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Franklin BOE approves 2020-21 budget, increases reserve fund

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Board of Education approved a \$42.9 million budget for fiscal year 2020-21 at the board's September 14 meeting. This is the first time the system's annual budget has surpassed the \$40 million threshold.

The budget anticipates total revenue of \$40.9 million, with state revenue of \$27.8 million representing 68%. Local revenue comprises 19% and federal revenue 13%. Less than one percent will come from other sources.

Total budgeted expenditures are

\$42.9 million. Instructional services and instructional support services, which include salaries and benefits to employees, consume 61.4% of total expenses. The board approved the expense of \$1.8 million in capital outlay and approximately \$553,000 to pay debt service.

With the 2020-21 budget expenses exceeding revenues by \$1.8 million, that shortfall will be made up from the system's beginning fund balance, expected to be \$8.76 million as of October 1, 2020.

Even with a reduced ending fund balance of \$6.96 million, the Franklin County School system is in

See 'BUDGET,' page 7

Pilgrim's prioritizing employee health and safety with COVID-19 safeguards

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

With more than 30 facilities across the United States, Pilgrim's is a major contributor to our nation's food supply.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the poultry giant has prioritized the health and safety of its employees, and the Russellville facility opened its doors Wednesday to city and county leaders to share some of the company's safety measures. The event was part of the company's Hometown Strong campaign, a \$50 million initiative to provide

See 'PILGRIM'S,' page 5



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI
Pilgrim's Complex Manager Kevin Touchstone, left, with Russellville Mayor David Grissom, Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries Rick Pate, and Rep. Jamie Kiel.

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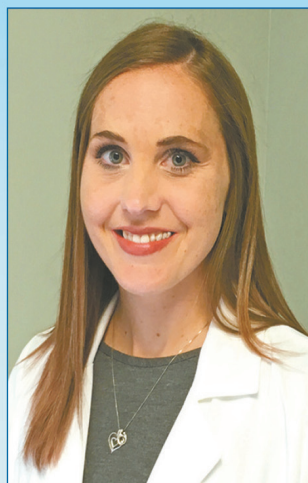
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Jeri Lynn Burcham, 49, of Phil Campbell,
passed away on Wednesday, September 16th.
Interment at Liberty Hill Cemetery.

Phillip Gale Hardin, 68, formerly of Spruce
Pine, passed away on Monday, September 14th.
Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

George Billy Humphries, 90, of Red Bay,
passed away on Friday, September 18th.
Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

Eva Rebecca Kirkley, 100, of Russellville,
passed away on Sunday, September 20th.
Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

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Email your guess to the location of this week's Mystery Photo to ffpmysteryphoto@yahoo.com. We will draw one winner from all correct entries each Monday Morning at 9 a.m. Include your name and contact number with your guess

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Miranda Decker, M.D.

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Electric board employees called on for recovery assistance

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Russellville Electric Board, (REB), employees departed Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at the request of Stacey Parker, GM of Opp Utilities and the Opp Utilities Board, to potentially provide Mutual Aid Assistance to the town of Opp, Alabama.

The crew departed at noon Wednesday, along with necessary equipment and trucks to provide aid in the event Hurricane Sally causes damage to their electric system. On Thursday, the crew was redirected to Foley, where they were to be directed to the service area most in need.

Opp Utilities Board, along with their General Manager Stacey Parker, took a proactive approach to request our assistance prior to any reported damage. This will allow their electric customers the comfort in knowing their electric system will be restored in an expedient manner.

The City of Opp electric system has approximately 3,147 electric customers compared to Russellville Electric that has approximately 5,100 electric customers. Opp maintains about 80 miles of electric lines compared to Russellville's system of approximately 122 miles of electric lines. The power supplier for Opp is PowerSouth.

The Russellville Electric Board monitored Hurricane Sally's predicted track and at a Board Meeting last night determined we could and should assist with Mutual Aid.

"We knew we were not in the predicted path of the storm so we began to mobilize early Wednesday morning in the event we received a request for assistance," said REB General Manager Charlie Canida. "The call came about 8 am Wednesday morning and our employees were more than willing to accept the challenge and respond to the call."

In the event Opp is spared destruction to their system, the Russellville team could potentially be dispatched to another location.

Russellville Electric has coordinated with Muscle Shoals Electric to assist REB employees in the event a situation that requires additional help at home while some of its employees are dispatched to the south. In the unlikely event of a major issue at home, REB would recall its employees and they could be back home in a few hours.

"The Russellville Electric Board is happy to assist other electric utilities during times like this. It's only by the Grace of God that it isn't us in the line of fire for severe storms. It could be us next time," Canida said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Employees from the Russellville Electric Board were deployed to the town of Opp, Alabama to assist in the restoration of the towns power grid after Hurricane Sally swept through the region.

Visit us on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net!

Russellville BOE approves numerous personnel moves

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Board of Education approved a number of personnel moves at the board's September 14 meeting.

The board accepted the retirement of Linda Lindsey, math teacher at Phil Campbell Elementary School.

Also, the resignations of Valerie Copeland, bus driver at Phil Campbell Career Tech route and Trisha McKinney, Red Bay Elementary teacher, were accepted.

Other personnel moves approved by the board included:

—Leave of Absence: Carolyn Steward, CNP worker, Phil Campbell School.

—Employment: Teiah Roberts, full-time substitute custodian (temporary) for Franklin County Schools, Laken Raper, Red Bay High School health science teacher, Sarah Motes, full-time substitute teacher (temporary) at Tharptown High School, Breanna Rikard, registered school nurse, Lindsey Marecle, Red Bay Elementary teacher, Shea Miller, ARI Reading Specialist, Vina High School, Donna Pace, full-time substitute teacher (temporary), East Franklin Junior High School, Shelia Simpson, bus driver Franklin County Career Tech, Michael Pennington, bus driver, Franklin County Career Tech.

—New Teacher Substitutes: Joan Allen (teacher fill-in only), Rebecca McGee, certified, Rosanne Hogan, Cody Renfrow and Rachael Myrick.

—Transfers: Tanna Benford, from teacher at TES to THS, Heath Boyd, from physical education teacher at THS to physical education teacher at TES, Chuck Simmons, from aide at Belgreen School to aide at Tharptown High School and Traci Britton, from registered school nurse at Tharptown School to registered school nurse at Belgreen School.

—New Hires for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 TRACKS: Lydia Morphis, Bren Wells, Rachel Ingle, Chloe Hall and Felicia Ayers, at Red Bay Elementary; Rebecca McGee, Site Coordinator, Jennifer Fuller, teacher and Ashley Easterling, aide, at Vina; Tracey Potter, Amber Mahurin, teachers at East Franklin; Carlee Robbins, teacher, Michelle Washington and Regina Cantrell, Aides, Belgreen School.

Other agenda items approved by the board included:

—approval of the 2020-21 renewal of the Alabama Trust for Boards of Education general liability/errors and omissions liability fund coverage.

—approval of certified and support personnel salary schedules and supplement schedules for 2020-21 school year, including supplements for the new varsity soccer boys and girls program at Tharptown High School.

—rescinded the July 21, 2020, hiring of Mary Anne Clement as full-time substitute at Tharptown High School.

—approved renewing the memorandum/agreement between Franklin County Board of Education and Franklin County Sheriff's Office/Franklin County Commission for two school resource officers.

—approved trip for Red Bay High School volleyball team to Belmont, Miss., for match on Sept. 29, 2020.

—approved School Incident Reports from July 1, 2019, through June 15, 2020.

—approved psychometric services contract with Eva Carol Sartain for the 2020-21 school year.

The next regular meeting of the board will be November 17, 2020, with work session at 5 p.m., and meeting to follow.



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Correction Policy

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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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A Taste of Franklin County: Reader Recipes

Submitted by Linda Rains

Apple Cake Recipe

This recipe is perfect for this time of year!

Ingredients:

- One 20 ounce can Apple Pie filling.
 - 2 cups all purpose flour.
 - 1 cup sugar.
 - 1.5 tsp. Baking soda.
 - 1 tsp. Salt.
 - 2 Eggs, beaten.
 - 1 tsp. Vanilla.
 - 2/3 cup Vegetable Oil.
 - 3/4 cup of Walnuts or Pecans, chopped.
- Spread fruit on bottom of 9x13 pan. Mix dry

ingredients and spread over fruit. Stir the rest of the ingredients and spread over the dry ingredients.

Bake 40-50 minutes.

Frosting:

- 1 Cup sugar.
- 1/2 Cup Sour Cream.
- 1/2 tsp. Baking Soda.

Bring to a boil and pour over cake while still warm.

This is a very easy recipe and it's delicious!

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'PILGRIM'S,' from page 1

meaningful investments in projects with long-term benefits for the communities Pilgrim's serves.

The company recently announced a \$309,000 donation to the City of Russellville to fund construction of what will be Alabama's largest splash pad.

Pilgrim's Russellville contracts with 236 local poultry farms with annual payment of more than \$41 million, along with more than \$40 million in payroll for the Russellville facility. The company contributes more than \$3 million to the local tax base and another \$3 million in utility payments.

So the company's impact on Franklin County is more than just providing safe chicken to its customers. It's Franklin County's largest employer and by keeping its employees healthy and safe as the nation addresses COVID-19 has a direct impact on the community.

Russellville Mayor David Grissom and the Russellville City Council were among those who attended Wednesday's presentation, which included a tour of the facility and a reception featuring, of course, Pilgrim's chicken.

"We had a great presentation that showed Pilgrim's contribution to our local economy," Grissom said. "With more than 1,350 team members, they are our community's largest employer and I was impressed with their Coronavirus safety protocols for their employees.

"I appreciate Pilgrim's investment in our local economy and their involvement in Russellville and the Franklin County community," Grissom added.

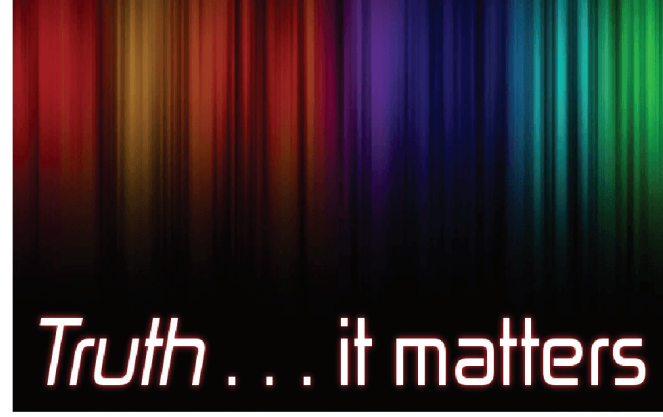
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Commissioner Rick Pate also attended Wednesday's safety presentation, along with Rep. Jamie Kiel, and members of the Franklin County Commission and the Franklin County Board of Education.

Some of the safety features implemented locally at Pilgrim's Russellville include:

- temperature scanning of all team members prior to entering the facility, with hands-free thermometer and thermal imaging testing.
- health screenings for anyone entering the facility.
- distribution of extra personal protective equipment, including face shields and protective masks, which must be worn at all times.
- the addition of a COVID Superintendent, hired to oversee compliance with all safety protocol.
- the employment of dedicated staff to continuously clean the facility.
- germicidal air sanitation with ultraviolet and bipolar ionization technology.

Additionally, the company has removed vulnerable populations of employees, with full pay and benefits, during the pandemic, and Pilgrim's has had no layoffs during the COVID-19 outbreak.

"By allowing those employees over age 60, or those with chronic conditions to remain at home and be paid, Pilgrim's is showing its commitment to its employees is real," said Russellville Police Department Chief Chris Hargett. "With the scanners at all entry points, along with health screenings and hourly sanitization, Pilgrim's proactive approach to keeping its employees safe is apparent when you see what they've done."



Pd. Pol. by Franklin County Democratic Exec. Committee, Russellville, Al.



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 - Registration is now open for those who are wishing to play flag football through the Russellville Parks and Recreation Department. Registration is \$50 and will continue until September 26th for divisions of 6U, 8U, 10U, and 12U. For more information please call (256)-332-8770.
 - Volleyball registration through the Russellville Parks and Recreation Department is currently ongoing. Those who wish to sign up may do so until September 26th. Registration is \$40 and girls in grades 3-6 of any skill level may register. Please call (256)-332-8770 for more information.

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* Information from a 2020 professional engineering study that assessed road conditions, striping and signage in the City of Russellville and ranked them by district.

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'BUDGET,' from page 1

compliance with the State of Alabama's required one-month general fund balance school systems must have available in their general fund balance.

The system's anticipated \$3.85 general fund ending balance as of September 30, 2021, is significantly more than the \$2.2 million the state requires to be available. That \$2.2 million represents one month of expenses for the system, explained Franklin County Schools Chief Financial Officer Carla Knight.

Knight's efforts, along with those of Superintendent Greg Hamilton, to bring the system into compliance on the one-month reserve fund, have not gone unnoticed by board members.

"I want to thank Carla, Mr. Hamilton and everyone else who has worked so hard to get us into compliance," said board member Pat Cochran. "It's not an easy thing to do and we have come a long way."

Even with what she described as "significant growth" the last three years, Knight said the system has been able to continue building on its one-month fund balance.

Franklin County Schools' enrollment is projected at 3,530 students for fiscal year 2021. The system employs 516 total employees, including those at the central office.

The system receives federal funding for 30 teaching units and locally funds 6.68 teaching units. As with other systems, the Franklin County Schools budget includes \$600/teacher for materials and supplies, \$350/teaching unit for technology expenses, \$157.72/unit for library enhancement, \$100/unit for professional development and \$75/adm for textbooks.

Additional state appropriations include \$186,920 for school nurses, \$61,367 for a technology coordinator and \$80,655 for At-Risk instruction.



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- ◆ Completes incident/offense reports; determines if any laws have been violated and advises suspects of their rights; refers victim to support agencies as necessary.
- ◆ Makes arrests as situations dictates.
- ◆ Conducts preliminary investigations of felonies and misdemeanors, secures crime scene, collects evidence, interviews witnesses and suspects, briefs superiors, completes case file.
- ◆ Respond as required to medical calls and administers first aid or life saving measures as required.
- ◆ Respond to HazMat calls and aid in evacuation assisting firefighters.
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- ◆ Assist ambulance, state troopers, or other law enforcement officers as needed.
- ◆ Traffic control in evacuation, crime scene, parade, civic functions, school crossings, accidents, funeral processions, oversize loads, etc.
- ◆ Assist stranded motorists or citizens as needed.
- ◆ Make routine traffic stops, issue citations as necessary, operate radar detection devices to monitor speed.
- ◆ Serve warrants and subpoenas.
- ◆ Transport prisoners as necessary.
- ◆ Enforce all city, state and federal laws.
- ◆ Compuired and notifies appropriate personnel.

COURT:

- ◆ Prepare accurate case files for municipal court arrest and felony and appeal cases.
- ◆ Testifies as necessary
- ◆ Executes arrest warrants and serves subpoenas according to court order.
- ◆ Transports prisoners to court or other agencies as required.

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Local schools, programs receive grants from RC&D Council

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As representatives of the nine organizations that received grant funding this year from the Northwest Resource Conservation and Development Council gathered at Northwest-Shoals Community College, there was one common thread among them—education.

The Northwest Alabama RC&D, through the support of Sen. Larry Stutts and Reps. Jamie Kiel and Proncey Robertson, completed nine grant projects in Franklin County this year that totaled more than \$48,400.

The purpose of the volunteer organization is to provide local leadership to help develop and carry out a plan for conservation, improvement and development in northwest Alabama. The council consists of five counties, Franklin, Colbert, Lauderdale, Marion and Winston.

Northwest Alabama RC&D officials, along with representatives from Vina High School, Franklin County Extension's Agriscience Program, Franklin County Soil and Water Envirothon, Russellville High School, Liberty Learning Foundation, Tharptown Elementary School, Phil Campbell Elementary School, Phil Campbell High School and Franklin County Schools met September 16 to announce the projects completed with Northwest Alabama RC&D funding in partnership with the Alabama Legislature.

RC&D grants come from two separate funds through the Legislature, the general fund and the education fund. With the unique challenges faced by educators this year due to COVID-19, the interest for educational grants was particularly large this year, so all grants had an educational nexus.

"And we were pleased to announce only one project was not funded (due to COVID-19 issues) so we used those funds for sanitizing machines for Franklin County Schools," said Northwest RC&D Executive Director Lorraine James.

2020 projects including grant award amount were:

- Vina High School, \$9,200 for softball facility upgrade.
- Franklin County Extension, \$6,500 for Agriscience Program.
- Franklin County Soil and Water, \$843.14 for Franklin County Envirothon.
- Russellville High School, \$5,000 for College Readiness.
- Liberty Learning Foundation, \$4,104.18 for Hands on Liberty & Super Citizen Program.
- Tharptown Elementary School, \$3,300 for Integrating Technology into Classroom Centers.
- Phil Campbell Elementary School, \$6,600 for Chromebooks for K-1st grade.
- Phil Campbell High School, \$5,204 for Science Department Technology Improvements and \$6,600.15 for Baseball Field Renovations.

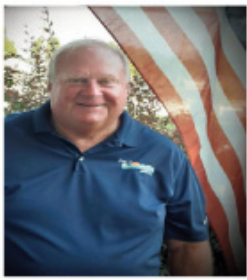
"We need folks to make sure we're spending your dollars properly locally," Robertson said. "RC&D's focus is to help our community, and it's a true team effort to get that done."



COURTESY PHOTO

Northwest Resource Conservation and Development Council completed nine grants totaling more than \$48,000 going towards educational needs within Franklin County.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us online at www.franklinfreepress.net!



Voters of District 2,

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In 2017, Darren Woodruff was acting Chairman of the Board of Russellville Utilities. As chairman, Woodruff received \$27,276.63. He outspent all of the other board members' combined expenses that year nearly doubling what they received as a group. Woodruff's expenditures were questioned and noted by board auditors.

Because of this, he was asked to step down as chairman. **These expenses are a matter of PUBLIC RECORD and can be verified by calling the Russellville Utilities at 256-332-3850.** When his term as a board member ended, board members asked that he not be reappointed. **Woodruff was asked to resign but declined.** As a result, I, William Nale, made the motion to take him off of the Russellville Electric Board in January 2020. **THAT IS THE REAL REASON WOODRUFF IS RUNNING and why he would have you FALSELY believe I have not been there for you.** Is this the type of person you want representing you and your city? I don't think it is.

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Tigers finally getting into full swing after slow beginning to season

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

RED BAY - The 2020 season for the Red Bay football program was slated to begin on August 21st. Had things panned out the way they were intended to, the Tigers would be heading into this week's matchup against Belmont with three games under their belts.

As the Tigers take the field this Friday night, September 25th, it will be just the third game played in over a months time for head coach Michael Jackson and his squad.

After their week one matchup with Hamilton was cancelled, the Tigers then had to spend three out of the first four weeks of the season basically practicing while everyone around them were playing games.

While some coaches may find the fact that their team had to manage what was essentially three bye weeks in a five week span as tedious or detrimental, Jackson feels as though this could have a positive impact on his guys moving forward.

"Before last week it kind of felt like we were starting all over again. Practicing and working out for 17 weeks just to play one game. I'm kind of excited because I think this group that we've got will benefit more from not having an off week the rest of the year and not having too much time where they're not playing. I think that benefits our guys really well," Jackson said.

Following the bye week after a 40-13 rout of Lexington, Red Bay matched up with county and region foe Tharptown in which they rolled easily to a 53-0 victory.

Coming off the bye week, combined with some new starters on the defensive side of the ball, there was some reason to think that the defense might falter a bit last Friday.

See 'SWING,' page 13



Playing on another level

As the Golden Tigers cruised to victory in last Friday's 27-18 win over Lawrence County, two things were very apparent: the Golden Tigers defense is legit, and the rushing game is on another level for Russellville.

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - Take one look at the scoreboard last Friday night and you might come to the conclusion that the Golden Tigers had to fight to the very end to secure the win against Lawrence County. However, if you look a little bit deeper into the box score one would see that in reality it wasn't all that close.

Thanks in part to a stellar night on the ground from the dynamic duo of Airreon "Boots" McCulloch and Caleb Matthews combined with a well-executed defensive gameplan, Russellville rolled to a 27-18 victory in Moulton to move to 5-0 on the year (3-0 in region-play).

Although the final margin of victory was only by nine points, Russellville head coach John Ritter believes the final score doesn't quite tell the entire story.

"The score isn't really indicative of the results. It was 27-6 with three minutes left and they scored with something like 30 seconds left to put them at 18. I don't think it was as close as the score turned out and our guys did a good job of not letting up and making sure we were on top the entire night," Ritter said.

Going into Friday night, one key question mark for the Golden Tiger defense that had been elite through its first four games, was the thought of having to find a way to contain Lawrence County quarterback Brody Sparks who just one week earlier had lit up Hazel Green for over 500 yards of offense by himself.

Outside of a few completed passes from Sparks, the Golden Tigers kept him and the Red Devil offense at bay thanks to a relentless defensive rush led by the defensive line.

"I think they (Lawrence County) had a tough time blocking us up front. We were able to really get a lot of pressure on them and we stopped the run for the most part," Ritter said. "We got after him (Sparks) pretty good and we were able to rush the quarterback and establish a solid rush defense early on."

As the Golden Tigers were tormenting Sparks and the Red Devils in the rushing game, Russellville had a field day when it came time for their turn on offense.

At the end of the night, Russellville would finish with 332 yards rushing, 298 of which came via a combination of McCulloch and Matthews.

Ritter says that the key for such a dynamic night in terms of the rushing game for the Golden Tigers comes down to multiple factors.

"Boots ran extremely hard, Connor Warhurst had a couple of key carries for us and it basically boils down to we won the battle up front with our offensive line," Ritter said. "I thought Nathan Brockway played extremely well. He's kind of a guy who doesn't get a lot of touches and hasn't really been



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

McCulloch (pictured), teamed up with fellow running back Caleb Matthews to combine for 298 yards on the ground to lead the Golden Tiger offense against Lawrence County.

able to get into the passing game yet but he's been the x-factor for us at h-back and I'm really pleased with what he's been able to do for us."

Matthews finished the night with 15 carries for 161 yards and a score while his counterpart McCulloch finished with 13 carries for 137 yards and three scores giving him seven total touchdowns on the season.

Of course McCulloch was a vital part of the Golden Tiger offense a year ago. But the junior has taken his game to another level here in 2020. After rushing for 739 yards and eight touchdowns last season, McCulloch is sitting at 356 yards rushing and is only one score away from tying his touchdown total last year.

The key to McCulloch being able to take his game to the next level the way he has began in the weight room according to Ritter and that work ethic has paid dividends on the field for McCulloch and the Golden Tigers so far in 2020.

"It comes down to his preparation in the offseason. Once we ended last year in November, he started working out and really bought into what we were trying to do. He's gained probably 15 pounds of muscle and gotten a lot stronger," Ritter

See 'WIN,' page 12

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'WIN,' from page 11

said. "He's so much stronger and when you put in the work to get stronger, you not only get physically stronger but you get mentally stronger too and Boots has shown that he's stronger on both sides this year."

One aspect that Ritter and the Golden Tigers will undoubtedly look to improve on will be in the passing game.

Russellville attempted only eight passes on Friday night with four completions for a total of 49 yards and two interceptions.

Working on those issues and up front will be key as the Golden Tigers will go up against a stout defense in Hartselle this Friday night at Golden Tiger Stadium.

"Up front we have to continue to do our job and we have to execute. What they (Hartselle) does up front makes it extremely difficult to move the football," Ritter said. "Defensively we have to limit our mistakes. We didn't give up a ton of big plays against Lawrence County last week but the ones we did give up were certainly avoidable by taking better drops and cleaning up some things and taking this as an opportunity to get better."

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'SWING,' from page 11

That couldn't have been farther from the truth.

Allowing just 99 yards of total offense, Jackson was understandably thrilled with his defense's performance. However according to the 7th year Red Bay head coach, the

"I thought we did what we needed to do on the defensive side of the ball. We did have some new guys in there and we did a good job with the game plan. We also did a great job with the turnovers as well. We got a few turnovers that were big for us including a blocked punt and a couple of interceptions including one on the second play of the game," Jackson said. "I was really excited and encouraged by how our defense caused turnovers and got the offense some good starting field position."

Similarly to the defense, the offense for the Tigers seems to be making significant strides towards being on an elite level.

Of course having an elite dual-threat quarterback like Jalen Vinson can certainly help an offense take that next step. Vinson would finish the night with only 49 passing yards (including one touchdown) but would also make a huge impact in the running game for the Tigers as well finishing with 84 yards

See 'SWING,' page 14

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'SWING,' from page 13

and two touchdowns on the ground. As the night would go on, four different Tigers would find the endzone on the night including multiple-touchdown games from Aiden Quinn and the aforementioned Vinson.

Having such a deep roster loaded with talent as Red Bay does has always been a strength of the program. However in a year as odd as this one, that may prove to be the biggest strength that coach Jackson and his staff has.

"We had to use more guys than we usually do because we had some guys out on Friday night. But we had some guys that stepped up, including some younger guys like Cody Carnes who ended up scoring a touchdown for us," Jackson said. "We have multiple guys that get some carries every game and so I was glad to see our guys do our thing and spread the ball around to multiple guys."

This Friday night may prove to be the biggest test for Jackson and the Tigers so far this year as they make the "long" trek across the state line to Belmont, Mississippi... a mere 12 minutes up the road.

Not only does the matchup between Red Bay and Belmont hold significance in terms of the close proximity of the two programs, but also in terms of recent history. Dating back to 2018, Red Bay has won 18 straight regular season games. The last team to beat the Tigers in the regular season? Belmont.

So to say there is a little extra room for motivation from Red Bay's perspective would be a slight understatement.

"This is always a big game for us and there will be a huge crowd there. There's a little bit more of a special meaning since last time we went over there they were the last team to beat us in the regular season," Jackson said. "We have 19 seniors on this team and those guys were sophomores and they remember that game very well so we're looking forward to going over there and hopefully we have a little bit of extra motivation this week in practice."

Quinn finished the game against Tharptown 12 carries for 83 yards and two scores. Hunter King carried the ball six times for 34 yards and a touchdown while Carnes had one carry for 25 yards a touchdown.

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Congrats to Week 2 winner RONALD HORTON, who correctly picked 8 out of the 9 games that were played and also picked Notre Dame to beat South Florida 35-14!

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Jalen Vinson Quarterback, Red Bay Senior

This isn't the first time Vinson has been named the Sibley Oil Legacy Chevron Athlete of the Week and it most certainly won't be the last. The dual-threat senior quarterback for the Tigers was excellent both through the air and on the ground en route to Red Bay's 53-0 victory over region-rival Tharptown. Vinson went 5-17 on the night through the air with a touchdown but on the ground is where he really left his mark. Carrying the ball only five times, Vinson accounted for 84 yards and two touchdowns on the night. Red Bay takes on Belmont this Friday night.



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