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Hardy & the Mentalist crowned World Grand Champions

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When Melinda Allen purchased a horse whose father was the number one breeding stallion among all Tennessee Walking Horses, her plan was to train and compete with him.

And Allen did, at least at first. She and her horse, named the Mentalist, entered a few competitions. Then Allen's niece, Macy Hardy, started training with the Mentalist.

Less than one year later, Hardy and the Mentalist were crowned unanimous world grand champions at the 49th Annual Racking Horse World Celebration, held last month in Priceville. The World Celebration is the premier competition sponsored by the Racking Horse Breeders

See 'CHAMPIONS,' page 3



COURTESY PHOTO

Hardy and the Mentalist won the 12 and Under World Grand Championship less than one year after they began training for competitions.

County commission approves \$14 million budget for 20-21 fiscal year

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission approved a total budget of \$14.291 million for fiscal year 2020-21 at a special meeting held September 30.

The \$14,291,178.06 budget is divided into three separate budgets: General Fund Budget of \$7,657,620.14, Highway Department Budget of \$4,253,601.12 and Solid Waste Department Budget of \$2,379,956.80.

The budget for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office is incorporated into the county's general fund budget.

While county employees will not receive raises, all county employees, both temporary and permanent, will receive a one-time lump sum bonus

to be paid in mid-October.

According to Franklin County Administrator Leah Mansell, the one-time bonus will include \$75 per month of service for full-time employees, up to a 12-month maximum payment of \$900. Temporary employees will receive a \$450 bonus.

The county also absorbs a 5.5% increase in health insurance premiums that will not be passed on to employees, although employee lab copays will increase from \$3 to \$7.50, generic drug copays will increase from \$10 to \$15 and specialist copays from \$40 to \$50.

"I want to thank Leah for doing all the work hardly anyone sees in preparing this budget," said Franklin

See 'BUDGET,' page 9



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Pamela Sue Whitfield Akins, 59, of Russellville, passed away on Thursday, October 1st. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

Helen Inez Morgan Coan, 90, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Tuesday, September 29th. Interment at Mountain View Cemetery.

Betty Joyce Harris, 74, of Russellville, passed away on Sunday, September 27th. Interment at Bethlehem Cemetery.

Reece Horton, 87, of Russellville, passed away on Monday, September 28th. Interment at KP Cemetery.

Betty Lou Stout Jackson, 89, of Russellville, passed away on Wednesday, September 30th. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

Thomas "Tinker" Whitlock Malone, 73, of Russellville, passed away on Friday, October 2nd. Interment at KP Cemetery.

Betty Carter Seal, 90, passed away on Tuesday, September 29th. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

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'CHAMPIONS,' from page 1

Association of America.

Hardy, an eighth grader at East Franklin Junior High School, and the Mentalist won the 12 and Under World Grand Championship, the highest honor a racking horse can earn.

Hardy, the daughter of Danny and Miranda Hardy, developed her passion for horses at a young age with her aunt's influence.

"I rode horses all my life, and when (Macy) was four, I bought her a buddy saddle that was attached to my saddle so she could ride," Allen said. "We rode hundreds of miles with her sitting in the buddy saddle."

"She started last year showing Tennessee Walkers. She always showed in community horse shows at first. She showed the Mentalist at the World Show in Tennessee and from that first time, they clicked. That was in September 2019 and they came in fourth in the world out of 10 horses. And she had only rode him two or three times," she added.

A Racking Horse is a light riding horse, popular for their stamina and a distinctive single-foot gait. The Tennessee Walker is a breed of gaited horse known for its unique four-beat running-walk and flashy movement.

The breed was originally developed in the Southern United States for use on farms and plantations.

For Allen, not only was there great pride in seeing her horse win world-class honors, but the real inspiration was the perseverance her niece demonstrated in not giving up on the Mentalist, a horse who she was told more than once was not competition worthy.

"When we went to the spring show, the Mentalist acted crazy. They weren't able to finish the competition," Allen said. "People told her he's a 'one-way' horse and that he'd never amount to anything in shows. When Macy reversed him in the opposite direction, he just wouldn't have it."

"She really had a hard time with people saying he was just a one-way horse. We tried selling him in the spring. But Macy put her foot down and 'you're not selling him. He and I will figure this out together,'" she added.

A one-sided horse is one that turns much better to one direction than the other. Similarly, a one-way horse has difficulty walking after being turned and asked to go in the reverse direction.

Nine days before the World Celebration, the Mentalist left Allen Stables in East Franklin for Blountsville, Ala, to work with professional trainer Lamar

See 'CHAMPIONS,' page 4

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My take on this... Spruce Pine Day is almost here!

Well hello my friends! It's that time of the year again! The third Saturday in October always marks the day for our annual "Spruce Pine Day". Go ahead now and highlight



Gail Motes

Saturday, October 17th on your calendar where you won't forget to be a part of this all-day event.

Bean dinners will be served again this year which includes beans, slaw, cornbread, onion, drink and dessert, all for the price of \$5! Keep in mind that these plates sell fast!

The proceeds from the dinners sold, our t-shirt sales, and the donations to the Spruce Pine Museum go towards the expenses and maintenance of the Spruce Pine Historical Society.

The majority of our profit is made from the purchase of ads that are printed on the back of our shirts. Please, take the time to buy a shirt and read the ads on the back. Let's help support the ones that are supporting us.

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally express my gratitude for your

support. We could not continue what we do without your kindness and generosity.

Backwoods Grille on the go will be returning this year with all the delicious food they cook and serve (out the window of course).

There will be a newcomer this year who will be selling a variety of food, including the very popular funnel cakes. Some of you might have heard about him, but it will be my first time meeting him. His stand is called JA Concession.

Other than food vendors, there will be a variety of others. If you want to know what they are before Spruce Pine Day, you can look on Facebook under Spruce Pine Day or Shannon Pike. She will post vendors on those sites. Maybe this will be another incentive to come see us.

Another crowd-pleaser is the sounds of music that will be played all day long. Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets, just in case you need to stay warm. Of course, we are hoping for a beautiful day this year to make up for the rainout we had last

See 'SPUCE PINE,' Page 8

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The *Franklin Free Press* is published weekly by Pilati Investments, Inc.

Our publication is mailed to our readers at no charge.

Publisher

John Pilati

Executive Editor

Brady Petree

E-mail: franklinfreepress@yahoo.com

Sales Representatives

John Pilati

Content Contributors

John Pilati, Brady Petree, Christian Medina, Ree Shannon, Doug Green, Rebecca Thomason, Sheryl Hamilton, Ashley Cummins, Gail Motes

Graphic Design

Jason Hill

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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'CHAMPIONS,' from page 3

Denny leading up to the world show.

"We knew we'd done all we could with him and we needed some professional training. We drove two days a week for Macy to ride him in Blountsville," Allen said.

Tennessee Walkers are considered among the most difficult horses to ride, but Hardy's resilience in working with her equine partner was stronger than the Mentalist's tendency to be a one-way horse.

"This child just rode and rode and rode, saying she was not going to give up on him," Allen said. "For her to win on him, it just meant that much more. Even when we gave up on him, Macy refused and said they would be fine.

"Saturday night before they went into the arena, he tried to love on Macy and was rubbing on her. She told him 'no, you're not getting a kiss now, but if you win, I'll love on you. She showed him some tough love and it paid off," Allen added.

For Hardy, victory was also twice as sweet because of the many doubters.

"It takes a lot of time to train a horse but it was worth it as a personal victory, both for winning the world grand championship and I like proving people wrong," Hardy said. "There were many people who said he was just a one-way horse, not a juvenile horse and I'd never be able to ride him."

Hardy is not the first in her family to win a World Grand Championship in Racking Horse competition. Her great, great uncle Ralton Baker won a world championship in 1973 with a horse named the Bounty Hunter. Like Macy and the Mentalist, Baker and the Bounty Hunter were unanimous world grand champions.

"Since Macy was big enough to acknowledge horses, she had a fascination with the Bounty Hunter and her Uncle Ralton. He had the only

gelding that ever won the world championship," Allen said.

Including Macy, Franklin County's own Union Saddle Club, based at the Union Community Center, had six different horses and six different riders win either world championships or world grand championships last week in Priceville—quite the accomplishment for the small saddle club.

It wasn't until the family gathered in the winner's circle that the emotion of the moment finally hit Hardy.

"When I got in the center ring with her, she was doing the ugly cry," Allen said. "People who don't know her story and where she was with this horse just don't understand. From June until now, she put in such hard work. We are over the top proud of her and so excited.

Macy says that emotion came from the realization of how far she and the Mentalist had come in their journey.

"It's really hard to believe. I haven't been around this horse for a year and he's not easy to ride. He likes to go and he has been a challenge, but my whole family got to see us work together and it's just amazing," Hardy said.

"Some horses go into the (winner's) ring after they win and they feel excited too. I know the Mentalist was excited and knew he did well," she added.

And oh by the way, Allen's competitive days with the Mentalist are done. She's content to be a proud aunt watching her niece and her horse achieve greatness.

"And she'll be riding him permanently. When I saw how good they were together, I just hung (my competitive days) up. He's no longer my horse," Allen joked.

Congratulations to last week's
Mystery Photo Contest, Emma Hamm.

FFP MYSTERY Photo CONTEST

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FRANKLINFREEPRESS.NET

Hamilton vying for Franklin County Commission District Two seat

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

After 31 years as a pipefitter working for the Russellville Water and Sewer Board, Mitchell Hamilton retired in January.

But the 65-year-old Hamilton, known as "Peter Day" to friends and family, didn't want to languish into retirement. Instead, he wanted to set an example for his four grandchildren and work to improve his community.

With that in mind, Hamilton decided to run for the Franklin County Commission District Two seat. Hamilton was unopposed in the March 2020 primary and he is the Democratic nominee for the position and will face incumbent Republican Jason Miller on November 3, 2020.

"This is my first time to run for office. I wanted to get involved. I'm getting older now and I'm trying to make a difference in this world for our kids and grandkids," Hamilton said. "I may not win, but they can't say I didn't try. I've always been active in the community, and that includes voting, serving on boards and now, running for office."

Hamilton, a Russellville native, is a 1975 graduate of Russellville High School. He and his wife Joyce have been married 30 years. They have three children and four grandchildren.

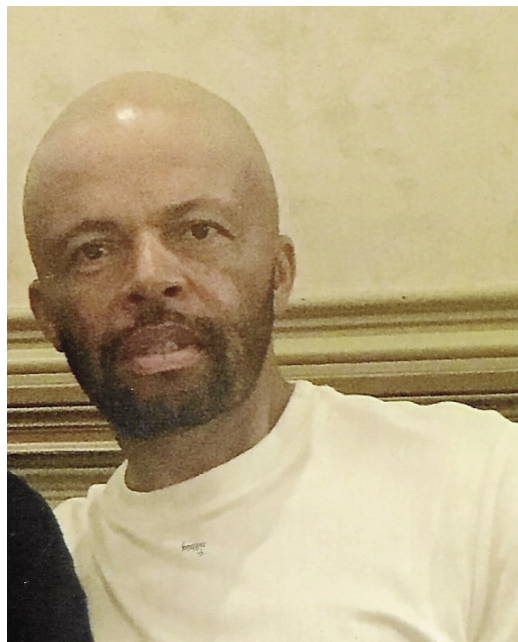
Hamilton served three years in the United States Army before beginning his 31-year career with the Russellville Water and Sewer Board.

Seeking elected office is never an easy task, but Hamilton said he's ready for the challenge.

"Sometimes you have to step out and trust the Lord. The only way He gets things done is through you and I reaching out and trying to help somebody," Hamilton said.

Hamilton said he's prepared to be open and accessible if elected and, as a retiree, he'll be available to help the county without having to schedule around a full-time job.

"I've always been active and that's why I got involved in this election. I like to make things short and sweet when talking with others. I'll listen to people and try to help when I can," he added.



Mitchell "Peter Day" Hamilton

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The Franklin County Health Department will offer a Flu Shot Clinic on Friday, October 30, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at First Free Will Baptist Church, 16140 Highway 43 in Russellville. Please bring your insurance cards, Blue Cross Blue Shield, All Kids, Medicaid or Medicare. If you do not have insurance, the cost will be \$5.

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.

Everyone 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.

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Presenting: the 2020 Vina homecoming court



COURTESY PHOTO

Vina senior homecoming court (from left to right):
Avery McNeill, Kayleigh Scott, Amy Colvin



COURTESY PHOTO

Vina 3rd-6th grade homecoming court, bottom to top:
3rd grade: Miley Jade Pannell & Bentley Johnson
4th grade: Tessa Fowler & Kyson Hall
5th grade: Kari Harper & Branson Vick
6th grade: Alyx Raper & Benjamin Guin



COURTESY PHOTO

Vina 7th-11th grade homecoming court:
7th (top) Miranda King
8th (next to top) Gabriella Brooks
9th (column) Jalyn Shotts
10th (front) Madison Brooks
11th (2nd from bottom) Sara Scott

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Franklin County Commission will accept applications for the following position(s):

Property Appraiser

in the Franklin County Commission Office until 5:00 PM on Wednesday, October 14, 2020.

An application and job description may be picked up, faxed or emailed upon request from the Franklin County Commission Office, located at 405 N. Jackson Avenue, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM or applications are available at www.franklin-countyal.org under the Careers tab.

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Russellville Electric Board receives national honors for relief efforts



Submitted to the FFP

The Russellville Electric Board (REB) has received a national commendation from the American Public Power Association for its support in electric power restoration efforts in Foley, Ala.

On September 16, 2020, REB sent 10 employees along with equipment to assist Riviera Utilities in Foley, which suffered widespread outages as a result of Hurricane Sally.

REB employees worked long hours during a 12-day period to assist in restoring electricity to thousands of residents without power.

"It is difficult to place a value on the services that our employees performed. That is something only those without power for extended periods of time can answer," said REB General Manager Charles Canida. "However, the local residents of Foley and Magnolia Springs were very cordial and gave our employees a warm welcome.

"Our employees returned home on Sunday evening, September 27th. We are extremely honored to have the caliber employees we have at Russellville Electric Board. Our employees are always willing to assist another utility in need," he added.

REB participates in the American Public Power's Mutual Aid Network, which coordinates with utilities and authorities during widespread power outages.

For more information on APPA and its commitment to mutual aid, visit PublicPower.org/MutualAid.

'SPRUCE PINE,' from page 4

year.
The music will begin around 9 a.m. with Buford Parker and at 10: 15, Jerry Martin will follow. Dana Hill will keep it going from 11:30 to noon with the upbeat country music from the 90's such as Shania Twain, Jo Dee Messina and Reba.

From 12:15-1:15, there will be the return of Jacob Green. He is our country man that plays a guitar and strums the songs we all know and love. He usually has a few he's written that he shares. I've been told by our final group of the day, it will require almost an hour to set up their sound system and all of their equipment they use.

We will have door prize drawings during some of this down time. Our new group performing will be Jimmy Robertson and the New Beginning Southern Gospel. Once they begin, they will finish out our day. Since we are living in such uncertain and difficult times, I was hoping that it might be inspiring to walk away with peace and hope in our hearts. Please come and be a part of Spruce Pine Day. The atmosphere feels like you are at a big family reunion, without the arguing. I hope to see you there!
Until later...

Visit us online at www.franklinfreepress.net!



'BUDGET,' from page 1

REMINDER!

Alabama Agriculture Stabilization Program State Supplemental CFAP Eligibility

Before proceeding through the application, please verify that you are eligible. In order to be eligible for this program, you must meet the following criteria, provide the required documentation, and successfully submit the application for review.

Application Period Opens Tuesday, September 15th 9:00 am and ends on Thursday October 15th

Please apply at: crf.alabama.gov or agi.alabama.gov and follow links to the State Supplemental CFAP Application.

All applications will be cross-referenced with USDA CFAP data provided by the Farm Service Agency before any applications are approved.

1. You must be an Alabama resident.
2. You will only be compensated for farming operations in the state of Alabama.
3. You must have been eligible for the USDA FSA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) during that program's application period of May 29th through September 11th, 2020.
4. This program will not provide any compensation for cattle or dairy production. Producers seeking compensation for cattle or dairy production must qualify for and apply for the State Cattle Producer Program.
5. ADAI will require each applicant to submit the following to qualify for eligibility:
 - Copy of W-9 form
 - Successful submission of this application and signed certification and assurances form
 - Your total USDA CFAP payment (excluding payments for cattle or dairy)
 - The county or counties you farm in and the commodities you farm
 - Bank account information for electronic payment
 - Copy of a voided check or a memo from your bank with account number and routing number.

Please Note: While it is not required, you may submit your USDA CFAP application as supporting documentation. This may expedite the review process

Payment Information:

The exact percentage to be used for the state payment will be determined after all state supplemental CFAP applications have been received and USDA's CFAP data is finalized.

If you have any questions regarding eligibility, please call 334-240-7100 or email: aasp-questions@agi.alabama.gov

County Probate Judge Barry Moore. "She makes sure everything is correct in the budget along with the regular business of the office plus our auditors are here.

"It's a busy time and we appreciate Leah and the entire staff in the commission office," he added.

The budget was approved by a 3-0 vote as Commissioner Chris Wallace was absent from the meeting.

The commission also approved the reappraisal budget for FY 2020-21, in the amount of \$769,583.79. This budget, which funds the appraisal responsibilities for Franklin County, along with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS), will now be submitted to the State of Alabama for its approval.

On the reappraisal budget, Commissioner Jason Miller voted against approving the budget. Miller was concerned about a last-minute addition to the budget that included a raise for GIS Manager Michael Hughes. Miller said he did not want to approve a change to the proposed budget that was only included the day before the budget was to be approved.

"As a commissioner, it's my responsibility to carefully consider every item that is voted on, especially when it concerns our budget and what money is being spent," Miller said. "The commission was given less than 24 hours to consider some additions, and I don't believe that is enough time for us to responsibly consider approving them, which is why I voted 'no.'

"I want to be able to do my due diligence before making important decisions concerning budget issues or raises," he added.

The *Franklin Free Press* has learned that Hughes' salary for 2019 was \$69,297.61, and with the one-step raise, his new annual compensation will be \$72,762.49.

According to a source familiar with the budget process, Franklin County Engineer David Palmer submitted the request for Hughes' raise on Tuesday, the day before the budget was to be voted on by the commission.

The budgeted expense for salaries and wages in the Reappraisal Budget for FY 2019-20 was \$378,428.81. That amount increased to \$399,438.49 in the budget approved Wednesday.

For updates on news throughout the week, visit www.franklinfreepress.net!



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SAMPLE BALLOT

(Front Side)

This is a common ballot, however, some offices will appear only in certain precincts which will apply to your districts.

THESE OFFICES RUN BY DISTRICT AND BEAT

OFFICIAL BALLOT			GENERAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION FRANKLIN COUNTY, ALABAMA NOVEMBER 3, 2020		
INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER					
TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL <input type="radio"/> COMPLETELY! <input checked="" type="radio"/> IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.					
STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING		FOR COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE NO. 2 (Vote for One)	FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER (Vote for One)		
<input type="radio"/> ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY		<input type="radio"/> MATT FRIDY Republican	<input type="radio"/> STRATT BYARS Republican		
<input type="radio"/> ALABAMA REPUBLICAN PARTY		<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in		
FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (Vote for One)		<input type="radio"/> MARY WINDOM Republican	<input type="radio"/> GREG HAMILTON Independent		
<input type="radio"/> JOSEPH R. BIDEN KAMALA D. HARRIS Democrat		<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in		
<input type="radio"/> DONALD J. TRUMP MICHAEL R. PENCE Republican		<input type="radio"/> BETH KELLUM Republican	<input type="radio"/> PAT COCHRAN Republican		
<input type="radio"/> Write-in		<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in		
<input type="radio"/> JO JORGENSEN JEREMY "Spike" COHEN Independent		FOR PRESIDENT, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (Vote for One)		FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT (Vote for One)	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in		<input type="radio"/> LAURA CASEY Democrat		<input type="radio"/> Write-in	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in		<input type="radio"/> TWINKLE ANDRESS CAVANAUGH Republican		<input type="radio"/> Write-in	
FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for One)		<input type="radio"/> Write-in			
<input type="radio"/> DOUG JONES Democrat		FOR MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 7 (Vote for One)			
<input type="radio"/> TOMMY TUBERVILLE Republican		<input type="radio"/> BELINDA PALMER McRAE Republican			
<input type="radio"/> Write-in		<input type="radio"/> Write-in			
FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for One)		FOR MEMBER, FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT NO. 1 (Vote for One)			
<input type="radio"/> RICK NEIGHBORS Democrat		<input type="radio"/> CHRIS WALLACE Republican			
<input type="radio"/> ROBERT ADERHOLT Republican		<input type="radio"/> Write-in			
<input type="radio"/> Write-in		<input type="radio"/> Write-in			
FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE NO. 1 (Vote for One)		FOR MEMBER, FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT NO. 2 (Vote for One)			
<input type="radio"/> GREG SHAW Republican		<input type="radio"/> MITCHELL HAMILTON Democrat			
<input type="radio"/> Write-in		<input type="radio"/> JASON MILLER Republican			
<input type="radio"/> Write-in		<input type="radio"/> Write-in			
FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE NO. 2 (Vote for One)		FOR MEMBER, FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT NO. 3 (Vote for One)			
<input type="radio"/> BRAD MENDHEIM Republican		<input type="radio"/> JOSEPH BALDWIN Republican			
<input type="radio"/> Write-in		<input type="radio"/> Write-in			
FOR COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE NO. 1 (Vote for One)		FOR MEMBER, FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT NO. 4 (Vote for One)			
<input type="radio"/> WILLIAM C. "Bill" THOMPSON Republican		<input type="radio"/> JUDY BULLEN Democrat			
<input type="radio"/> Write-in		<input type="radio"/> WILLIAM DAVID (Opie) HESTER Republican			
<input type="radio"/> Write-in		<input type="radio"/> Write-in			
CONTINUE VOTING ON BACK					

These offices will not appear on all ballots

FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 1 (Vote for One)	FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 9 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 2-1 (Vote for One)	FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 10 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 2-2 (Vote for One)	FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 11 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> BOBBY BROWN Democrat	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 12 (Vote for One)
FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 2-3 (Vote for One)	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 13 (Vote for One)
FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 2-4 (Vote for One)	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 14 (Vote for One)
FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 2-5 (Vote for One)	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 15 (Vote for One)
FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 3 (Vote for One)	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 16 (Vote for One)
FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 4 (Vote for One)	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 17 (Vote for One)
FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 5 (Vote for One)	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> RODNEY BELUE Republican	FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 18 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 6 (Vote for One)	FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 19 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 7 (Vote for One)	FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 20 (Vote for One)
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
FOR CONSTABLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY BEAT 8 (Vote for One)	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in

SAMPLE BALLOT

(Back Side)

<p style="text-align: center;">"Shall the following Amendments to the Constitution of Alabama be adopted?"</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT STATEWIDE</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 3</u></p> <p>Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that a judge, other than a judge of probate, appointed to fill a vacancy would serve an initial term until the first Monday after the second Tuesday in January following the next general election after the judge has completed two years in office. (Proposed by Act 2019-346)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 1</u></p> <p>Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to amend Article VIII of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 177 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, to provide that only a citizen of the United States has the right to vote. (Proposed by Act 2019-330)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 4</u></p> <p>Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to authorize the Legislature to recompile the Alabama Constitution and submit it during the 2022 Regular Session, and provide a process for its ratification by the voters of this state. (Proposed by Act 2019-271)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 2</u></p> <p>Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to increase the membership of the Judicial Inquiry Commission and further provide for the appointment of the additional members; further provide for the membership of the Court of the Judiciary and further provide for the appointment of the additional members; further provide for the process of disqualifying an active judge; repeal provisions providing for the impeachment of Supreme Court Justices and appellate judges and the removal for cause of the judges of the district and circuit courts, judges of the probate courts, and judges of certain other courts by the Supreme Court; delete the authority of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to appoint an Administrative Director Courts; provide the Supreme Court of Alabama with authority to appoint an Administrative Director of Courts; require the Legislature to establish procedures for the appointment of the Administrative Director of Courts; delete the requirement that a district court hold court in each incorporated municipality with a population of 1,000 or more where there is no municipal court; provide that the procedure for the filling of vacancies in the office of a judge may be changed by local constitutional amendment; delete certain language relating to the position of constable holding more than one state office; delete a provision providing for the temporary maintenance of the prior judicial system; repeal the office of circuit solicitor; and make certain nonsubstantive stylistic changes. (Proposed by Act 2019-187)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 5</u></p> <p>Relating to Franklin County, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that a person is not liable for using deadly physical force in self-defense or in the defense of another person on the premises of a church under certain conditions. (Proposed by Act 2019-194)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 6</u></p> <p>Relating to Lauderdale County, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that a person is not liable for using deadly physical force in self-defense or in the defense of another person on the premises of a church under certain conditions. (Proposed by Act 2019-193)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>	
	<p>END OF BALLOT</p>	



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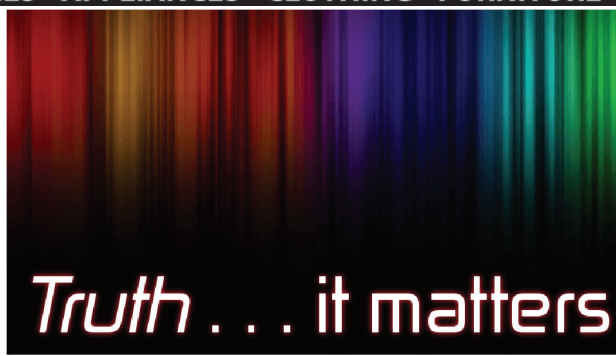
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Bobcats win back-and-forth matchup with Colbert Heights, looking for first playoff berth since 2015

Brady Petree
 Franklin Free Press

PHIL CAMPBELL - The last time Phil Campbell beat Colbert Heights, you have to go all the way back to 2004 which came courtesy of a 14-7 defensive showdown. That team finished the season at 3-7 and just one win away from making the playoffs.

As for this year's Phil Campbell team, they have already eclipsed that win total from 2004 as they now sit at 4-2 after a 34-30 victory against the Wildcats last Friday night.

To see just how competitive of a matchup this game has been for the Bobcats since Kevin Barnwell took over the program in 2018, all you have to do is look at the margin of victory over the past three matchups. After Friday night the average margin of victory for either school is a meager four and a half points when they go against one another.

In a game that was as back-and-forth as one could imagine (four lead changes within the fourth quarter alone), the competitiveness of the matchup caught no one by surprise.

Going into Friday night, Barnwell and his squad knew to expect the game to come down to the final minutes.

"We expected that we were going to take their best punch and we hope they expected that they were going to take our best punch. The game just came with expectations that it was going to be that way," Barnwell said. "That's kind of what I'm trying to get this program to is that for opposing teams, if you come here, you know that our guys are going to get after you for four quarters and they should expect a fight every single time."

Following the win, the Bobcats are trending in

See 'BOBCATS,' page 14



Getting back on track

Following a loss to 6A Hartselle, the Russellville looked to be back in top form as the Golden Tigers handed Ardmore a 41-3 loss. Now they'll look to clinch their first region crown since 2015 against a familiar foe.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

Led by a dynamic run game, an established offensive line and a relentless defense, the Golden Tigers are staring down their first region title since 2015.

Brady Petree
 Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - It's often said that history repeats itself. And while that might not ring true in some aspects, in the sports world that sentiment is true more often than not.

The last time the Golden Tigers were sitting atop their region was back in 2015 when they were grouped in with the likes of West Point, Lawrence County, Ardmore, and East Limestone who finished runner-up in the region to the Golden Tigers that year. And as fate would have it, it's coming down to Russellville and East Limestone for the region crown in 2020.

While the Golden Tigers clinched a playoff spot after their 41-3 win over Ardmore last Friday night, head coach John Ritter acknowledges that there's more work to do for his squad.

"This is an opportunity for us to win the region championship, only the second time in ten years. We've essentially played for the region championship two out of the last three years and really had a chance last year had we beat Jasper," Ritter said. "To play in a region championship two out of three years is huge and a great opportunity for our program. It's time that we take that next step as a program and win it and not finish second or third. It's going to be a big game and it's homecoming so

I think the community will be fired up and we're hoping we have a great huge crowd to bring the noise and give us that huge home field advantage."

Bouncing back from a loss to Hartselle just a week prior, the defense for the Golden Tigers looked to be returning to form, holding Ardmore to just 231 yards of offense and a field goal on the night. Whereas the offense for the Golden Tigers was able to excel both through the air and on the ground, something that hadn't quite come together all at the same time for the Golden Tigers until now.

"I thought we played well in all three phases and we had a great week at practice. We had a very simple game plan and our guys went out there and executed it very well," Ritter said. "We were able to throw the ball a better which took some pressure off of the run game and defensively we were able to create some turnovers which is huge for us."

Of course not lost in the mix was Russellville's offense, which seems to have found some renewed life on the ground after an injury to one of the Golden Tiger's running backs one week ago.

With the loss of Arrieon "Boots" McCulloch to injury during the Hartselle game, the Golden Tigers have had to rely on other players in the run

See 'TRACK,' page 16



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'BOBCATS,' from page 13

the right direction as the program makes a run at a postseason berth for the first time since 2015.

With three huge region games looming on the schedule for the Bobcats in the form of Lauderdale County, East Lawrence and Danville, Barnwell will look to instill a certain type of mindset in his guys during this important stretch of games.

"Be where your feet are. That's what I tell all of my guys. You've gotta win today or make that next play before you can move on. And if you don't win one particular play, move on and try to win the next one," Barnwell said. "We've got to take things as they come because we can't control the future. Only thing we can control is where we are right now. This week when we're prepping for Lauderdale County, we're going to try to be where our feet are and be better than we were yesterday and try to be better *this* play than we were on the last play. At the end of it all we'll tally it up and see where we are."

An interesting thing that separates Barnwell's Bobcats from most high school squads is the fact that he allows his guys to call a healthy dose of their own plays.

Having that level of trust in his players is undoubtedly why Barnwell and the Bobcats are poised to make a playoff push.

"Our kids take an active role in our playbook so a lot of the game I huddled them up and let them call the plays they wanted to call. We did that all week and so our guys are prepared for things like that. A few years ago when I got here, I was calling every single thing and I'm kind of stressing that this year. I'm trying to get these guys to think for themselves and confident in themselves to where we can feel better about our playbook," Barnwell said. "So we're giving our players a lot of liberty to be able to call their own plays because we found that our missed assignments were much lower because our guys were taking responsibility for the plays they called so it's worked out well for us."

One of the key reasons for the Bobcats success has been the resurgence of the run game which looked as though it might have to take a backseat following the loss to injury of elite running back Trey Leindecker earlier this year.

See 'BOBCATS,' page 17

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The Census will also determine how Alabama is represented in the United States Congress. A low Census response may result in our state losing one of its Congressional seats.

The 2020 Census brought unprecedented challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, so we want to say a heartfelt 'Thank You' to every residence that completed the 2020 Census.

And a special thank you to the hard-working members of the Franklin County Census Committee for your efforts in encouraging participation this year.

--Katernia Cole-Coffey, Richard Rowland and Dr. Susan Hargett
Franklin County Census Committee

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'TRACK,' from page 13

game to keep lead running back Caleb Matthews fresh through all four quarters.
Last week against Ardmore, Conner Warhurst was the next man up for Ritter and his staff, supplementing Matthews throughout the night on the ground. Warhurst finished his night against Ardmore with 12 carries for 116 yards and two touchdowns while Matthews accounted for 14 carries and 114 yards and two scores of his own.

"We knew Conner could run the ball and that's part of the reason we play him at quarterback to try and have some more speed on the field. For Conner to come in and have the night he had rushing for us is huge because it looks like we have three tailbacks now," Ritter said.

Senior quarterback Gabe Amick was extremely efficient in the passing game for the Golden Tigers on Friday night, an aspect that Ritter and his staff have been hoping to get on the right track for the past few weeks. Amick went seven of nine for 136 yards and a touchdown on the night.

T.J. King had five receptions for 110 yards a touchdown while Nathan Brockway and Rowe Gallagher were able to reel in one catch apiece.



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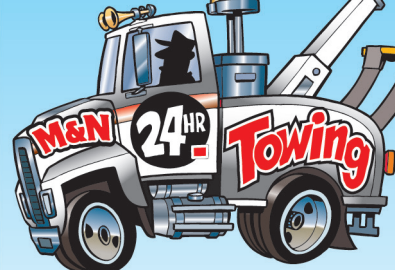
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'BOBCATS,' from page 14

That resurgence has come courtesy of a multitude of players for Barnwell and his staff, most notably Ridge Raper (nine carries for 71 yards against Colbert Heights) and Bryant Hyde (seven carries for 34 yards). However, the biggest boost for the Bobcat offense has been the rushing attack coming from senior quarterback Luke Barnwell.

Barnwell, who carried the ball 24 times for 147 yards and four touchdowns on the night (including the go-ahead score with 1:16 left in the game), has been a key part of the Phil Campbell rushing agame, something his head coach has been wanting to see for a while.

"I'm very proud of Luke because he's understanding what we're trying to do here. There's a lot of things that we clash on and have disagreements on but what happens sometimes is I'll let him huddle up and go out there and run it and allow him to call what he wants," Barnwell said. "He's

worked very hard in the offseason and he's one of those guys that since I've been here, he hasn't missed a workout or practice, even when he was injured. Our guys know that he's a guy that they can count on and leads by example."

Barnwell finished the night going 5 for 13 through the air with 56 yards. Raper added two receptions to his credit for 31 yards and Hyde added two catches for 15 yards and an 82-yard kickoff return for a touchdown that regave Phil Campbell the lead late in the fourth quarter.



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Third row from left to right: Rep. Louise Alexander (HD 56), Rep. Barbara Drummond (HD 103)

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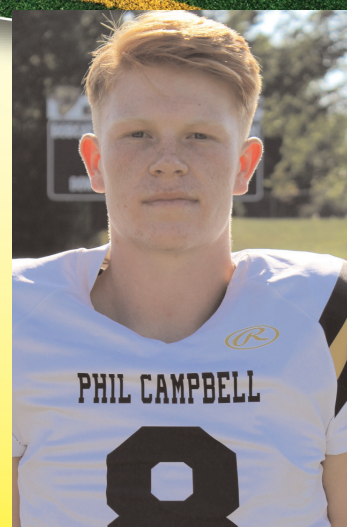
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The Bobcats needed all four of Barnwell's touchdowns against Colbert Heights as Phil Campbell walked away with their first victory against the Wildcats since 2004 by a final of 34-30. Barnwell was electrifying on the ground, carrying the ball 24 times for 147 yards and the four aforementioned scores including the go-ahead score for the Bobcats with under two minutes left. The senior quarterback also went 5 for 13 through the air for 56 yards as well.



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Congrats to Week 4 winner **DANNY PINKARD**, who correctly picked 6 out of the 10 games that were played and also won the tiebreaker between Texas Tech and Kansas State!



Bailey finished all of her picks and still had time to take a nap. Don't sleep on your chance to BEAT BAILEY!!

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BEAT BAILEY IS BACK! Submit your picks to us each week in one of two ways: Fill out the entry form on this page and mail it to us at 113 Washington Ave. NW, Russellville, AL 35653, or email your picks to us along with your name and number at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. **Picks sent in by mail for Week 5 must be postmarked by Friday, October 9th, and picks submitted by email for Week 5 must be received by Saturday, October 10th at 10 a.m.** Each week, the contestant who correctly picks the most games will win a free T-shirt and the chance to pick in the grand-prize final-week contest. If multiple contestants correctly pick the same number of games in a given week, the tiebreaker score will be used to determine a winner. Contestants are only eligible to win the weekly contest once. No multiple winners allowed. ONE entry per telephone number. Thanks for playing, and good luck!

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Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 5: October 10th	Bailey's Pick	Your Pick
Florida vs. Texas A&M	Florida	_____
Virginia Tech vs. North Carolina	North Carolina	_____
Texas vs. Oklahoma	Texas	_____
Tennessee vs. Georgia	Georgia	_____
Miami vs. Clemson	Clemson	_____
Alabama vs. Ole Miss	Alabama	_____
Florida State vs. Notre Dame	Notre Dame	_____
Arkansas vs. Auburn	Auburn	_____
Mississippi State vs. Kentucky	Kentucky	_____
Missouri vs. LSU	LSU	_____
Tiebreaker Score:	South Carolina _____	Vanderbilt _____
Your Name:	_____	
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YES

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YES

Supports Affordable Healthcare
for All

VOTED NO

YES

Supports Medicaid Expansion

VOTED NO

YES

Supports Covid Aid for County
& Municipalities

VOTED NO

YES

Supports Passage of Heroes Act

VOTED NO

YES

Supports Infrastructure
Investments

VOTED NO

YES

Supports Increased Minimum
Wage

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YES

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