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RV council declares Oct. 15 as Dysautonomia Awareness Day

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

As he lay down on the floor of a crowded Russellville City Hall Auditorium last Monday, Sammy the Service Dog didn't seem impressed as the Russellville City Council approved a resolution declaring October 15, 2023, as Dysautonomia Awareness Day in Russellville.

Actually, Sammy is a working service dog who cares for Russellville resident Anna Mosley. Mosley lives with dysautonomia, a difficult-to-pro-

nounce medical condition caused by problems with the autonomic nervous system. This can affect a person's heartbeat, breathing, digestion, blood pressure and bowel/urinary functions.

Mosley was also diagnosed with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome, or POTS, a condition where accelerated heart rate, dizziness and fatigue can occur when someone goes from lying down to standing.

Mosley got Sammy, a Bernedoodle, earlier this year as a

See 'COUNCIL,' Page 3

Traffic homicide investigation soon to be turned over to District Attorney

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Evidence from a two-fatality accident described by the lead investigator as "one of the worst" he's ever seen will soon be turned over the Franklin County District Attorney Jeff Barksdale's office for presentation to a grand jury.

The two-vehicle accident, which occurred around 10:15 p.m., on September 27, 2023, left Jennifer 'Jen' Fugate Fretwell, 38, and her 11-year-old son Austin Jase Fretwell, dead.

Russellville Police Department Captain Jake Tompkins, a certified traffic homicide investigator, is working the case. His investigation began


at the scene on Highway 43 North, near the former Catfish Haven restaurant.

"In my 17 years of law enforcement, this is one of the worst I've had to work," Tompkins said. "I'm nearing the end of the investigation and it will be turned over the DA's office."


A traffic homicide investigator's responsibilities include documenting the entirety of the scene where a traffic fatality occurs. This includes reconstructing the accident to prepare a report on what happened based on the evidence.

That evidence can include the condition of the vehicles, skid marks on the road, the condition, legal status of the drivers of all vehicles and documentation of the weather conditions

See 'TRAFFIC,' Page 5

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Franklin County Commissioner

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Kay Barnett Gann, 74, passed away on October 7, 2023. Pinkard Funeral of Russellville assisted the family.

Floyd Anderson Mansell, Jr., age 86, of Leighton, passed away on Saturday, October 07, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Harold G. Herring, 95 of Russellville, Alabama, passed away October 8, 2023. Visitation will be Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at Akins Funeral Home, Russellville, Alabama. Interment will be Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 2:30 in Franklin Memory Gardens.



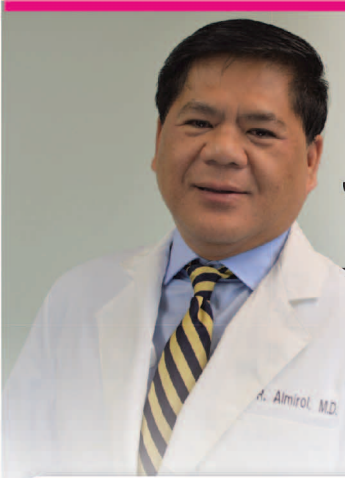
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The Franklin Free Press strives for excellence and accuracy, and we will be pleased to correct any error in our newspaper. To request a correction or clarification, call or e-mail our office.

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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puppy. They began training almost immediately. Sammy goes where Anna goes. And he's learned, as a service dog should, to ignore what's going on around him and focus on his person, Anna.

Sammy has learned her resting heart rate and active heart rate and what they should be.

Russellville resident Amanda Hatton, another dysautonomia patient, addressed the council about her condition. October is Dysautonomia Awareness Month, and the council's resolution declared October 15th as Dysautonomia Awareness Day in the city.

Those promoting awareness of dysautonomia wear teal clothing or ribbons, much like the pink ribbons that promote breast cancer awareness.

Hatton told the council about the difficulty in getting a diagnosis of dysautonomia, as some physicians weren't aware of the condition. But that's improving and the earlier the diagnosis, the longer the life of the patient.

"I had a flu-like virus in high school," Hatton said. "My blood pressure was high and my heart rate dropped. That's when my symptoms started, but I could not get a diagnosis. October 15th as Dysautonomia Awareness Day.

"Today, you see more cases of dysautonomia and that's leading to more diagnoses. It's important to increase awareness of this condition and it's something I've lived with for 19 years," Hatton added.

Dysautonomia is not a condition that can be cured. Instead, it must be managed through prescription medications, diet and lifestyle changes. When Hatton was pregnant with her son, she found herself dizzy and weak on a daily basis.

"It presented as vertigo, but the treatment for that did not help. I was referred to a doctor in Birmingham who said 'I think you have dysautonomia,'" Hatton said.

She began a medication regimen almost immediately. There are still days she's very sick. Hatton describes dysautonomia as an 'invisible' illness.

"You may not look sick but you are," she said.

Mosley's mother, Julia Sullivan, told the council her daughter's emotional story about how the condition affects her daily life.

"As a parent you want to fix it for your child but you can't," Sullivan said. "Anna has an eight-year-old (Zalinah) who helps take care of her mom when she's sick, and her husband (Trea) takes very good care of her."

Sullivan said Sammy's coming into Anna's life was the result of prayer from her granddaughter.

"The Bible says a little child will lead them. And we have Sammy because Zalinah prayed for him," Sullivan said. "Sammy loves his mom. He's learned to retrieve her meds and get her a bottle of water when she needs it. And he's learning more every day."

Mosley was on the waiting list for a burnedoodle for almost two years. As a large breed, the dogs are popular as service animals because they provide stability. And they are even tempered and gentle, more attributes for good service animals.

Sullivan expressed her appreciation to Dr. Keith Morrow, Anna's physician who diagnosed her. After seeing several doctors, Mosley found dysautonomia specialist Dr. Paula Moore in Birmingham.

"Dr. Moore was a godsend," Sullivan said.

In other agenda items at its October 2nd meeting, the council:

--approved a \$4,000 expense for a StreetLight InSight subscription. The program helps cities with traffic counts on different roads.

--hired Michael Craig Vice as Heavy Equipment Driver/Operator in the Russellville Street Department Solid Waste.

--hired Landon Beard as Firefighter in the Russellville Fire Department.

--approved the promotion of Jeremy Glenn to Captain and Andy Devaney to Lieutenant in the RFD.

--declared two vacancies in for Firefighter II and agreed to promote from within the Classified Service.

--held a public hearing (with no public input) on the application of an alcohol license for retail beer and retail table wine (off-premise consumption) from Murphy Oil, USA, Inc., 13669 Hwy. 43, Russellville.

--approved the application for an alcohol license for retail beer and retail table wine (off-premise consumption) from Murphy Oil, USA, Inc., 13669 Hwy. 43, Russellville.

That vote was 4-1 with Councilman Gary Cummings voting against the application, something Cummings has vowed to do on all alcohol applications in the city.

"Russellville was here many years without alcohol sales and I don't believe we need it here. I believe alcohol destroys lives and it's just one more thing out there that can destroy your life," Cummings said.



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Joined by Sammy the Service Dog, Anna Mosley, Julia Sullivan and Amanda Hatton, the Russellville City Council designated

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Russellville girl named Miss Alabama Volunteer's princess

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A Russellville girl was recently named Miss Alabama Volunteer's princess and will accompany the 2024 Miss Alabama Volunteer to the national competition next year.

Elizabeth Davis, 12, is the daughter of Craig and Heather Davis of Russellville. Elizabeth was selected to be Miss Alabama Volunteer Livi Thomas' princess and will travel to Jackson, Tenn., next June along with Thomas.

Thomas is a senior at the University of Alabama where she is a Crimsonette. Elizabeth is in the sixth grade and is homeschooled through Zion Academy.

Elizabeth is a competitive baton twirler, former Alabama State Athlete of the Year and has served as Livi's princess the past two years.

The Miss Alabama Volunteer princess program is a mentoring initiative of the Miss Alabama Volunteer program. It allows contestants to interact with girls ages 6-12 and teach them the principles of the Miss Alabama Volunteer organization.

Those principles are represented by the five points of the crown. They include service, education, responsibility, volunteerism and empowerment.



COURTESY PHOTO

Russellville Water and Sewer Board

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'TRAFFIC,' From Page 1

at the time. This allows the traffic homicide investigator to build an overall picture of what took place and that final report is what's turned over to the district attorney's office.

Russellville resident Pam Hester was the driver of the other car involved in the accident. According to law enforcement, Hester was operating her vehicle while driving northbound in the southband lane of 43. When Fretwell swerved to avoid Hester's vehicle, Hester apparently swerved the same direction, according to the source.

Two other occupants of Fretwell's vehicle, her son Noah, a 10th grader at Russellville High School, and another occupant, were both injured and hospitalized.

According to a Go Fund Me page started by Noah's great aunt, an October 2nd update said he was told by doctors he'll need surgery on his arm. The other occupant, a Phil Campbell High School student, suffered a serious leg injury and is undergoing physical therapy according to social media posts.

Once the file is turned into the DA's office, whether charges are filed will be decided by a grand jury, if Barksdale decides to present the case to a grand jury.

Criminally negligent homicide in Alabama, a Class A misdemeanor, is defined as causing the death of another person "by the driver of a motor vehicle who is driving in violation of the provisions of Section 32-5A-191 (Alabama's driving under the influence statute).

Although most frequently charged in alcohol-related cases the law applies for any substance which impairs the mental or physical faculties of such person to a degree which renders him or her incapable of safely driving.

Alabama Code Section 32-5A-190.1 makes it a Class C felony for a motor vehicle operator to cause the death of another person as a result of knowingly engaging in some violation of Alabama's traffic laws and this violation is the proximate cause of another person's death.

As with any traffic fatality, a grand jury may review the investigator's report and decide not to charge a person with any criminal statute, or may indict the person if it votes a 'true bill.'

Tompkins said the decision as to any possible charges will not be made by him and he declined to speculate whether there would be any.

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 **A**shaKiran serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking across Alabama. Their vision is to be a 'ray of hope' by bridging the gap between service providers and culturally diverse communities. Their 24-hour crisis line number is 1-800-793-3010. Learn more about AshaKiran by visiting www.ashakiranonline.org. Consultations are free and confidential, and available in 45 different languages.


 **T**he Senior Center of Phil Campbell is under new management. Everyone age 60 and over are invited to come join us and be part of the group. This is for men and women. We meet at the Phil Campbell Community Center Monday thru Friday from 8-noon. A delicious lunch is served at 11 a.m. Meals are \$1 donation. Some come and play Rook. We also do Bingo when we have enough people. There are several games to play or just sit and socialize with other seniors.


 **P**astor Bro. Eric McKinney and the congregation of Crestview Missionary Baptist Church, 24131 Hwy. 24, Russellville, invite you to worship with them. Sunday morning Bible Study is from 10-Noon and Sunday morning worship from 11-Noon. All are welcome to our services! Call 256-324-0179 for more information.


 **T**ennessee River Bass Club is seeking members for our 23/24 season. Club fishes monthly on Tennessee river and Bear Creek lakes. We welcome boaters or non-boaters 16 or older of all experience levels to join. Club is based in Sheffield. For more information, contact Tommy 256-627-5662.


 **R**ussellville High School will host Homecoming Week October 16th-20th. The Annual Homecoming Parade will take place on Friday, October 20th and the Golden Tigers will host Ardmore with kickoff set for 7 p.m., at Russellville Stadium.

 **J**oin Siloam Baptist Church for its Fall Festival on October 29 from 5-8 in the Fellowship Hall. Trunk or Treat, Games, Face Painting and Refreshments.

 **E**ast Franklin Volunteer Fire Department will be holding a fund raiser selling William Earl Bishop's smoked chicken and pulled barbecue pork plates on Friday, October 20th from 4-7 p.m. Plates are \$10 each. Proceeds benefit the EFVFD and its purchase of a Fire Engine #1. Plates will be sold at the EFVFD, 10443 Highway 81, Phil Campbell. Dessert donations will be appreciated.

 **T**he Cowboy Church of Franklin County will host a Chili Cookoff and Fall Festival on Tuesday, October 31, from 5-8 p.m., at the church located at 25100 Hwy. 24 West, Russellville. Chili and hot dogs will be served until gone. Any chili to be entered into the cook off should arrive by 4:30 p.m. Event starts at 5. There will be games, candy and a cake walk. Everyone is welcome.

 **T**he Greenhill-Ezell Cemetery Board Meeting will be Saturday, Oct. 14th at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Rustic Youth Camp. All friends of the cemetery are invited and encouraged to attend.

 **A** Subdivision Yard Sale will be held at Brookewood Subdivision (off Underwood Road) Fri./Sat. Oct. 13/14, 7 a.m., daily. Weather permitting.

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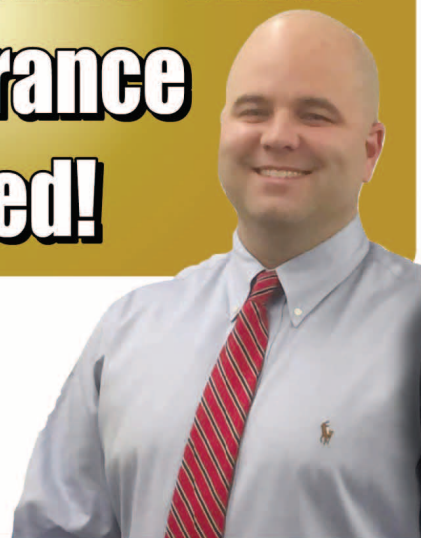
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Woman arrested on charges of home break-in, theft

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A Russellville woman remains in the Franklin County Jail on felony burglary and theft charges after allegedly luring a homeowner away from his residence then entering the home and taking money.

Brittany Lafaye King, 31, Piney Woods Road, Russellville, was arrested on October 4th by Shelby County authorities on two felony warrants obtained by Russellville Police Department investigator Joe Hargett.

Franklin County Jail records also show King being held on a felony drug possession.

The incident occurred on September 23rd, with the homeowner calling police to his Cotaco Street residence. The victim reported money was missing from his home.

Police interviewed a witness who observed two women, allegedly King and her mother, Luddy King, fleeing from the victim's home. The investigation led to King and her mother becoming suspects.

Luddy King died before her warrant could be served, police said. RPD investigators interviewed King, who allegedly admitted her involvement in the theft where a 'large amount' of currency was taken. Police declined to state the amount taken. As of October 10th, the money had not been recovered and the investigation, including the possibility of additional suspects, remains open.

Burglary 3rd degree is a Class C felony, punishable from one to 10 years in prison upon conviction. Theft of Property 1st degree is a Class B felony, with a 2-20 year prison sentence upon conviction.

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Vina Beta Club inducts 14 new members

Submitted

Vina High School had its 7th annual National Beta Club induction ceremony Monday where 7 Senior Beta members and 7 Junior Beta members were inducted.

The program began with the Senior Beta Chapter (grades 9-12) in 2017 and expanded three years ago to the junior chapter (grades 7-8).

The purpose of the National Beta Club is to encourage students to become knowledgeable and caring people who strive to achieve and lead. The four pillars of the honor society are achievement, character, leadership, and service.

The students inducted have been invited to the club based on those pillars. As a key component of the Vina High School Chapter, Beta Club members strive to serve our community throughout the year.

So far this year, they have completed service projects on collecting school supplies and hygiene items, and have made and distributed weekend food bags for approximately 60 students.

The club just started a food drive along with the Vina Ambassadors sponsored by Brynna Lawler. This food drive will support their holiday meal boxes and food pantry. Later this semester, the club will be raising money (with the Ambassadors) to buy Christmas presents for some students, and will host a blood drive on November 16th.



COURTESY PHOTO

Vina Beta Club New Inductees, L to R: Front row (Senior Betas): Alyx Raper, Miranda King, Dylam Jamison, Layla Hester, Ben Guin, Kenzie Elrod, Khylee Brooks (not pictured) Second Row (Junior Betas): Sarah Jane Hattaway (SPONSOR), Jacob Scott, Jeremiah Franks, Tessa Fowler, Bryant Fisher, Jayden Eads, Bella Creekmore, Kylie Lucas, LaManda Johnson (SPONSOR).

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There are currently 27 Senior Beta members, 11 Junior Betas, and two sponsors: Sarah Jane Hattaway and LaManda Johnson. Senior officers include Annie Kayte Scott, President, Autumn Chandler, Vice-President, Jalyn Shotts, Secretary, MyliScott Barnett, Treasurer and Kaley Attaway, Committee Counsel.

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RUSSELLVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY (LAWN CARE BIDS)

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 25th, 2023. 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.

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Partial eclipse to be visible on October 14th

Gary Boyle
The Backyard Astronomer

A few times each year the sun, moon and Earth perform a cosmic line-up in space producing an eclipse. This year our planet will witness two solar and two lunar events. On Saturday, October 14, 2023, skywatchers along a path starting in Oregon through Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and ending in Texas will see an annular eclipse of the sun. The rest of North America (depending on your geographic location) will see a partial eclipse with varying percentages of the sun covered by the moon.

Although this seems like an incredible event to view and photograph, it comes with great risk and danger. Unlike a lunar eclipse where the moon slides into the earth's shadow, turning a burnt orange or coral colour and is completely safe to view, the sun is a far different story. Protective measures must be applied to prevent eye and camera damage.

Solar eclipses come in basically three flavours, total, annular and partial. The first two are dictated by how far the moon is away from Earth at eclipse time. In its monthly orbit around our planet, the moon's elliptical orbit causes an approximate 50,000-kilometre or 30,000-mile variance between the closest and farthest approach called perigee and apogee. The so-called "supermoon" is the combination of a full moon and the closest distance to us which we experienced at the end of August with the "Blue Moon" or the second full moon in the same month..

On Oct 14, the moon will be farther from Earth and therefore not block the entire solar disk. The classic total eclipse is when the entire sun is completely covered for a few seconds up to a maximum of seven and a half minutes depending again on the moon's distance in its orbit. Much like a hockey goaltender challenging a shooter as he skates out and retreats in the net.

Since at no point will the sun be safely covered by the moon, DO NOT LOOK AT THE SUN without protective means. Unless you have a certified solar filter or a number 14 welder's glass which many of us do not

possess, you can still safely see by items such as a vegetable strainer, spaghetti collinder or anything with small holes, even a Ritz cracker. Holding up the stainer or cracker allows you to view little crescent suns on a sheet of paper in safety. For the photographers, Baader solar film or other solar filters are a must or you run the risk of melting your camera's CCD chip or your cell phone sensor.

Eclipses are an awe-inspiring wonder of nature that can be enjoyed safely.

Clear skies! I am a member of the International Society of Astronomical Society of Canada as well as a STEM educator. He has been interviewed on more than 55 Canadian radio stations as well as various television across Canada and the U.S. In recognition of his public outreach in astronomy, the International Astronomical Union has honoured him with the naming of Asteroid (22406) Garyboyle. Follow him on Facebook and his website: www.wondersofastronomy.com



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'Paint the Clinic Pink' breast cancer awareness event set for October 19/20

Submitted

The annual Paint the Clinic Pink for the Well Woman Project event at the Shoals Community Clinic will be October 19th and 20th . The clinic will offer free medical exams, mammograms, and cancer screenings for qualifying patients by appointment. These services are free for low-income women ages 40-64 without health insurance, or women 65 and over who do not have Medicare Part-A.

October is designated Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the Shoals Community Clinic's Well Woman Project is helping the women of our area know their health status. The Well Woman Project provides cancer screening to low-income, uninsured women of the Shoals throughout the year with medical exams, mammograms and education programs that promote healthy lifestyle choices. Collaborating with the Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (ABC-CEDP), Lauderdale County Radiology, and the Tri-State Center for Breast Health, the clinic provides free clinical exams, pap smears, and mammograms for qualifying women. In this program, there is always someone helping the patient navigate through the process of screening, detection, treatment, and recovery in a safe and encouraging atmosphere. A mammogram can detect possible breast cancer much sooner than an at-home breast exam. The earlier breast cancer is detected, the better the chances of a positive outcome.

Breast cancer is this second most fatal of cancers in women after skin cancer. According to the CDC, each year about 255,000 women and men in the US are diagnosed with breast cancer and approximately 42,000 die from the disease. The Shoals Community Clinic has been a partner with the ABCCEDP since 2007, and has provided over 600 patient-screenings through this program.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call the clinic at 256-760-4713.



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SPORTS

10.11.23

RMS to play for 5th straight NW Conference title

*Michael Rice
Franklin Free Press*

The Russellville Middle School Golden Tigers will have the opportunity Tuesday to extend their four straight championship title streak to five after Tuesday night's win over East Limestone 52-0 in the semifinals of the Northwest Alabama Middle School Conference playoffs.

"We fired on all cylinders this game, especially our line upfront. Even our running backs when they weren't running the ball stepped up and blocked well. When our running backs were running the ball though, they ran excellent," head coach Brett Voss said.

Drake Ertle had a great night throwing three touchdown passes.

Sir Williams caught two of those passes from Ertle for touchdowns and Darron Jones had the other touchdown reception.

Jones also had two rushing touchdowns. And Tavien Jones also scored on a run. Ryland Calvert also had one rushing touchdown on the night.

"All five of our linemen played exceptionally well, including Tyde Rogers, Bronner Hellums, Paxton Smith, Santiago Hernandez and Luke Greenhill," Voss said.

The Golden Tigers' defense had their first shut out of the year.

"Normally after we subbed out our starters

See, 'RMS,' Page 13

Golden Tigers head into bye week 6-1, 4-0 in Region 8

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

After a tough 27-24 loss the previous Friday to Mars Hill, Russellville High School head coach John Ritter had a 'back of my mind' concern whether his team could shelf that game as it returned to Class 5A Region 8 play at Brewer Friday.

It didn't take long for Ritter to have an answer from his team.

The Golden Tigers built a 14-0 first quarter lead and never looked back as Russellville rolled over the Patriots 56-19.

Russellville improved to 6-1, 4-0 in Region 8 play with the win.

"When you're dealing with kids, there's a lot of ebb and flow," Ritter said. "There are a lot of ups and downs almost on an hourly basis, much less a daily basis.

"In the back of my mind I was worried. Mars Hill was a big game and an emotional game for



Sophomore Cam Phinizee

See, 'TIGERS,' page 12

Red Bay improves to 4-2 with 52-24 Homecoming win over Tharptown

*Hayden Moss
Franklin Free Press*

The Red Bay Tigers opened up their Homecoming game against Tharptown with a big kick return across the 50 yard line. The big plays would continue all night for Coach Heath Childers' team as Red Bay improved to 4-2, 2-1 with a 52-24 win.

The Tigers finished off the opening drive with a six-yard touchdown run by senior running back Keaton Lanphear, making the score 8-0. The fast start for the Tigers didn't stop there.

On the kickoff to the Wildcats, sophomore Brayden Tabbs picked up a fumble and ran it back for a 42-yard touchdown, extending the lead to 16-0. After a stop on defense, Red Bay drove the field and scored on an eight-yard run by sophomore Jaxon Vinson, making the score 24-0.

Childers was asked about his team's success this season and whether Red Bay's 4-2 record is a surprise.

"Not really. This is a good group of kids and they work hard so we expected to have some success," Childers said.

After allowing 24 unanswered points, the

Wildcats calmed down and drove the field and scored on a 30-yard passing touchdown from seniors Jackson Clement to Dawson Higgins, making the first quarter score 24-8 after the two-point conversion.

The Tigers tacked onto their lead with a 35-yard touchdown run by Lanphear, extending the lead to 32-8. Red Bay scored again quickly with a 22-yard touchdown run by Tabbs, making the halftime score 40-8.

The Tigers opened up the second half with a stop on defense and drove down the field, scoring on a five-yard run by sophomore Jeremiah Thorne, making the score 46-8.

With four games remaining, Red Bay con-

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See, 'RED BAY,' Page 14



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'TIGERS,' From Page 11

a variety of reasons. But we responded really well (at Brewer) and did what we were supposed to do with 26 seniors, many of whom are our team leaders," Ritter added.

It was another dominant night for sophomore running back Cam Phinizee, as he scored five times on touchdown runs of four, eight, 26, 1 and 40 yards.

He finished with 277 on 35 carries. Senior Malachi Duncan had a 95-yard touchdown run, his only carry of the game, in the fourth quarter.

Quarterback Harrison Burch finished 11-17 for 159 yards and two touchdown passes to Cash Crumpton of 41 and 42 yards. Crumpton had seven receptions for 116 yards and his two scores.

Manny Martinez went 6-6 on PATs and Reese Carson ran it in for a two-point conversion for the Golden Tigers.

Ritter's young offensive line had some new defensive looks from Brewer, but adjusted well and allowed Phinizee and Duncan to run through some big holes as well as giving Burch time to scan the field.

"We've played exceptionally well up front considering that was a huge question mark coming into the year with two guys really unproven at the varsity level," Ritter said. "Eric (Hernandez) was coming off ACL surgery so he didn't really have any experience since his sophomore year when he played defensive line.

"We gave up some sacks against Brewer but we were also getting a lot of stuff thrown at us from them defensively with things we'd not seen. We adjusted and did some things well to give Cam running lanes and give Harrison some time. And that's what it takes—the guys up front, Nick (Pounders) at H-back, and tight end Shiloh (Willis) before he got hurt—all working together," he added.

With a bye week this Friday, the Golden Tigers return to the field next Friday for their Homecoming game against Ardmore (1-5, 0-3).

After that game, undefeated Fairview (7-0, 3-0) comes to Russellville in what will likely be the de facto Region 8 championship game.

But first things first—keep his team focused on the Ardmore Tigers. "I know it sounds crazy, but I don't think we'll have to stress that. Fortunately, (Ardmore) is our Homecoming game. There are certain games in a player's career he always remembers," Ritter said. "The Deshler game because it's such a big rivalry. They'll remember Senior Night and remember Homecoming.

"Even 20 years later, I still remember those games and experiences I had as a player. We'll be coming off a bye so we'll be fresh. We were a little mentally drained after Friday's game. Our focus is very good—the best I've seen in the six seasons I've been here. We've got a veteran group who knows how to practice, lift and lead," he added.

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'RMS,' From Page 11

at the end of the game, the opposing team would score but Tuesday night our defense was flying to the ball. Sir Williams had an interception," Voss said.

The Golden Tigers flipped a coin on Wednesday to determine whether they would host the championship, and for the first time in two years, they won the flip.

RMS will host Priceville Tuesday, October 10th at 6 p.m., in the Northwest Alabama Middle School Conference championship. The Golden Tigers will look to extend their streak from four to five consecutive championships.

Priceville is also undefeated and has one game in common with the Golden Tigers on their schedule. Priceville defeated Hatton Tuesday night 44-6. Russellville faced Hatton the first game of the season and won 16-6.

"We had a great crowd against East Limestone and since we're hosting the championship, I expect we'll have a large turnout," Voss said.

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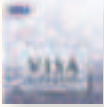


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RED BAY, From Page 11

controls its playoff fate, something Childers likes.

"Well, that's always a good thing with being able to be in control of your own destiny but we still have a lot of work to do. We've got a lot of improvement to make," Childers said.

Red Bay managed to score one more time with a one-yard touch-down run, extending the lead 52-8.

Tharptown's Clement was able to connect with senior wide receiver Malachi Minor for a 63-yard touchdown pass, cutting the lead to 52-16. The Wildcats scored one last time on a 18-yard touchdown pass from Clement to Higgins, making the final score 52-24.

Childers was asked about how much a big win against Tharptown did for his team after a loss to the Hackleburg Panthers the previous week.

"It does a lot for them. There were a lot of guys in that locker room including coaches and players where everyone was really disappointed with last week's game, so this was a good night for us as a team," Childers said.

Red Bay hosts Falkville Friday with a 7 p.m., kickoff.

Bobcats host Mars Hill Friday after road loss at Lauderdale County

Michael Rice
Franklin Free Press

After a big road win against Carbon Hill, the Phil Campbell Bobcats lost 46-0 to Lauderdale County High School last Friday night.

LCHS was firing on all cylinders as the Tigers racked up 412 total yards of offense.

The Bobcats struggled with turnovers with a fumble and an interception.

Hayden Wingo had three carries for 18 yards and one catch for 20 yards for Phil Campbell.

The Bobcats host Mars Hill this Friday, October 13th. The Panthers are 7-0, 4-0 in 3A Region 8 play.

The Bobcats will look to win their first region game this year with new head coach Jacob Hamilton.

The Bobcats are 0-3 in region play with losses to Elkmont, Colbert County and LCHS.

"We're playing Mars Hill so we know it's going to be a tough game. They've got great athletes that are fast, physical & very well coached. Our main focus this week is to work on us, focus on the little things and be competitive," Hamilton said.

After the Mars Hill game, the Bobcats travel to Colbert Heights on October 20th, host Clements October 27th and end the regular season hosting Red Bay on Friday, Nov. 3rd.

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Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Each Week's Winner Receives a \$25 Pilgrim's Place BBQ Gift Certificate!

Congratulations to Jason Bolton! He won last week's contest with 7-10 correct and a tiebreaker score of Bama winning by 6. We had eight entries with 7 correct, so it went to the tiebreaker.

Submit your picks by email to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com by Saturday morning, October 14, at 10 a.m. Include your name, phone number and game selections, including tiebreaker.

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