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## Palmer 'humbled' by District One support received in council race

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

When David Palmer heard who his opponents would be in this year's race for Russellville City Council District One, Palmer knew he'd be in for a close one.

With former candidate Terry Bolton and political newcomer Aaron Harbin also on the ballot, Palmer was correct.

After Palmer and Harbin advanced to the October 6<sup>th</sup> runoff, the two-term councilman survived a close race and defeated Harbin by a 319-295 vote margin. Palmer won the Russellville High School box Tuesday 283-281, and his absentee vote margin over Harbin was 36-14. "I knew this would be a dogfight

See 'PALMER,' page 5



COURTESY PHOTO

Palmer won the Russellville City Council District One runoff against Aaron Harbin by a 319-295 vote margin.

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## Russellville Electric Board warns customers of telephone scam

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Electric Board is sending out warnings to its customers about a telephone scam regarding utility bills.

Charlie Canida, REB General Manager, said several customers have contacted his office questioning phone calls they received from someone claiming to be a representative with the Russellville Electric Board.

The caller informs the person their utility bill is past due and either their payment was denied, or never received. The next step is the caller demands immediate payment and

threatens to terminate service if the customer does not take care of the payment.

"We have not, and do not, make telephone calls for solicitation of payment of utility bills," Canida said. "This is a scam and anyone who receives such a call claiming to be associated with the Russellville Electric Board needs to know we would never make such a call."

The scammer attempts to have the victim pay for their past due bill with a credit card or bank account, or through the purchase of a money card they will send to the scammer.

If any REB customer receives a call from someone telling them their

See 'SCAM,' page 3

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**Nettie Faye Bendall**, 86, of Russellville, passed away on Tuesday, October 6th. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

**David Wayne Jones**, 66, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Friday, October 9th. Interment at Edgars Chapel Cemetery.

**Wanda Jean Patterson**, 63, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Saturday, October 10th. Interment at Spruce Pine Cemetery.

**Charles Garland Thomas**, 74, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Wednesday, October 7th. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

**Marie Helen Young**, 50, of Russellville, passed away on Saturday, October 3rd. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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Congratulations to last week's Mystery Photo Contest, C.K. Wainwright.

# FFP MYSTERY Photo CONTEST

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Email your guess to the location of this week's Mystery Photo to [ffpmysteryphoto@yahoo.com](mailto: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



FRANKLINFREEPRESS.NET

## 'SCAM,' from page 1

power bill is past due and their service will be disconnected, hang up and contact local law enforcement to report the call.

The policy of the Russellville Electric Board is to never request any confidential, personal financial information from its customers. You should only provide this information if you visit REB directly to make a payment.

"We certainly want our customers to know about scams in our service area," Canada said. "You should always be safe and know not to give anyone who contacts you credit card or bank information over the phone.

"You can always contact our office at 256-332-3850 to report such a call," he added.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us on the web at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!

Send your creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

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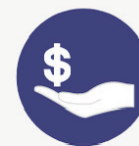
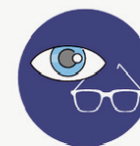
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## FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

# Penalty-free tag renewal extended through October 15th

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The frustration was evident in Janet Stokes' voice. As the Belgreen resident stood in line Wednesday morning waiting to enter the Franklin County Courthouse and renew her daughter's vehicle registration, she was not only frustrated about the long line, but also the fact that if the tag wasn't renewed Wednesday, the final day of the month, there would be a penalty added.

Although it still took a couple hours to get through the line, Stokes and Franklin County residents received some good news Wednesday as Revenue Commissioner Veronica Stancil received approval from State of Alabama Auditors to waive the penalty for September tag renewals through October 15, 2020.

Long lines began to form outside the courthouse after the Revenue Commissioner's Office motor vehicle registration computer system crashed on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

The computer system

has a backup in place and employees in the tag office received confirmation that day the backup was working properly, but after the crash it could not be accessed.

"The system told us each day we had good backups so we relied on that in the event of any problems," Stancil said. "After the crash, the data recovery company was not able to retrieve it. Our vendor is writing a program to get that information back from the state but we're not sure when that will be complete."

The system crash meant tag office employees have no access to any vehicle records, owner information, proof of insurance and the courtesy reminder cards that are sent out one month in advance were not sent out to residents whose tags were due for renewal in October.

And some September renewals, like Stokes' daughter, didn't receive cards either.

"People didn't get notice the bills were due and they are still making them pay a penalty," Stokes said. "I don't think we should have to pay a penalty because their system had problems."

"They put it off months and months and waived late fees because of COVID-19, but not for this. That means people have no choice but to wait in long lines with no social distancing for hours and hours."

The concerns of Stokes and others were heard by Stancil, who spent much of Wednesday working to get permission to waive those penalties.

Residents whose tags are due for renewal in October are those whose last names begin with U,V,W,X,Y and Z.

When the computer system is working properly, a tag renewal takes less than three minutes, Stancil said. Tag office employees are now having to input everything from scratch, and must review applicants' drivers licenses, proof of insurance and previous year's motor vehicle registration in order to process the renewal. That can take up to 10 minutes or more, and as the end of the month neared, lines grew longer.

The line for motor vehicle registration and renewals forms to the right side of the courthouse when looking at the building from North Jackson Avenue. Residents with business in the Franklin County Probate and Circuit Clerk's

See 'RENEWAL,' Page 7

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## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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The *Franklin Free Press* is published by hometown people, for hometown people. We urge contributions of all kinds, including guest columns, picture submissions, cartoons or letters to the editor. Send any letters to our office via U.S. Postal Service or e-mail, and we will gladly publish them. Letters must be signed and contain the hometown and phone number of the author. The *Franklin Free Press* reserves the right to edit letters for style, length and content.

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## My take on this... Spruce Pine Day is finally here!

Hi everyone!

I'm writing to you once again about Spruce Pine Day. This is a last minute reminder that this coming Saturday is it. The 'big day' is finally here!

As you may remember, it was a rainy day last year so I'm hoping for sunshine, comfortable weather and the sight of happy people. Remember to bring your chairs and stay all day with us.

Music will begin at 9 a.m. and will last until 4 p.m. I have a bluegrass band that hasn't called yet so as of now our 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. spot is pending.

As you know, not everything goes as planned and this year has been one of those times. Within the last four days I've been faced with band cancellations that were out of their control, and a last minute notification of a sound system that wasn't going to be provided.

That *only* meant a few bands couldn't play because they didn't own one of their own. Yes, you heard me correctly. It was not a happy place to be.

I can happily say that everything has worked out, with the exception of one band to fill the final spot of the day. I promise y'all, if this band can't make it, I'll do all I can to fill that spot. It might not be the bluegrass music I wanted, but I'll try to get something. I guess we could always get something. I guess we could always have a mask contest, but I'm going for the music. As Kelly Clarkson would say, "you're welcome!"

I would like to ask all of you to help me get the word out that the band lineup has been amended. The information is now incorrect on the posters that have been distributed throughout the county. It's too late to make corrections so I'm hoping this



Gail Motes

article will help to let a lot of people know about the change.

This is the new, revised lineup for Spruce Pine Day this Saturday, October 17th: Buford Parker will play from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., Jerry Martin will play from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., Jacob Green will play from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., New Beginning Southern Gospel will play from 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., Kaitlyn Vickery will play from 1:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. with the 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. slot still pending.

I also failed to mention the "Cruise in" that Bill Herring and Ronald Sherrill are having this year.

Every year brings more and more spectacular cars and if you love car shows and prize money, then this is exactly where you need to be!

Please help them get the word out. Bill and Ronald will be waiting on you so don't let them down!

I'd also like to remind you once again of our museum. Admission is free and entering those doors will take you back in time. Books can be purchased inside about Spruce Pine and all donations will be greatly appreciated. Be sure to sign the register provided on the counter as you walk in.

I will be your emcee again this year and it will be so good to see my old friends and make new ones.

I won't be giving or receiving hugs as I normally do and I must say I am going to miss it.

I'm just doing my best to stay COVID-free and so far I've been fortunate. I don't want to give it to someone else either.

Anyway, if you've never been to our small town, now is the perfect time to be there.

Hope to see you Saturday!

And as always, until later...

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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.franklincountyal.org](http://www.franklincountyal.org) under the Careers tab.

Franklin County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the employment or the provision of services.

## ‘PALMER,’ from page 1

and it was,” Palmer said. “I’m thankful for all the people who came out and supported me. I’m humbled by the support we received.

“I want the residents of District One to know I heard you this campaign. I’ve been in more living rooms than ever before and I heard you loud and clear, as to what are the most pressing issues and I am more than ready to battle for those in the next four years,” Palmer added.

Palmer, who serves as the Franklin County Engineer, pushed his professional experience, both in his job and on the council, to voters during the campaign.

“I always try to run a race about me, never about my opponent, and I continued to do that this time,” Palmer said. “I ran on my skill set to the city and my experience fighting through the maze that is local government.

“Sometimes people want to oversimplify government at all levels, but government can be extremely complicated. It’s a very complex business and experience is important as it is in any private enterprise,” he added.

Harbin, a Russellville native, is employed by Franklin Manufacturing as an engineer.

Although he came up short in his first political bid, Harbin said the experience motivated him to stay involved in his community, and leave the door open for another run at elected office.

“I’ll for sure keep that option open,” Harbin said. “This was definitely a learning experience. I learned a lot and I met a lot of people. I learned everyone’s concerns, what they’d like to see changed and what the positives are in our city.

“I send my congratulations to David Palmer, and offer him my support and willingness to help in any way I can to make our district and our city a better place to live. I truly believe we are all in this together and a defeat in a campaign could never dampen my dedication to the city I love or the people who live here,” he added.

In addition to his appreciation for the people of District One, Palmer had one special message of thanks to convey to his wife Kim.

“I especially want to thank my wife. She was in this race with me absolutely side-by-side with boots on the ground, sleeves rolled up and working hard,” Palmer said. “Working together with me throughout the campaign, she saw what it’s really like to get out there.

“I’m so proud of her. I love her and thank her wholeheartedly. She does a lot more than people will ever know,” he added.

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# What's Happening

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

**T**he 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.

**T**he NACOLG SenioRx Medication Assistance Program supplies free and low-cost medications for anyone in Alabama with a disability or a chronic illness, regardless of age, that requires daily medication. Medicare recipients may also be eligible. For more information, contact NACOLG SenioRx today. There is no charge for this service. Call 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463) or 256-389-0529 and ask for Paula Pardue. This program is in partnership with the state of Alabama and Alabama Department of Senior Services.

**L**ifeSouth Community Blood Center will host a blood drive at Russellville Hospital on Thursday, October 22, 2020 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. LifeSouth is the primary supplier of blood products to Russellville Hospital. Please contact Deborah Lindsey to schedule an appointment at 256-332-8676 or by email at deborah.lindsey@russellvillehospital.org. Please be sure to bring your photo ID when you donate. Everyone who signs up to donate will receive a free T-shirt, an appetizer card from Texas Roadhouse, a free cookie dough card from Papa Murphy's and a free meal ticket from Russellville Hospital. We will also be giving away DOOR PRIZES! All donors with a successful donation will receive COVID-19 antibody screening. Results can be accessed via the LifeSouth donor portal within seven days of your donation. Go to www.lifesouth.org to log in to the donor portal.

**T**he Lawrence County Health Department will hold a Drive-Thru Flu Clinic on October 22, 2020, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., or while supplies last. The clinic will be held in the parking lot of the Lawrence County Health Department, 13299 Hwy. 157, in Moulton. They will accept Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Medicaid and Medicare. If uninsured, cost will be \$5. No one will be turned away due to inability to pay.

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.

**Miranda Decker, M.D.**

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Mon-Thur  
8-5

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# Hallo-Win

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## ‘RENEWAL,’ from page 4

Offices, as well as those voting absentee or attending court, wait in the line to the left of the main entrance.

Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore said the motor vehicle computer system crashed and it was not the result of any hacking or cyber attack.

“No information was compromised in any way. It’s just the server that went down. It’s an unfortunate thing and an inconvenience for the public, but we’re working through it as quickly as possible,” Moore said.

Residents whose tags are due in October still must come in to renew them by October 31, even if they do not receive the renewal notices in the mail, Stancil said. She is working to see if penalties for October may also be waived subject to the approval of state auditors.

Stancil said her employees are working diligently to keep the lines moving.

“I want to say a special thank you to the tag office employees in Russellville and Red Bay. Every bit of information has to be entered now. This is stressful for the customers and for them,” Stancil said. “I appreciate each one of them more than they’ll ever know.”

## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Alabama Code Sections 32-13-1 through 32-13-8, the following motor vehicle will be sold for cash at 10:30 a.m., on September 5th, 2020, at M&N Wrecker & Service Center, 11833 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, Al, 35653. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and the right to bid.

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# Woodruff ready to move District Two forward after runoff win

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes a district to win a city council election, and Darren Woodruff found that out en route to winning his bid for Russellville City Council District Two in the October 6<sup>th</sup> runoff.

Woodruff, who faced three-term incumbent councilman William Nale, credited the people of District Two for embracing his message of change. Woodruff defeated Nale 238-193 votes in what was called a runoff election, but actually was a repeat of the August 25<sup>th</sup> election between the same two men. The first election ended in a tie. Alabama law provides in the event of a tie in a municipal election, the same candidates run again.

Nale garnered the most votes at the polling place, 154-152, but Woodruff's advantage in absentee votes, 86-39, provided his winning edge.

"I want to thank the people of District Two for their support in this campaign," Woodruff said. "Alone, it's difficult for one person to create change. Together though, we can do amazing things.

"Regardless of where you stood in this campaign, today marks a new beginning. I look forward to representing all the citizens of District Two in the next four years," he added.

Woodruff will take office at the first meeting of the Russellville City Council in November.

For Nale, Tuesday's loss marked the end of his long tenure serving the City of Russellville. Nale began his 32-year law enforcement career in 1972 with the Russellville Police Department. His first term on the council began in 2008.

Nale said he's proud of the city's progress and growth during this tenure.

"We've seen lots of paving projects completed, and an unprecedented amount the last eight years," Nale said. "We've seen continued growth in

our businesses. Just look at the four-lane. We're still seeing that growth and I think that will continue."

Although he was disappointed with the results, Nale said he and his wife Debbie will now be able to spend more time with their grandchildren and traveling.

"We love riding (motorcycles) with friends. Later today, I'll bring my bike out of the garage and it will be washed and waxed, and be ready to take a trip. It's been serviced, so we're ready to go," Nale said.

Woodruff expressed his appreciation to those who helped him in his first bid for public office, including his most important supporter, his wife.

"I want to add a special thank you to my wife Margie, my family, friends and everyone who helped with this campaign. I will always appreciate your support," Woodruff said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Woodruff defeated incumbent William Nale in the October 6th runoff by a vote margin of 238-193.

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## BREAKING GROUND



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

Members of the Russellville City Board of Education, the Russellville City Council, Mayor David Grissom and RCS Superintendent Heath Grimes took part in a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday morning to officially kick off the Russellville High School addition. The project includes a new building for Russellville High School and a major renovation and expansion of the Career Tech Center.



We love to hear from you! Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoons, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com). For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at [franklinfreepress.net](http://franklinfreepress.net)!

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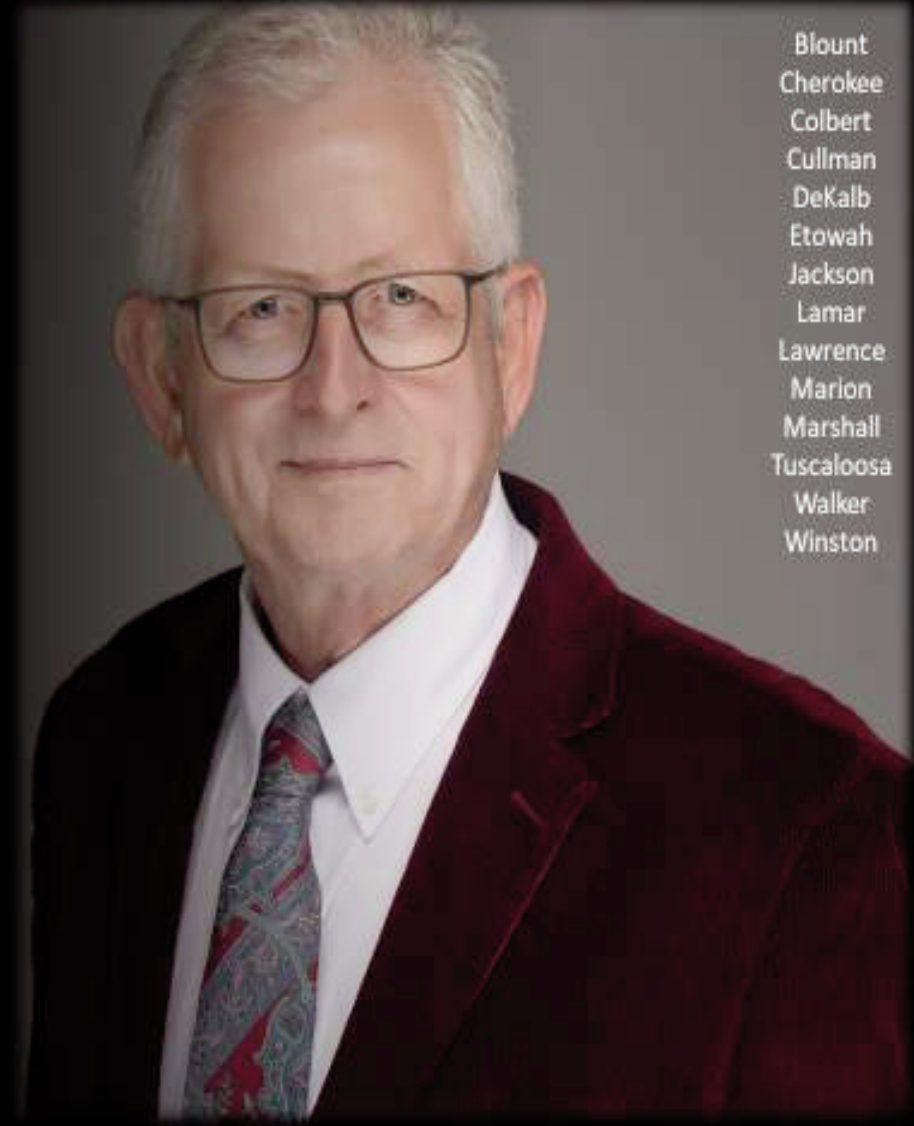
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 Third row from left to right: Rep. Louise Alexander (HD 56), Rep. Barbara Drummond (HD 103)  
 Not pictured: Sen. Priscilla Dunn (SD 19), Sen. Malika Sanders-Fortier (SD 23), Rep. Merika Coleman (HD 57), Rep. Rolanda Hollis (HD 58), Rep. Tashina Morris (HD 77), Rep. Connie Rowe (HD 13)



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## Belgreen takes home first-ever Franklin County volleyball tournament title

Brady Petree  
 Franklin Free Press

THARPTOWN - While college football was taking over most of the attention last Saturday, there was history being made inside the Tharptown gymnasium.

As a long day of volleyball came to a close, the Belgreen Bulldogs were hoisting the first-ever Franklin County volleyball championship trophy after defeating first-year program Red Bay and then long-time rival Tharptown in the championship game.

After beating Red Bay 25-10 and 25-16, Belgreen clinched the title by sweeping Tharptown in two straight sets 25-15 and 25-22.

For head coach Susie Tverberg, who has been a staple of coaching in Franklin County for many years, the fact that a volleyball tournament could finally take place within the county has been a dream in the making for quite some time.

"I remember when Tharptown got the first team in the county and my daughter was a part of that first team. It was fun and we were hoping that more schools would jump on board and now we had us and Red Bay so it's been a growing process and a learning process at the same time," Tverberg said. "I'm glad that these girls get to go through this because the softball county tournament is fun and the basketball county tournament is fun and now we get to have fun in the volleyball county tournament as well."

One of the major reasons that the Bulldogs have been so dominant this season has been due to the play of senior hitter Emma Dempsey, combined with a wide depth of players that Tverberg is able to cycle in and out in any given scenario.

See 'BELGREEN,' page 14

# Doing the small things

As Red Bay rolled past Hatton last Friday night, the Tigers now turn their attention to a game with massive playoff implications. How will the Tigers try to break through a formidable opponent in Mars Hill?

By stressing the importance of fundamentals, ball security and accountability.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Vinson (#10) went three for eight for 128 yards and two touchdowns through the air in Red Bay's win over Hatton. The Tigers will look to continue an upwards trending offense against Mars Hill.

Brady Petree  
 Franklin Free Press

HATTON - If you're a fan of football, boy is this the week for you.

You have not one, but two matchups between schools ranked at number two and number three at two different levels of competition.

On Saturday you have Alabama taking on Georgia and while that game will have more eyes on it, there's one local game that just might match the energy and intensity of any college football game that will be played this weekend.

Red Bay and Mars Hill, who are currently ranked number three and number two according to the Alabama Sports Writers Association, will square off this Friday night in what has long been deemed as one of the premier high school matchups of 2020.

As the Tigers and Panthers meet up on Friday night, the playoff implications are massive.

For Red Bay, the outcome could determine whether the Tigers play for the region title next

week and secure the number one seed going into the playoffs or if the Tigers drop all the way to the third seed in their region (depending on the outcome of their matchup with Colbert County next Friday).

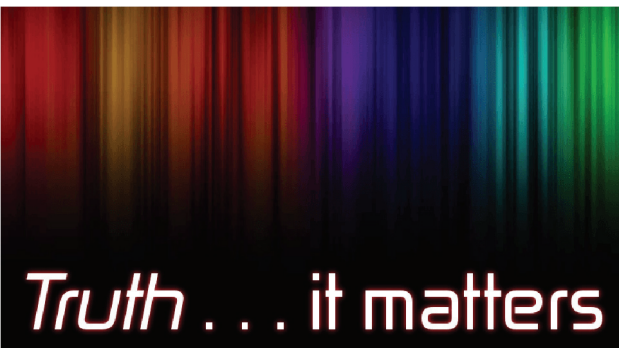
However, you don't have to explain the implications of this Friday night's game to Red Bay head coach Michael Jackson twice.

"It's a huge game. It's probably like the region championship game for them because we've got Colbert County the following week that could factor into the mix. The number two and number three teams going up against one another is huge. Especially when you're playing against a team that's won as many games as Mars Hill has," Jackson said.

But before Jackson and the Tigers could turn their focus towards Mars Hill, they had to take care of region-rival Hatton to secure the stakes for the matchup this Friday night.

As the offense was slow to find its footing against a sound Hatton defense, things finally got rolling

See 'SMALL THINGS,' page 12



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## 'SMALL THINGS,' from page 11

late in the second quarter courtesy of the ground game for the Tigers. The slow start didn't cause much concern for Jackson and his staff. "Hatton always plays us really well and the things that we're doing right now takes some time to wear down the other team. In the first quarter both teams are fresh and when you're playing a team like Hatton that had some bigger guys and it took us a little while to get going there and then we made a couple of big plays and it really snowballed from there and got us going," Jackson said.

Two of those aforementioned big plays came courtesy of senior standout Jalen Vinson who connected with receiver Mason Holt twice, once for 74 yards and once for 55 yards which both resulted in touchdowns for the Tigers.

Establishing that rugged-style of run game while controlling the pace of the game is going to be key for Red Bay this Friday night as they'll go head-to-head with a Panther defense that is allowing just 16 points per game.

"The number one thing for us, is to take care of the ball. When you're playing games like this you have to minimize your mistakes and you can't give teams like Mars Hill advantageous situations because they're too good as capitalizing on mistakes," Jackson said. "So we've got to control the tempo of the game and limit our mistakes. These are two very good defensive teams and we rely on that defense so we've got to make sure not to put those guys in a bad spot."

On the flip side for Red Bay, who boasts a defense allowing just nine points per game this season, this will undoubtedly be the toughest matchup for a Tigers defense that will go up against a Mars Hill offensive line that boasts

See 'SMALL THINGS,' page 13

Send your guest columns, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com). For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!

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## 'SMALL THINGS,' from page 12

multiple college-ready linemen.  
Much like the philosophy when it comes to his offense, Jackson stresses the importance of limiting mistakes and remaining self-disciplined through four quarters on the defensive side of the ball.  
"The key is for us to be disciplined. They (Mars Hill) execute their things very well so you've got to be disciplined and do your job. They've got a lot of talent up front and some good skill guys and with that kind of talent, you've got to take care of your responsibilities, minimize your mistakes on defense because this is the best offensive we've played since Fyffe last season," Jackson said.

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# 'BELGREEN,' from page 11

Dempsey, who is approaching the 1,000th kill mark for her volleyball career, led the Lady Bulldogs with 32 kills and six aces in the tournament.

Having a player like Dempsey, combined with the amount of depth that the Bulldogs possess is one reason that the Belgreen was holding the trophy at the end of the day Saturday.

"It's big having a player like Emma. It's really hard to play her hits and she does a really good job. But we also have players like Makayla Lane who is another one of our hitters and sees the floor as well as anyone that we've played. We also have Kelsey Lane who has been fantastic for us. Emma is a really good player but without these girls to help out and take some of the pressure off of her is huge," Tverberg said.

For Dempsey, winning the first-ever county title is something she says means even more with it being her senior season. "It feels good because to win it all is one thing but to win the very first one and to do it in my senior season is really special. It's like this is my first county tournament and my last one at the same time so it's really special," Dempsey said.

Belgreen will now turn their attention towards the area tournament which begins on Tuesday. The Bulldogs will be the number one seed in the class 1A, area 14 tournament.



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Congrats to Week 5 winner JASON BOLTON, who correctly picked 7 out of the 10 games that were played and also won the tiebreaker between Vanderbilt and South Carolina!



**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 6 must be postmarked by Friday, October 16th, and picks submitted by email for Week 6 must be received by Saturday, October 17th 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!

**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 6 must be postmarked by Friday, October 16th, and picks submitted by email for Week 6 must be received by Saturday, October 17th 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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## Emma Dempsey Senior, Hitter Belgreen

Dempsey has put together quite the career as a volleyball player during her time at Belgreen. As she creeps closer to the 1,000 kill mark for her career, her performance on Saturday in the first-ever Franklin County volleyball tournament certainly helped her cause. The senior hitter accumulated 32 kills and six aces to lead the Bulldogs to the title with victories over Red Bay and Tharptown.




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An accurate Census ensures programs including Medicaid, Section 8 Housing Vouchers, child care assistance and Head Start are properly funded in our community.

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