball. I think and I hope that they'll really buy into that now that they've experienced this situation."

Personally for Heaps, he is using this time to grow spiritually, and as a family man.

"We've gotten up every Sunday and we have our breakfast and coffee and we have church in the living room. Calvary Baptist Church has been broadcasting their service every Sunday and I'm thankful that we have the technology to still be able to worship like it's a traditional church setting," Heaps said. "We've been playing whiffle ball, playing catch, working in the yard and all sorts of things. We have been able to connect with one another and we are blessed to have each other during times like these."

Heaps says he plans to continue turning on the lights at Golden Tiger

See 'HOPEFUL,' page 14



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'HOPEFUL', from page 13

Stadium for at least a few more weeks and encourages other sports programs at Russellville High School to do the same. Gathering at the stadium is not allowed under the current orders from the Governor so Heaps encourages those at home to turn their porch lights on as well.



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!

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TO GET OUR INK!





CENSUS 2020

Get Counted! April 1, 2020

What is the census?

The census is a self-portrait of the nation. The US Constitution requires the federal government to count all persons residing in the United States every 10 years. This includes people of all ages, races, and ethnic groups; citizens and non-citizens. All households must complete a census form (either online, by mail or phone) before April 1, 2020. It is our right and responsibility to participate.

Why is it important to participate in the census?

Census figures define the future of our community and our voice in Congress. For example:

- The 2020 census will determine how more than \$ 700 billion in federal funds will be distributed to states and localities each year over the next decade.
- Census information is used to determine where schools, roads, hospitals, child care centers, senior centers and other services will be built.

Let's count all kids in 2020!



How and when will the form be filled out?

- **In March 2020**, all households will receive a letter from the Census Bureau with instructions on how to fill out the form **online**. Each household will complete a **10-question form**.
- **All people living in that home must be included** in the form to be counted.
- The information they must provide includes: name, relationship with the person in charge of the household, gender, age, date of birth, Hispanic origin, race and if you are a homeowner or tenant.
- The form can be filled out in 10 minutes approx.
- If a household does not respond, the Census Bureau will send two reminders by mail and a census form with the fourth notification.
- For the first time, **online responses will be the main option**: The paper form will remain available.
- Other options to complete the form by phone or mail will be available. You can call 888-839-8632 for more information.
- If a household does not respond or submit an incomplete form, census interviewers will visit these homes to gather the information. Visits will begin at the end of April and end at the beginning of July 2020



Will my answers be kept confidential?

- **Yes**. The data obtained in the census forms are protected under the law and will be used only for statistical data. The Constitution guarantees that personal information will not be used against the participants.
- Personal census data **CANNOT** be shared for 72 years (this includes: name, address, and telephone number).
- Census Bureau staff with access to information, have sworn to keep it confidential, and will be fined \$ 250,000 and / or up to 5 years in prison if they share that information.



CENSO 2020

¡Hágase Contar! 1o. de Abril del 2020

¿Qué es el censo?

El censo es un autorretrato de la nación. La constitución de los EE.UU. requiere que el gobierno federal haga un conteo de todas las personas que residen en los Estados Unidos cada 10 años. Esto incluye personas de todas las edades, razas y grupos étnicos; ciudadanos y no ciudadanos. Todos los hogares deberán completar un formulario del censo (ya sea en línea, por correo o teléfono) antes del 1ro de abril del 2020. Es nuestro derecho y responsabilidad participar.

¿Por qué es importante participar en el censo?

Las cifras del censo definen el futuro de nuestra comunidad y nuestra voz en el Congreso. Por ejemplo:

- El censo 2020 determinará cómo se distribuirán más de \$700 mil millones en fondos federales a los estados y localidades cada año durante la próxima década.
- La información del censo se utiliza para determinar en dónde se construirán escuelas, carreteras, hospitales, centros de cuidado infantil, centros para personas de la tercera edad y otros servicios.

¡Hagamos contar a todos los Niños en 2020!



¿Cómo y cuándo se llenará el formulario?

- **En marzo de 2020**, todos los hogares recibirán una carta de la Oficina del Censo con instrucciones de cómo llenar el formulario **en línea**. Cada hogar completará **un formulario de 10 preguntas**.
- **Todas las personas que viven en ese hogar deben ser incluidas** en el formulario para ser contadas.
- La información que deben proporcionar incluye: nombre, relación con el encargado del hogar, género, edad, fecha de nacimiento, origen hispano, raza y si es propietario o inquilino de hogar.
- El formulario se puede llenar en 10 minutos aprox.
- Si un hogar no responde, la Oficina del Censo enviará dos recordatorios por correo y un formulario del censo con la cuarta notificación.
- Por primera vez, responder por **Internet será la opción principal**: el formulario de papel seguirá disponible.
- Otras opciones para completar el formulario por teléfono o correo estarán disponibles. Puede llamar al 888-839-8632 para obtener más información
- Si un hogar no responde o presenta un formulario incompleto, encuestadores del censo visitarán estos hogares para recopilar la información. Las visitas empezarán finales de abril y terminarán a principios de julio del 2020



¿Se mantendrán mis respuestas confidenciales?

- **Sí**. Los datos obtenidos en los formularios del censo son protegidos bajo la ley y se utilizarán solamente para datos estadísticos. La Constitución garantiza que la información personal no será usada en contra de los participantes.
- Datos personales del censo **NO** pueden ser compartidos por 72 años (esto incluye: nombre, domicilio, y número de teléfono).
- El personal de la Oficina del Censo con acceso a la información, ha jurado mantenerla confidencial, y será multado con \$ 250,000 y / o hasta 5 años en prisión si comparten dicha información.