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Low kill animal shelter subject of community meeting

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

At a Thursday night meeting held at Russellville City Hall, the passion and interest for a low kill animal shelter in Russellville was there. All that was missing was how to channel that energy into a plan.

After he was contacted by Russellville resident Laura Everett, Russellville City Councilman Darren Woodruff organized the meeting to allow citizens to present ideas on saving stray animals and/or creating a low kill animal shelter.

Around 20 people attended the meeting, including representatives from Heart of Alabama Save, Rescue and Adopt (HASRA), a Shoals non-profit that operates a no-kill shelter in Killen.

While Everett originally reached out

to Woodruff about the possibility of a donation from the City of Russellville to her organization, Save Our Strays, that evolved into a meeting to discuss ways to address the growing problem of stray animals, particularly dogs, in Russellville and Franklin County.

HASRA operates a 30' x 40' building with two employees and a legion of volunteers in Lauderdale County. HASRA member Al Horton said the building cost approximately \$75,000 to construct.

HASRA representatives met with the Franklin County Commission in 2020 to discuss concerns about the county's animal shelter. The temporary county shelter is located at the Franklin County Landfill and is not equipped to euthanize animals. Franklin County Animal Control

See 'SHELTER,' page 7

Court suspends Red Bay City Council appointment to Water and Gas Board pending final hearing

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

In a prolonged legal battle between the Red Bay Water Works and Gas Board and Red Bay City Councilman Jason Vinson, the board scored a temporary victory last week with the signing of a court order that holds in abeyance the Red Bay City Council's attempt to appoint Vinson as a member of the Water Works and Gas Board.

The Red Bay Water Works and Gas Board, through its attorney Jeff Bowling, filed a lawsuit on September 15, 2021, seeking to bar Vinson from holding office as a board

member.

This was the second time the board filed the lawsuit. The original action was filed March 30, 2020, but was dismissed last month due to the board's failure to post security for the costs of the proceeding. In a *Quo Warranto* lawsuit, Alabama law requires the filing party to post a bond or security sufficient to cover the responding party's legal costs in the event the action is unsuccessful.

After the dismissal order, Bowling refiled the lawsuit, this time with \$1,000 security posted.

A *Quo Warranto* civil action challenges the right of a public official to

See 'HEARING,' page 9

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Mildred O. Purser, 61, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Saturday, October 2nd. Interment at Chestnut Ridge Cemetery.

Melissa Leshaw Lowe, 44, of Spruce Pine, passed away on Thursday, September 23rd. Akins Funeral Home assisted the family.

Tange Oliver, 44, of Russellville, passed away on Saturday, October 2nd. Spry Memorial Chapel is assisting the family.

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My take on this... welcome to Spruce Pine Day!

There is excitement in the air in Spruce Pine.

Our fall decorating will begin this week. We will be getting our little town ready for you to come spend a few hours or all day with us Saturday, October 16th for Spruce Pine Day. I personally know the emcee will be proud to see a big smile and hello from you. At least give her a big wave!

It takes a lot of work to keep our history alive and our buildings maintained. It takes a lot of us working together to prepare for Spruce Pine Day. I have a big favor for the ones who live in Spruce Pine. We are in need of your help! It's a disgrace to me to be down to ten people or so working when so many care about this place.

Our financial support from our sponsors is a tremendous help. We buy shirts, pay utilities and do upkeep and pay expenses toward our big day. The generosity of the ones who donate door prizes, the bands who furnish all day entertainment, the cooks who prepare our bean dinner, the food trucks, the vendors and you are how this day happens. I want to send a personal thank you for all you do. You mean a lot to me!

We have lost some hard-working people this year. Mildred Herring, Ronald Sherrill and a few years ago we lost Howard Hutcheson. A few weeks ago we lost Billy Herring who was not only our master carpenter, but a dear friend.

Billy Herring built our stage front that the car show uses every year. I'm happy to say that the two old windows used in it came from my old home place that my daddy built in 1951.

My daddy was a master carpenter in his time and it was an honor for me to see the combination of two of my special carpenters to have both contributed to our little hometown.

Billy reinvented one of the old buildings into his personal workshop and what a beauty it was! It was filled with antiques and different kinds of saws and other tools he used to turn our ideas and visions of our town into a reality. He was creative and a perfectionist and all his designs and results proved his heart was a part of his workmanship.

Inside his shop was a couple of chairs where he would sit a spell with friends who would stop by and tell their tales. I enjoyed stopping by every chance I got to see what he was building or repairing and to hear some of his stories and some were even true.

When he relocated his workshop next to his house, he was badly missed. No



Gail Motes

one but Wanda Harper knew he was going to sell his shop. There would have been bidding wars over it if others had known.

Billy was also a master gardener and the front of his shop was the proof of that. Season after was a color of beauty in his flower bed on the corner. The outside was as charming as the inside was interesting. That little spot was a part of history. Needless to say, Wanda got very lucky!

Our museum is filled with workmanship and masterpieces and lots of memories of him. The first store owner had a peg leg and the floor has the worn-spot behind the counter where he walked and stood. I hope you will take the time to go inside and go back in time. Please sign the registry if you go in. We enjoy seeing who stopped by and in doing so, you are leaving us some history for others.

Another look at "old times" is a concrete block building sitting on the corner with old metal wagon wheels out front. Roger Cornelius has recreated it into separate rooms. Reflections of old days: a classroom, a bathroom, two kitchens and a bedroom. Roger Cornelius is a hard worker with visions. He is also responsible for several antique pieces inside the museum.

Spruce Pine Day is when we can show you a small part of our world. Now is a perfect time to mark your calendar for Saturday, October 16th. Bring a lawn chair and come join us!

And until later...

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 October 27, 2021, 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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Correction Policy

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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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Applications for this position will be accepted until Friday 10/15/2021 at 3 PM.

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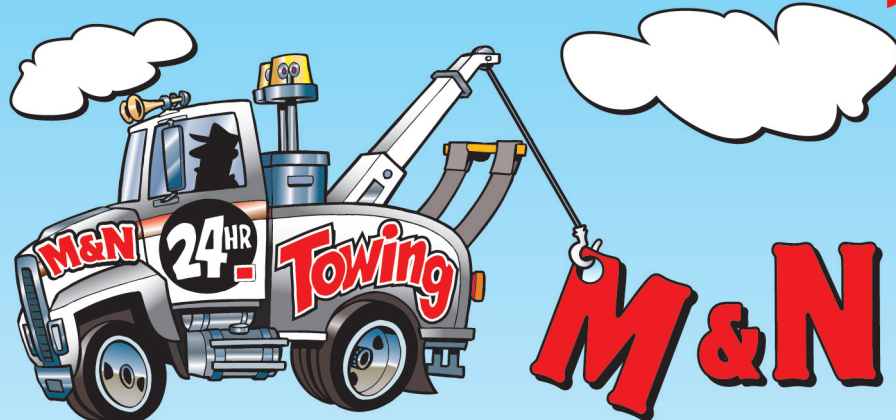


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EVENTS OF INTEREST • FAMILY REUNIONS • PLAYS • CHURCH GATHERINGS • EDUCATIONAL • CLUB MEETINGS

A Foster Parent Training Course will be offered by the Franklin County Department of Human Resources starting Sunday, Sept. 12. The Sunday classes will be from 2-5 p.m., and will end on Sunday, November 14. Foster parent licensing requirements include being 19 years or older, passing a criminal background check for all household members 19 or older, clearance of state central registry on child abuse and neglect for all household members 14 or older, family stability, regular source of income, if married the marriage must be at least one year in duration. For more information, contact Leilani Johnson at DHR at 256-331-5940.

The Russellville Fire Department has started its annual Breast Cancer Awareness T-Shirt Sale fundraiser. Order forms can be picked up at either Russellville Fire Department locations. They are \$15 for short sleeve and \$20 for long sleeve, with an added \$2 for XXL and an added \$3 for XXXL t-shirts. First order will be sent out September 17. But there will be an additional order after that. All proceeds will go to Russellville Hospital fund for those who can't afford to have mammograms done.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt Col John W Harris Jr, Camp #1833 will meet Thursday, October 7th, at 6:00PM at Russellville Rec Center on Ash Ave in Russellville. Camp #1833 meets the 1st Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For more info call 256-324-2317. Everyone welcome!

Greenhill-Ezzell Cemetery Board Meeting on Saturday 10/9/2021 @ 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at Rustic Youth Camp. All friends of the cemetery are invited and encouraged to attend. The practice of safe Covid protocol is encouraged.

Job Opening

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'SHELTER,' from page 1

Officer Joey Wingo transported more than 350 animals to Marion County to be euthanized in 2019, Wingo told commissioners at that meeting. The commission discussed the possibility of donating a one-acre tract of land adjacent to the Franklin County Jail if the group was able to obtain 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation status. The COVID-19 pandemic hit a few weeks after that meeting and no further discussions were held.

The consensus at Thursday's meeting was that a well-organized group of volunteers could form a non-profit, organize and fund raise with the goal of raising enough money to construct a low kill shelter.

Woodruff said the city owns property that could possibly be provided for such a shelter, but that would be a decision that would require action from the full council as well as a public hearing.

"I'm not saying it would happen. It would need four votes, but I would be willing to present it to the council," Woodruff said.

Woodruff said the group would need to be a non-profit and have some accountability in what it proposes to do.

Russellville residents Patricia Cox and Dakota Bonn volunteered to help get the organizational effort started. Bonn described himself as an animal lover and said he was very willing to get involved in the cause.

"I've loved animals since I was little. We have three dogs, four ferrets and a cat at home," Bonn said. "I've lived in Russellville 12 years and I've always wondered why we don't have an animal shelter. I saw the post about the meeting and I was all for going and getting involved."

There will be a second meeting on Thursday, October 14th at 6 p.m., at Russellville City Hall. Anyone wanting to get involved in the effort or to share their opinions or ideas is invited to attend.

Russellville attorney Jeff Bowling volunteered his legal services to help the group incorporate as a non-profit organization, and Woodruff pledged his support of the effort.

"This is not just a City of Russellville problem or a city council problem. It is a community problem," Woodruff said.



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'HEARING,' from page 1

hold appointment to public office. Simply stated, the Red Bay Water Works and Gas Board, through its chairman, Ronald Thorn, asserts that Vinson may not serve on the board since Vinson is a member of the Red Bay City Council.

The Water Works and Gas Board was incorporated on October 3, 1949. The original certificate of incorporation stated that *none of the members of said board of directors shall by (sic) an officer of the Town of Red Bay.*

The board amended the original certificate of incorporation on March 19, 1984, to increase the number of board members to five.

When board member Frankie Smith's seat came up for reappointment last year, the Red Bay City Council voted to appoint Vinson, a city councilman, to fill Smith's seat.

Although both sides acknowledge a history of city council members serving on the Water Works and Gas Board, after Vinson's appointment, Bowling notified Vinson he was ineligible to serve due to his being an officer of the city.

Vinson has not resigned nor relinquished his appointment to the board and that forms the central issue of the lawsuit—whether he is eligible to serve on the Water Works and Gas Board.

At a temporary hearing last Tuesday, Vinson's attorney, Roger Bedford, Jr., who also represents the City of Red Bay, asserted that the Water Works and Gas Board was not eligible for the temporary relief it sought due to the fact that there had been no showing of irreparable harm if Vinson were allowed to serve on the board.

"There has been no showing of irreparable harm if Jason Vinson serves on the Water and Gas Board," Bedford said. "The board's only argument is it's not fair, and that's not a criteria for an injunction. They have not provided any elements of irreparable harm."

Bowling's response was that if Vinson is allowed to serve on the Water Works and Gas Board while the lawsuit is pending, that would amount to a legal consent of his appointment to the board, which is the exact issue being challenged.

After Tuesday's hearing, Franklin County Circuit Judge Terry Dempsey entered an order holding Vinson's appointment "in abeyance" and ruling that Vinson shall not be allowed to participate as a board member until the court enters a final order. A date for the final hearing on the matter has not been set as of press time.

Although a party to the lawsuit, Vinson did not attend the September 28th hearing.

Bedford said he asked the court to allow Red Bay Mayor Charlene Fancher to testify at the temporary hearing, but the judge denied the request for live testimony.

Additionally, Bedford, on behalf of the city, requested that the City of Red Bay be added as a party to the case, since the legal rights of the council to make a board appointment are the central issue.

Bowling responded by quoting the Alabama *Quo Warranto* statute that provides that only an individual may be a defendant in this type of legal proceeding. As a result, he maintains the City of Red Bay is barred from being a party to the lawsuit.

Fancher said Red Bay has more than 20 boards and committees and a council member or the mayor attend meetings or serve on them for the good of the community.

"They all represent our city. By having a representative from the city council, that creates accountability and transparency," Fancher said. "The Water and Gas Board is the only one who doesn't want that accountability or transparency."

"Evidently they are firm on not wanting a council member to serve and why would you not want that? That's the question—why?," she added.

Bowling told the *FFP* that the city's attempt to appoint Vinson last year was the first time a city council member had been appointed to the Water Works and Gas Board during Fancher's tenure as mayor.

"If she is so concerned about transparency, why hasn't the city council attempted to appoint a council member to this board since 2006?," Bowling stated.

Bedford has asserted several defenses to the lawsuit, including the fact that the Water Works and Gas Board's certificate of incorporation reads that none of the members shall *by* an officer, rather than the word *be*.

"They have amended their certificate of incorporation several times and if they wished to correct this typographical error, they had many occasions to do so," Bedford said.

Additionally, there have been numerous council members who served on the Water Works and Gas Board the past 33 years, something Bedford maintains creates a legal consent by the board to include council members.

There have been questions raised as to whether the city council wants council members on the Water Works and Gas Board because they want to eventually disband the board and incorporate it into the city, something Fancher says is not true.

"There has been no discussion of eliminating the Water and Gas Board. As mayor, I and the city council are ultimately responsible for all these entities, and the safety and welfare of our citizens," Fancher said. "It concerns me when a board does not want good communication and teamwork that they may be hiding something."

Although a final hearing will come later, Bowling said the temporary order entered by the court demonstrates that the Water Works and Gas Board's argument has legal merit, something disputed by Fancher, who labeled the lawsuit 'frivolous' in an August 25, 2021, *Red Bay News* article.

"Their attorney admitted in the hearing that the litigation filed by the Water Works and Gas Board has a 'reasonable chance of success.' So Vinson's own attorney admits we may win," Bowling said. "That would be far from frivolous."

Bowling also questioned why Fancher attended last week's hearing when the city is not even a party to the case, yet Vinson, who is the named defendant, did not attend.

Since his appointment, Vinson has not been allowed to participate in one Water Works and Gas Board meeting, and Bowling said he's not attended a board meeting since July 2020. He is also not receiving the monthly stipend paid to other board members, Bowling said.

Bowling said the city council could resolve the entire issue by rescinding Vinson's appointment and naming another citizen to fill the vacancy.

"There are literally six people (the mayor and council) they cannot appoint. And they know this," Bowling said. "There's nothing we can do about who they appoint as long as it's not the mayor or a council member."

Bedford, as the result of the typo in the original certificate of incorporation, said there is no prohibition against a council member serving on the board. And he questioned why the board consented to previous council member appointments but not Vinson.

"At least four council members have served as voting members of that board over the last 33 years," Bedford said. "The only instance (Bowling) can point to otherwise is when Jeff Reed was appointed mayor and he had to come off. The mayor can't serve, but a councilman can. They've had council members serve as voting members with no objection."

"They have no argument other than 'we don't want Jason Vinson to serve' without providing any reason other than he's a council member. They don't say he's not qualified, knowledgeable or a fit citizen to serve. Our position is they can't selectively apply this against one person, and that's what they are doing here," Bedford added.

Bowling maintains that minutes from previous city council meetings in 2005 and 2006 prove that the issue of appointment of a city council member has previously been addressed by the Red Bay City Council.

"These exhibits read together reflect the history of city council members resigning as board members of the Water Works of the City of Red Bay due to either being the mayor or city council members of the City of Red Bay," Bowling said.

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The Russellville Housing Authority is now accepting bids for **Lawncare Service** for our 4 developments (Engle Drive, Washington Plaza, Eastside Plaza, and Westside Plaza). All companies considering this proposal are strongly encouraged to physically inspect the properties prior to submitting a bid. The successful bidder shall be required to provide proof of liability insurance and a State license. The Russellville Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any/or all bids if it deems this would be in the best interests of the Authority.

Bids in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Lawn Care Service Bids", should be mailed to the Russellville Housing Authority, P.O. Box 966, Russellville, Alabama 35653, or delivered to 73 Flippen Street, Russellville, Alabama 35653, in time to be opened and publicly read aloud at 10:00 a.m. on October 13, 2021. Bids received after this deadline will not be opened and shall not be considered. Any questions, comments, or requests to schedule a site inspection can contact Deborah Freeman at (256) 332-1561.



Classifieds

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YARD SALES

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Friday/Saturday, Oct. 15/16. 7 a.m.-until. 105 Gaines St. SW, Russellville. Big selection of items. Come see us!

Community Yard Sale. Saturday, Oct. 9. 7 a.m.-until. Brookewood

Subdivision, off Underwood Road in Russellville. Look for signs. Several families participating.

Multi-Family Christmas Yard Sale. Friday/Saturday, Oct. 8/9. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 4194 Duncan Creek Road, Russellville. Lots of Christmas items, includ-

ing décor, trees, designer jewelry, designer purses, furniture.

Four-Family Yard Sale. Saturday, October 9. 8-12. 417 Burgess St., Russellville.

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Saturday, Oct. 9. 6 a.m.-until. 936 Duncan Creek Road, Russellville. Clothing, all sizes. Household items. Little bit of everything!

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Temporary Yard Work Needed. One or two-day job. Please call 256-332-4037.

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Big Yard/Moving Sale. Saturday, Oct. 9. 7 a.m.-202 Mountain View Drive, Russellville. Name brand clothing. Men's 2X clothing and women's and household items. Furniture. Little bit of everything. Come see us!

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Bobcats rout Colbert Heights, remain unbeaten in region play

Brady Petree
 Franklin Free Press

COLBERT HEIGHTS - Based on the previous two matchups between Phil Campbell and Colbert Heights, the expectations for this year's matchup would've been nothing short of a "barn-burner".

A 31-28 overtime loss for Phil Campbell in 2019 followed by a narrow 34-30 victory for the Bobcats in 2020 gave fans every right to anticipate a close game.

The Bobcats, however, had no intentions of keeping this one close.

A 42-7 rout gave the Bobcats their third region win of the season and more importantly kept their perfect region record intact on the season.

"That performance is a testament to our players and our coaches. I feel like I say it all the time but it's the truth, we have the best coaching staff around, if not in the state. So it's a testament to what our coaches do on a week-to-week basis," Barnwell said. "It's almost like our guys refuse to lose and so that's a huge statement to their mentality as well. Our guys have bought in and they're playing with a chip on their shoulder. We had some opportunities slip away earlier in the year and that's frustrating. But we're learning from them and we're making strides."

Offensively, the Bobcats have made their living primarily running the football, and for good reason with Bryant Hyde emerging as one of the premier backs in Franklin County.

"Our playaction game has continued to improve.

See 'BOBCATS,' page 14

Moving one step closer

After beating a previously undefeated Ardmore team, Russellville now takes the next week off in order to prepare for a potential 5A region 8 championship next week against East Limestone.

Brady Petree
 Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - From an outsider's perspective, going into last Friday night's matchup between Russellville and Ardmore might have seemed like a highly-competitive matchup in waiting.

After all, Russellville was coming in with a record of 5-1 with two shutouts of region opponents to their credit while Ardmore sat at 5-0 on the season, tied with East Limestone and the Golden Tigers atop the 5A region 8 standings.

Add the records combined with some untimely injuries for the Golden Tigers and the reasons for some slight concern could have certainly been there.

But the response head coach John Ritter got from his squad was a positive one in the week leading up to Friday night. And the results showed.

"I thought we had a great week of practice. We had a lot of injuries to some key guys. Some of them it kept them out of the game and others it limited. We asked everyone to give 1% more. Whether it was playing 1% harder or executing 1% more," Ritter said. "It was a crucial time in our season with our backs kind of against the wall with some of the moves we had to make due to injuries and they responded in a big way."

It didn't take long to squash those outsider's expectations of a close matchup.

A three-and-out forced by Russellville set the Golden Tigers up for the first offensive drive of the night.

It took all of one play for the Golden Tigers to take the lead and they never looked back. T.J. King broke off a 78-yard run on the first offensive play of the game for Russellville and took it to the house.

Arrieon "Boots" McCulloch would find his way into the endzone to make it a 14-0 game at the end of the first quarter as the second quarter would prove to be more of the same from Russellville.

Gabe Amick found T.J. King on a 36-yard pass to extend the Golden Tiger lead to 21-0. Grayson Murray fell on a McCulloch fumble in the endzone for a score as McCulloch would score again in the second quarter to make it a 35-0 lead at halftime.

As the game quickly turned into a rout, the Golden Tigers quickly showed the speed and determination that they've shown through the 2021 season.

And that speed, which Ritter attributed to such a tough non-region schedule, gave the Golden Tigers an edge over Ardmore in the end.

"We kind of realized who Ardmore had played and that's not taking anything away from Ardmore because coach Snider has done a phenomenal job and their team is better than they were last year and they do things the right way and play hard. And they had to beat the same region oppo-



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA
 The Golden Tigers, led by McCulloch (above) scored 51 points en route to a victory over Ardmore. The Golden Tigers currently sit at 6-1 (4-0) as they look ahead to their matchup against East Limestone in two weeks.

nents that we had to beat to get to this point so we gave Ardmore the respect that they deserved," Ritter said. "But I think the speed factor was something that helped us. With us playing Hartselle, Deshler and Decatur compared to their non-region schedule, we have seen a different speed of game and it has prepared us to play fast every week."

Coming out of halftime, Russellville would find the endzone just once in the third quarter off a 10-yard rush by Conner Warhurst making it a 42-0 lead.

With a plethora of injuries and certain players having to play different roles than they might have been accustomed to, the Golden Tigers were able to put together sustained drives through all four quarters.

"Randall coming back was huge because Conner was limited pretty much all week. When you say that you're on your third running back, most people would tell you that it's not good. But our third running back is a guy that was a two-year starter for us so it's not your typical running back situation," Ritter said.

It wasn't just the offense that was getting in on the scoring fun for the Golden Tigers.

Senior safety Emitt Green sacked the Tigers quarterback in their own endzone for a safety to

See 'CLOSER,' page 13

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'CLOSER,' from page 11

make it 44-0 early in the fourth quarter.

While the defense stepped up as a whole, one player in particular that fans might not have been accustomed to seeing on that side of the all was senior Nathan Brockway.

"Nathan Brockway played every snap at outside linebacker through the first three quarters. And that's a spot where we've had some key injuries and really just needed someone to step up and do more and after the loss to Hartselle, Nathan told us that he could do more," Ritter said. "Our defensive line had been really beat up but those guys stepped up. Jerrin Jackson and Matthew James played really well for us. Tilmon Baker and Dallan Montgomery and some of those guys stepped into those roles and performed at a really high level."

Demontae Thornton scored on a nine-yard run to cap off a 51-0 victory for the Golden Tigers and more importantly remain unbeaten in region play.

Fresh off a bounceback win, the Golden Tigers will get the next Friday night off as they'll begin preparations for East Limestone the following week in what could be the deciding matchup for the 5A region 8 crown, depending on what happened between the Chiefs and Ardmore this Friday.

And for a Russellville team that has played seven straight games, including two games against 6A opponents, combined with a handful of injuries to key guys the Golden Tigers will undoubtedly need down the stretch, the timing of the bye week is impeccable.

And it couldn't have come at a moment too soon either.

"It's perfect timing. We're going to take this week to get better. We'll practice a couple of days this week and take a few days off and even our practices are going to be modified to try and help get some of those injured guys back on track," Ritter said. "The timing couldn't be better especially from an injury standpoint and if we'll take this week like we took last week and approach it the same way, we're going to have eight days to prepare for East Limestone who's a very good team. Preparing for that offense is very tough and so to have some extra time to prepare for what they do, this bye week is coming at a perfect time for us."



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'BOBCATS from page 11

We've made a commitment to run the football and once you make that commitment, you're going to get an eight-man and sometimes even a nine-man box," Barnwell said. "And so we saw that and we took what the defense gave us. Kyle Pace has made some big strides for us and he had been on point all week. He's a team-first guy and he's starting to realize the capability he has as a quarterback and I think he's going to get better and better as we continue on."

The week prior to the Colbert Heights matchup in which the Bobcats took on Haleyville, things got chippy quickly and often as the Bobcats racked up over 200 yards in total penalties for the game as the Lions took home the victory by a 13-12 final.

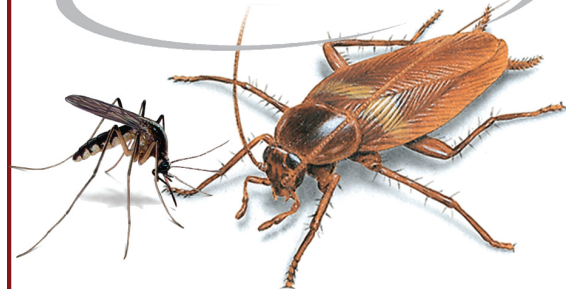
One week later, the Bobcats turned the page and worked on toning down the penalties, much to the delight of their head coach.

"We made some mistakes against Haleyville on the chippy end of things that really cost us the game. And so we're trying to mature as a program and as individuals in order to maintain our composure," Barnwell said. "So this past week against Colbert Heights, we didn't make those mistakes. And you can see the difference in the outcome. I want our guys to play with passion and intensity so you don't want to put the fire out, we just have to learn to channel our emotions and put those in the proper places."

As the Bobcats spend the next week preparing for their game against Lauderdale County this Friday night in what *could* ultimately decide the 3A region 8 champion, Barnwell says that the Bobcats are approaching this week no differently than weeks prior: by taking it one week at a time.

"We're telling our players that we have three region games left on our schedule. So this game is just next in line. So if we focus on our next game, which is Lauderdale County," Barnwell said. "If we make it bigger than it is, and we lose this game, we could turn around and lose the next two and the playoff picture isn't looking that great. But then there's also the Vice versa for us as well. But we don't need to worry about records or anything like that. We just need to focus on where our feet are and we need to accomplish the goals that are right in front of us."

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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 6 must be postmarked by Friday, October 8th, and picks submitted by email for Week 6 must be received by Saturday, October 9th 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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Kentucky vs. LSU	Kentucky	_____
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