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# FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

YOUR HOMETOWN, "GOOD NEWS" NEWSPAPER!

9.6.17

## G&G Steel builds huge model rocket for NASA

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Bret Gist considers himself a 'yes' man. When he's presented with a challenge, Gist prefers to say 'yes' and take the project head on.

So when he received a phone call two years ago asking if his company, G&G Steel, would be interested in building a 212-foot-long, 230,000-pound, full-scale

steel model rocket as part of NASA's Space Launch System (SLS), Gist said 'yes.'

"Our local high school team in Russellville had recently won the rocketry team world championship," said Gist, G&G Steel's vice president. "So I was very interested in G&G Steel making a model rocket after what happened in Russellville, Alabama."

See 'ROCKET,' Page 9



The massive pathfinder vehicle constructed by G&G measures 212 feet in length and weighs 230,000 pounds.



PHOTO/JP

Revenue commissioner Veronica Stancil speaks to local volunteer fire department officials.

## Fire districts set to receive funds

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

It was a long road to get there, but nine of Franklin County's fire districts will receive an estimated annual amount of \$120,000 after Franklin County voters approved an annual fee of \$36 in each of the districts.

Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D-Red Bay), who sponsored the legislation, held a meeting last Tuesday evening with representatives of each district, along with Franklin County revenue commissioner Veronica Stancil. Each department received an informational packet that included the estimated total that would be generated from the new fee.

Totals for the first year came to \$100,831.50, because only 10 months of fees were collected in the

first year based on when the fee was approved by voters. Stancil said future years should generate more than \$120,000 based on 12 months' worth of fees.

The annual fee was overwhelmingly approved in each of the nine districts that submitted it to voters. Those fire districts, each manned by a volunteer fire department, include Pleasant Site, Frankfort, East Franklin, Blue Springs, Gravel Hill, Burnout, Hodges and Vina volunteer fire departments.

According to language contained in the supporting legislation, the fee applies to "each residence, dwelling and business" within the geographic boundaries of the fire district. Owners of undeveloped property are not bound to pay the fee on those tracts of land.

See 'FIRE,' Page 11

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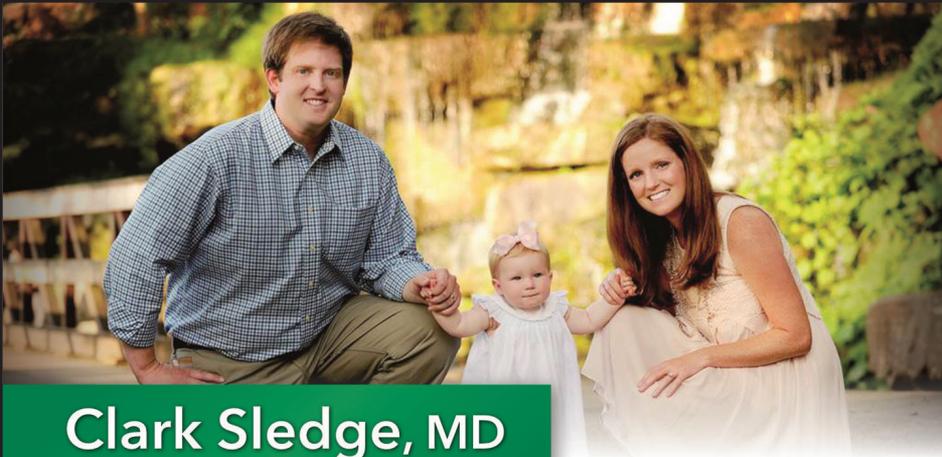


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**Dr. Sledge is now seeing patients every Wednesday at the Littleville clinic.**

An Alabama native, Dr. Sledge completed his OB/GYN residency at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, TX (top 10 national medical residency programs). He is able to communicate with both his English and Spanish-speaking patients.



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**Merry Catherine Archer**, Russellville, age 55  
Died Saturday, September 2, 2017. Memorial service held at Spry Memorial Chapel.

**Bobby K. McWilliams**, Russellville, age 78  
Died Thursday, August 31, 2017. Funeral held at Siloam Baptist Church. Interment in Gravel Hill Cemetery in the Mountain Star Community. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

**Charles Lewis Murray**, age 80  
Died Sunday, August 27, 2017. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Bethlehem Cemetery.

**Kathy Dianne Willis**, Russellville, age 60  
Died Tuesday, August 29, 2017. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Oak Grove Cemetery.

**Ralph E. Wingo**, Spruce Pine, age 95  
Died Thursday, August 31, 2017. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Belgreen Cemetery.

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# First Baptist Church to host apologetics event

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Jason Pierce was raised in church, but he began having doubts about Christianity at a young age.

He had plenty of questions but not a lot of people to ask. Pierce became an agnostic in his early 20s and found his belief in the Bible wavering.

"I didn't know who Jesus was and didn't feel we *could* know who Jesus was," Pierce said. "Then there was a point in my life where He touched me and I began really thinking about these questions and seriously searching for answers."

That search led Pierce to two books: *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis and *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist* by Dr. Frank Turek.

"Those books really turned me around, along with the Bible," Pierce said.

The life-changing impact Pierce experienced from Turek's book led him to reach out to the award-winning author and speaker to inquire about Turek coming to Russellville.

Turek is president of [www.crossexamined.org](http://www.crossexamined.org), an evangelical, inter-denominational ministry based on Christian apologetics.

What is apologetics? It's the science and the art of answering questions about the truth of Christianity by using reasons and evidence.

Turek will hold two apologetics seminars in Russellville on Sunday and Monday, September 10-11, from 6-8 p.m. at the Russellville High School Auditorium. Admission is free, and the events are open to the public.



At his seminars, Dr. Frank Turek presents what he describes as powerful and entertaining evidence for Christianity.

A former aviator in the U.S. Navy, Turek holds a master's degree from George Washington University and a doctorate from Southern Evangelical Seminary.

The word apologetics first appears in the New Testament in 1 Peter 3:15, where the Apostle Peter addressed the people of Asia Minor, who were being persecuted because of their faith in Christ. Peter wrote: *But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them nor be troubled but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense (apologia) to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is within you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.*

Pierce, a deacon at First Baptist Russellville, said he regularly texts back and forth with his good friends Paul Wilbanks and Dustin Morgan, asking each other questions about faith. Wilbanks and Morgan helped organize the apologetics event after Pierce ran it by the FBC education committee.

Each seminar will be approximately 90 minutes, followed by a question and answer session where Turek is often challenged about his beliefs.

"Sometimes the Q&A is even better than his lecture," Pierce said. "There are some good questions out there. Everybody has questions. I just hope they bring them with them to ask."

Pierce said he organized the event at the RHS Auditorium to encourage young people to attend in a setting they were familiar with.

"We've talked to a lot of people and tried to get the word out in schools," Pierce said. "I think our youth really need this, because they get hit hard with social media where there's anything you want to read or hear right at your fingertips. It's hard to see what's true and what's not true. We really want kids to attend."

For more information on Turek and his ministry, log onto [www.crossexamined.org](http://www.crossexamined.org).

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# Honey Do List: Wall stains

The kids are back in school, and the holidays will soon be upon us. Now is a great time to begin preparing for the busy months ahead and to get a head start on cleaning. Cleaning marks and stains and repairing blemishes on interior walls is a good place to start.

Begin washing the walls by spot-cleaning stains, marks, etc. Blemishes made by crayon, pencil and marker, as well as scuffs, can be removed with baking soda and water. In a small cup, mix the water and baking soda together to make a paste. Rub the paste into the stain, using a cloth or an old toothbrush. Then wipe the area with a clean cloth.

**Blemishes made by crayon, pencil and marker, as well as scuffs, can be removed with baking soda and water.**

You also can try products like Mr. Clean Magic Eraser, which are designed for removing crayon marks and the like. Now you're ready to start cleaning the entirety of each wall.

You will need two buckets and two sponges. Dip a sponge in the bucket containing your cleaning solution, and wring out excess water. After scrubbing the wall, use the second sponge and rinse with clean water from the other bucket. Start at the bottom of the wall.

This will ensure that any water running or dripping down as you clean won't adhere to dirt and debris on the wall and potentially leave stains.

Rub the surface lightly in a circular motion, working small areas at a time. Go over the area you just cleaned with the wet sponge to remove soap residue and any dirt. Dip the rinsing sponge again in the bucket of water, and wring out excess water. Continue working in this manner until you have completely cleaned the entire wall. Change the water in the rinsing bucket when it becomes cloudy or too dirty to use for rinsing.

Use a sturdy ladder or stepstool for high spots, and follow safety guidelines closely. Be sure not to stand too high on the ladder or lean out too far.

Avoid taking breaks until you've completely finished a wall; then rest before you begin a new one. Otherwise, you may leave visible streaks or lines indicating where you stopped washing.

When you've finished cleaning a wall, use a clean cloth or towel to wipe up any remaining drips and remove excess moisture.

Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.

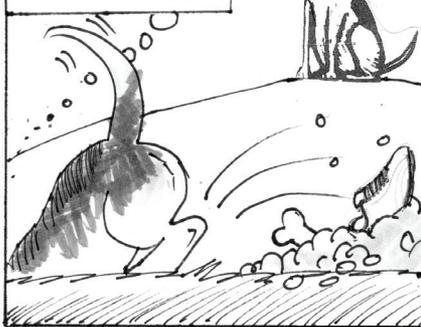


Doug Green

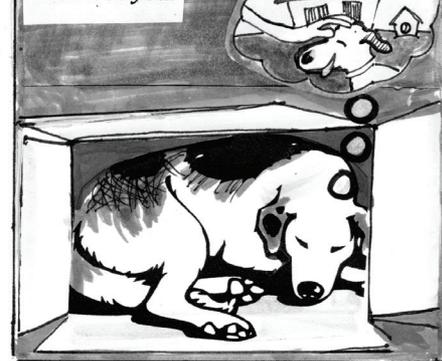
## OUR dog HOUSE by Ree Shannon

PART II

Getting out of the fence has its advantages: freedom to explore, dig up treasures & howl at the moon



But, there is one disadvantage: missing the people that love you.



More soap! He still smells awful.



I always bring back a little "Show and Smell" from my travels.

At the end of the day I'd rather be Home with the pack ...



and just in time for Dinner.

## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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### Letters to the editor

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# Energy runs high at Handy Fest

Sheryl Hamilton  
For the FFP

The 36th annual W.C. Handy Festival was celebrated this summer with thousands of people in attendance. July was most certainly a great time to have a vacation experience in Florence, AL. There is so much to see and so many activities to do that you will need some extended vacation time to absorb it all.

William Christopher Handy is known as the "Father of the Blues." However, we must never forget that he was a composer, publisher and renowned musician.

Handy, born in Florence, said, "When I was no more than ten years old, I could catalog almost any sound that came to my ears...There was a French horn concealed in the breast of the blue jay. The tappings of the woodpecker were to me the reverberations of a snare drum. The bull frog supplies an effective bass. As I grew older, I added the saxophonic wailing of the moo-cows and the clarinets of the moody whippoorwills. All built up within my consciousness a natural symphony. This was the primitive prelude to the mature melodies now recognized as the blues. Nature was my kindergarten."

There is an effort ongoing to re-name College Street W.C. Handy Boulevard. The Handy home is on College Street. Mr. Dave Smith, immediate past city councilman of Florence District 1, has collected well over 500 signatures on a petition to get the street named after Mr. Handy.

"There is a need to have a street named after one of the most famous citizens of Florence," Smith said. "Millions of dollars are made during the week of the festival. Tourists come to Florence and the surrounding area, including Russellville, and all over the country to enjoy the festival and pay mega-bucks to boost the area economy."

Although most of the Handy Week activities are in Florence, some have been some held in Russellville over the past few years.

The Beale Street Blues event featured the group "Off the Chain." Many residents from Russellville attended the event at Lewis Field. The weather was cooperative, and some brought their lawn chairs, umbrellas and tents.

**The crowd got excited when the dancers from The Senior Center (The Club) performed during the halftime break of the band. Those seniors really had lots of pep in their step as they performed the Electric Slide to "Love and Happiness." You have never witnessed such high energy from 60-, 70- and 80-year-olds!**

Dr. Carlos Handy, the grandson of W.C. Handy and the author of a book published in memory of his grandfather, attended this event with his wife and made some remarks. He has agreed to come back once the street is re-named and ready to be dedicated.

Such a relaxing evening! The crowd got excited when the dancers from The Senior Center--The Club--performed during the halftime break of the band. Those seniors really had lots of pep in their step as they performed the Electric Slide to "Love and Happiness." You have never witnessed such high energy from 60-, 70- and 80-year-olds!

College Street Gospel was the event to close out the W.C. Handy Festival with gospel musicians from the area. W.C. Handy's father was a minister, and hymns and gospel music were sang in his church.

The Music Preservation Society was organized in the 1980s. Dr. Ruff and Dr. Mussleman were the first organizers. Tori Bailey serves as the festival chair.



### Pre-paid debit cards for kids?

Dear Dave,  
I've seen lots of companies marketing pre-paid debit cards for kids. They seem to position them as a way parents can set spending limits for their children.

Are these a good idea? It seems to me they are just a form of conditioning to get kids to rely on cards.

Keith

Dear Keith,  
I agree with your assessment. I don't recommend pre-paid debit cards for children, except in very unusual situations. Let's say your kid was going on a trip, and you wanted him or her to have something in their pocket for limited access to cash. But if they're old enough and responsible enough, I'd rather them have a traditional debit card attached to their own account.

What I really want parents to do is teach their children how to work, give, save and spend *wisely*. It's all about teaching your children to become good adults, and handling money is part of the equation. How does that apply to something like a pre-paid debit card for a kid? For the child, they're looking at it like mom and dad are an ATM. They don't equate it with real money unless they put *their* cash into the card.

I suggest helping them open a checking account with a debit card attached

around age 15 or 16, provided you have taught them—and they have demonstrated—wise money management practices up to that point. Teach them to reconcile and balance the account, and walk with them when they do this so they don't slip into the idea that a debit card is some magical portal to free money!

Dave

### Become debt-free before marriage?

Dear Dave,  
I'll be getting married in a few months, and I just finished reading some of your books. You make a lot of sense, but now I'm wondering if I need to talk to my fiancée about postponing the wedding until I pay off all my debt.

How do you feel about this?

Nick

Dear Nick,  
First, congratulations on your upcoming wedding! I admire your desire to get out of debt and take control of your finances, but you're talking about marrying the woman you love. You *do not* have to be debt-free to get married.

If you guys are on the same page when it comes to money, and you're both willing to work *together* on paying off any debt after you're married, there's no reason to postpone the wedding. You two shouldn't be paying each other's debt *before* you get married, but once the rings are on your fingers and you're pronounced "as one," then everything shifts from being "mine" and "hers" to "ours."

Dave

*\*Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

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# What's Happening

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

**F**ranklin County Community Education has begun the 2017-2018 T.R.A.C.K.S. afterschool program at Red Bay, Belgreen, Tharptown, Phil Campbell, Vina and East Franklin. There will be various enrichment activities, STEM and Robotics activities, and much more! Each site is staffed with experienced personnel to keep students safe and happy and to keep them learning! T.R.A.C.K.S. is open to all students grades PreK-9. Four-year-olds must be enrolled in a PreK program. Academic assistance, robotics and arts are offered for grades 10-12. The program is in session every school day from 3-6 p.m. Students may be picked up at their parent's convenience during those hours. A snack is provided each day. There is a \$20 registration fee per student. Weekly tuition rates are \$15 per week, with a sibling rate of \$10. Registration forms may be obtained at any T.R.A.C.K.S. site, at the Community Education office, at the Board of Education office or on the Franklin County Board of Education website ([www.franklin.k12.al.us](http://www.franklin.k12.al.us)) For more info, please call Franklin County Community Education at 256-331-0005 or your local school.

**M**embers of the Shoals Area Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will be available to pray for you in the meeting room at the Rock Christian Bookstore at 310 N. Montgomery Avenue in Sheffield this Thursday, September 7 from 4-5:30 p.m. Our monthly meeting will follow in the Sheffield Room at Park Place at 6:30 p.m. We believe that God heals spiritually, physically and emotionally. All prayer is confidential. All are welcome.

**T**he Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris, Jr. Camp #1833 will meet this Thursday, September 7 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center on Ash Avenue. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. Call 256-324-2317. Everyone welcome!

**R**ed Bay Hospital will host a Shoe Sale Fundraiser this Thursday and Friday, September 7-8 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. This "Shoe Show" is presented by Flying Footwear. Brands will include New Balance, Sketchers, Alegria and more. There will be great pricing on all items, including rubber clots from \$17, tennis shoes from \$55 and slip-on styles from \$45. This is a fundraiser for the Red Bay Hospital Volunteers. For more information, call Red Bay Hospital at 256-356-9532.

**T**he Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guests James LeBlanc and Angela Hacker at the Roxy Theatre in downtown Russellville this Saturday, September 9 at 7 p.m. General admission seating. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. Group discounts available! Call 256-335-4356.

## North Highlands Church of Christ

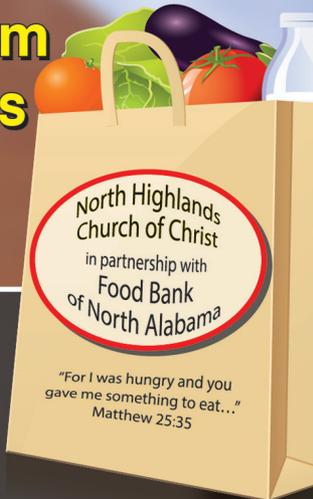
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**A**uditions for The Roxy's *Legend of Toyland* are scheduled for this Saturday, September 9 at the Russellville First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. If you are 16 years of age (by November 1) or older, you are urged to participate in this audition. Women are scheduled for 10 a.m. and men for 2 p.m. No routine needs to be prepared, but tennis shoes or dance shoes are required. This much-loved musical, written and directed by Lanny McAlister, will premiere at the historic Roxy Theatre on November 29 and run through December 3, with 12 performances. Tickets will be sold the second Saturday of each month prior to the Kerry Gilbert Band and Guests Show at the Roxy. For updates on events and ticket sales, visit the Facebook page, The Legend of Toyland.

**T**harptown Fire Department will host an Open House and Community Outreach event this Sunday, September 10 from 1-5 p.m. Everyone is welcome! There will be free food and drinks, popcorn and candy, and inflatables for kids. A drawing for a cash prize will be held (\$1 donation per ticket). All donations will be combined for a 50/50 drawing. The winner will receive half of the money, and the other half will go to the Tharptown Fire Department. Winner must be present at the time of the drawing, or the donation will go to the Tharptown Fire Department in its entirety. Tharptown Fire Department would like to thank everyone for the donations that made this event possible.

**R**evival will be held at Mars Hill Community Church (Hwy. 5 South in Phil Campbell) on September 10-15 with Sunday service at 5 p.m. and Monday-Friday services at 7 p.m. each night. Everyone is welcome!

**T**he Russellville varsity cheerleaders will sponsor a Mini-Cheerleading Clinic at the West Elementary gym Monday, September 11 through Wednesday, September 13. Clinic will be from 3-5 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday and from 3-4:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Cost for three days is \$30. Performance date will be Friday, September 15 at Golden Tiger Stadium during the Russellville-Lawrence County football game. Deadline to register for the clinic is Friday, September 11. For more info, please call Russellville cheer coach Stephanie Mayfield at 256-810-7067.

**A**merican Legion Post 64 meets the second Thursday of each month at the Chamber of Commerce office on Jackson Avenue. Meal served around 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. Next meeting will be Thursday, September 14.

**E**ast Franklin Volunteer Fire Department will hold a fundraiser selling William Bishop's smoked chicken plates on Friday, September 15 from 4-7 p.m. at the East Franklin Fire Department. Barbecue or half chicken plates are \$9 each. Come join us!

**T**he annual Red Bay Founder's Fest will take place Saturday, September 16 at Bay Tree Park. The day-long event kicks off at 8:30 a.m. with the King and Queen's Train Ride of the beauty pageant winners, and live music cranks up at 9 a.m. There will also be contests, arts and crafts, sidewalk sales, a 5K run, an antique car-truck-motorcycle-tractor show and much more! Bay Tree Park is located near 2nd Street in downtown Red Bay. Festival hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For info, call Tracie Clark at 256-356-4473, ext. 3.

**T**he Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts in Red Bay announces auditions for its first production of the 2017-2018 season, *In-Laws, Outlaws, and Others (Who Should be Shot)*, by Steve Franco. Auditions will be held at Community Spirit Bank's Weatherford Centre in Red Bay on Sunday, September 17 at 2 p.m. and Monday, September 18 at 7 p.m. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the book, and the play will be directed by Mark Richardson. Parts are available for seven males and eight females, ages teen to adult. Performance dates are November 9-12 at the Weatherford Centre, with practice beginning Monday, September 25. Tickets go on sale one week before the production, and those interested in group sales with dinner may call Beth Hammock at 256-356-9286. For more info, call Mark Richardson at 256-356-3099 or Scotty Kennedy at 256-356-8758.

**H**elen Keller Hospital and Healthy Valley Women will present "Sepsis Awareness: How Infection Can Kill" at the Keller Wellcare Center on Tuesday, September 26 at 12 p.m. Dr. Laurence Carmichael will speak on the importance of understanding the signs and symptoms of sepsis. Helen Keller Hospital recently received Gold Star Certification for Sepsis Protocols by the Joint Commission. September is Septic Awareness Month. The program is free, and a light lunch will be served. To reserve your seat, call 256-386-4747.

# Local volunteers collecting supplies for Harvey aid

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

*"First In...Last Out."*

That's the motto of the Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team, an organization that works to render aid to disaster survivors while bringing them the good news of the Gospel.

Through the organization of the DRT and North Highlands Church of Christ in Russellville, a group of northwest Alabama residents traveled to flood-ravaged southeast Texas last week to volunteer their services and deliver donated supplies to those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

An additional truckload of supplies will be transported to Texas this weekend, and there's still time for area residents to donate or contribute to the effort.

The group of volunteers who traveled to Portland, Texas last Thursday included adult and student members of several area churches, and the supplies that were

delivered came from collection efforts through local schools and churches and Northwest-Shoals Community College.

North Highlands member Thomas Cochran helped organize the busload of volunteers. For those interested in making cash donations or donations of supplies, you can contact Cochran through his Facebook page @ThomasCochran.

Supplies including water, canned food, diapers, baby formula and other non-perishable items can be dropped off at the North Highlands Fellowship Hall through Friday.

The volunteers traveled to North Bay Church of Christ in Portland, command central for the DRT, then on to various destinations where they were needed. Volunteer efforts included mucking houses, clearing brush with chainsaws, sorting clothing and supplies and other critical tasks.

For more information or to make donations directly through the Churches of Christ DRT, log onto [www.churchesofchrist.org](http://www.churchesofchrist.org).



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers gather at North Highlands Church of Christ in Russellville last week moments before they traveled to Portland, Texas to assist in Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. An additional truckload of supplies will be transported to Texas this weekend. For more information or to make donations directly through the Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team, go online to [www.churchesofchrist.org](http://www.churchesofchrist.org).

## 'ROCKET,' from page 1

Two years after that call, several hundred guests, including Congressman Robert Aderholt, were on hand last Thursday for the NASA SLS Core Stage Pathfinder Vehicle completion event at G&G Steel's Cordova location on the Warrior River.

The massive core stage pathfinder will be used to demonstrate core stage operations and transportation, including routes for testing, assembly and to the launch site at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

After last Thursday's ceremony, the massive pathfinder vehicle was loaded onto a barge that will carry it to NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, then to Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis MO, before heading to Florida.

Construction of the core stage pathfinder was a collaboration among G&G Steel, Radiance Technologies and Dynetics, Inc., of Huntsville. NASA awarded Radiance Technologies the pathfinder vehicle delivery order under the Engineering Solutions and Prototyping contract with Dynetics as the technical lead. G&G Steel performed the assembly of the pathfinder vehicle in component parts at its Russellville facility, where the smaller components were cut, prepared and formed. They were then transported to Cordova, where final assembly was completed in preparation of transporting the pathfinder by barge.

"This is a full-scale model of the core stage of the SLS rocket," Gist said. "This is NASA's new-generation rocket. Basically, it's called Pathfinder because this testing is to supposedly find a path for the new rocket and determine whether they will have any problems in transporting the actual rocket once its constructed."

The SLS is the latest technology that's part of NASA's deep space exploration that includes plans for a manned mission to Mars. SLS will use ground and launch facilities at Kennedy Space Center. More than 1,000 manufacturers and suppliers will be involved in the SLS project. The first planned voyage for the SLS is an uncrewed trip around the moon, according to Dynetics, Inc. CEO Dave King.

Aderholt said the time and expense of a test delivery run was justified because it will help avoid problems and allow for adjustments before the hardware is installed and delivery is made on the actual rocket.

"This is not an insignificant thing here today," Aderholt said. "We have a 212-foot mockup of the core stage of the Space Launch System that will be the world's biggest rocket. In two weeks, this piece of hardware will be delivered to New Orleans, then to Stennis and on to Kennedy."

"Congratulations to all of the workers here at G&G Steel. It's a big day not only for Alabama but for America and our space program. What will be on this rocket is our most precious cargo in the United States—our American astronauts. Safety is our most important criteria moving forward."

The massive steel structure was loaded by two overhead cranes and placed on a barge. Gist described the process of loading the pathfinder as slow and methodical because it had to be loaded at an angle to avoid tilting the barge over.

"We fabricated the entire pathfinder vehicle," Gist said. "It was built from scratch. It's a steel model but physically the same size and weight of what it actually will be. These guys you see here today wearing the G&G shirts did the hard work on this project. They're the ones who made this happen."

Gist said G&G Steel has done some work for NASA prior to the Space Launch System project. He hopes the company's involvement with this important testing will

open more doors for G&G to collaborate with NASA.

"Two years ago we did some work for NASA directly," he said. "It involved more testing equipment—nothing that was flying hardware-related. We did assemble a couple pieces here that were actually bolted to flight hardware, and in our world that's a big deal because we think of NASA hardware as very critical."

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Gist said G&G Steel has done some work for NASA prior to the Space Launch System project. He hopes the company's involvement with this important testing will



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Multi-family yard sale this Saturday, Sept. 9 from 7 am-1 pm at 179 Stonewood Drive, Russellville.

Last sale of the year. Saturday, September 9, 7 a.m. 950 Lakeview Lane, Littleville. From Muscle Shoals, turn left on 2nd street past Yogi's on Hwy 43. From Russellville, turn right at the produce stand on Hwy 43. Multiple families - Lots of merchandise! Cancelled if rain. Watch FFP for rain-out date.

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## 'FIRE,' from page 1

Stancil explained that the fee began in December of 2016, one month after it was approved by voters. So the first year's revenue is based on 10 months. That will change in subsequent years.

Stancil said anyone exempt from paying property tax who is 65 or older will be exempted from the \$3/month fire fee. But residents age 65 and older who are exempt but have a second house will be required to pay the fee on the second residence. No annual fee will be assessed on barns, Stancil said, but owners of manufactured homes will be required to pay.

"This is not a tax increase," Stancil said. "The law says the fire fee will be paid as property tax and will be combined with property tax. If it's not paid, the property is subject to being sold just as if property taxes weren't paid," she added.

Since many Franklin County property owners pay their ad valorem taxes through an escrow account, Stancil said there could be some initial confusion if the homeowner's mortgage company doesn't deduct for fire fees in escrow.

"If you have an escrow account, that fire fee still has to be paid," she said. "We will accept fire fees directly at my office if it's not paid through escrow. The bottom line is the homeowner needs to be sure the fire fee is paid."

Stancil and her office have worked diligently in recent months to determine which property owners in each of the nine districts will owe the annual fee, which amounts to \$3 per month.

**"This will make a major difference for our department," Moomaw said. "I'm working on a five-year plan that will make important improvements for our department and the people we serve."**

According to the legislation, a three-percent administrative fee will be deducted out of all fees collected, with those funds going into the Franklin County Commission general fund.

Morrow said he organized last Tuesday's meeting as a way to express his appreciation to both the volunteer fire departments and Stancil and her office staff for their hard work.

"This is a big night for Franklin County volunteer fire departments," Morrow said. "I'm sick and tired of going out to volunteer fire departments and seeing them have to hold barbecues and chicken stew fund raisers to raise money to help the people who benefit from your services through discounted insurance rates. I'd like to say thank you to all our volunteer fire departments. I admire and respect what you do."

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Vina VFD chief Michael Moomaw, whose department will receive an estimated \$11,203.50 in fire fees for the 10-month period, said that's almost three times what the department operates on presently. He said his department raised approximately \$4,000 last year through fundraisers and its share of the tobacco tax that is divided among volunteer fire departments.

"This will make a major difference for our department," Moomaw said. "I'm already working on a five-year plan that will make important improvements for our department and the people we serve. We appreciate the work Johnny Mack did for us on this. It was a hard effort, and Johnny Mack gave us a quick education on how things work in Montgomery. He put us right where we needed to be."

Morrow said the annual fee will bring a big return for the residents served by these nine fire districts.

"ISO [Insurance Services Office, Inc.] ratings in these fire districts determine people's rates and are based on how well these departments are trained and equipped," Morrow said. "This isn't costing people money—it's saving them money through reduced insurance rates."

The estimated amounts to be received for 2017 for the nine districts are: East Franklin (\$18,915); Blue Springs (\$9,807); Tharptown (\$21,389); Gravel Hill (\$8,788); Frankfort (\$7,246); Hodges (\$6,402); Burnout (\$12,077); Vina (\$11,204) and Pleasant Site (\$5,005).

## Republican Party announces qualifying dates for 2018

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Alabama Republican Party recently announced its opening and closing qualifying dates for the 2018

Primary Election.

According to a release from the Alabama GOP, candidate qualifying will open on Monday, January 8, 2018 and will close on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 5 p.m. These qualifying dates are in advance of the 2018 state

primaries.

Individuals interested in qualifying should contact Alabama GOP political director Reed Phillips at 205-212-5900 or rphillips@algop.org. Candidates' names will be posted on www.ALGOP.org as they qualify.

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## Have a Sports Story?

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## Week 2 in the SEC

Mike Self  
 Franklin Free Press

It's time once again to give you a preview and a pick for the four most intriguing games on the SEC schedule in Week 2. Let's get to it.

### Last week's record: 3-1

#### Auburn (1-0) at Clemson (1-0)

All eyes were on Jarrett Stidham and the Auburn offense heading into last week's opener, but a dominant defense stole the show. The Tigers held Georgia Southern to 78 total yards and zero third-down conversions in 15 tries. They also recorded five sacks and 12 tackles for loss, looking downright nasty along the defensive front.

Speaking of nasty defensive fronts, Clemson's combo of All-American tackles Dexter Lawrence and Christian Wilkins might be the best D-line duo in the country. They'll be a handful for an Auburn offensive line that struggled at times to protect Stidham last Saturday.

Auburn will be glad to have Kam Pettway back from his one-game suspension, but the return of sophomore receiver Kyle Davis could be even more impactful. Clemson is tough against the run, so Stidham and the passing game will need to have a big day if Auburn is to pull the upset.

#### The Pick: Auburn 27 Clemson 24

#### Georgia (1-0) at Notre Dame (1-0)

There didn't appear to be much drop-off for the Bulldogs last week when true freshman QB Jake Fromm replaced injured starter Jacob Eason in the first quarter against Appalachian State. Either way, the one-two punch of Nick Chubb and Sony Michel on the ground and a stingy, veteran defense should be enough for Georgia to win its first meeting with the Irish since the Sugar Bowl at the end of the 1980 season.

#### The Pick: Georgia 24 Notre Dame 20

#### TCU (1-0) at Arkansas (1-0)

Last week's glorified scrimmages against Jackson State and Florida A&M, respectively, revealed little about these two teams. The TCU offense should provide a clearer indication as to whether or not the Hogs are better on D, while the Arkansas ground game will test a TCU front that struggled against big, physical O-lines last season.

#### The Pick: TCU 35 Arkansas 31

#### South Carolina (1-0) at Missouri (1-0)

The Gamecocks somehow beat a good N.C. State team despite rushing for only 31 yards on 21 carries. They should find smoother sledding against a Mizzou defense that yielded 492 total yards and 43 points to Missouri State last week.

Pay no heed to the 72 points Missouri scored in that game. The Tigers did the same thing last year, padding their offensive stats against the Sisters of the Poor and then averaging a meager 22 points in conference play. That being said, this one does have a last-team-with-the-ball-wins feel to it.

#### The Pick: South Carolina 38 Missouri 35

# Russellville regroup

Mike Self  
 Franklin Free Press

Mark Heaton learned a valuable lesson a long time ago about the toll inexperience can take.

"My old head coach told me once that for every sophomore you start at the 5A level, that's one loss," said Heaton, now in his fourth year running the Russellville program. "I need to call him and find out how that works with freshmen."

Heaton was being humorous, of course, but last Friday's season-opening 35-3 loss at Deshler was no laughing matter. After playing well at times on both sides of the ball in the first half, the youthful Golden Tigers—who had no fewer than five freshmen playing significant snaps, mostly on offense—took their lumps in the second half, getting out-scored 23-0.

"We had a lot of execution errors, a lot more in the second half,"

See 'REGROUPS,' page 16



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Hamilton (21) got off to a fast start against Deshler last week, rushing for 62 yards on the Golden Tigers' first two drives. The offense lost its steam, however, and failed to reach the end zone in a game for the first time since a 6-0 win over Cullman in the 2015 regular season finale.

# Jackson reaches milestone win as Red Bay rolls past Tharptown

Mike Self  
 Franklin Free Press

With a record of 3-19 barely two years into his first head coaching job at Buckhorn High School back in 2004, Michael Jackson couldn't envision himself some day reaching 100 career wins.

He just couldn't see it—not that he took the time to try.

"I never looked that far ahead," Jackson said. "When I was coaching back then, I never looked that far ahead. I had to go one week at a time, and I've tried to keep doing that the whole time. Just be as consistent as I can be and take each and every team throughout the last sixteen years and maximize what they do best."

After that inauspicious beginning at Buckhorn (a 1-9 record in 2002, followed by a 2-8 mark in 2003 and then two losses to open the 2004 season), Jackson got the Bucks headed in the right direction. That 0-2 start in '04 gave way to nine wins in the next ten games, including the first two playoff victories (over Wenonah and Oxford) in program history. The season ended with a 28-21 loss to Russellville, Jackson's alma mater, in the Class 5A quarterfinals, but the die had been cast.

Buckhorn, the same program that had opened the 2000's with 36 losses in 40 games, was a winner now.

The Bucks went 13-2 in a historic 2005 season, knocking off Russellville 17-13 in the state semifinals before falling to Homewood in the Super Six. Jackson would take Buckhorn back to the playoffs twice more and finish with a school-record 53 wins in nine years before leaving after the 2010 season to become the new head coach at Russellville.

Jackson's tenure at his alma mater peaked with a 9-3 record in 2012, but it was neither as long nor as successful as he would have liked. After winning 18 games in three seasons, he stepped down from his post and ultimately landed at Red Bay, where he promptly put up a 28-6 record in his first three years.



Michael Jackson

The Tigers dropped their 2017 opener 14-6 at Colbert Heights, but last Friday's 53-7 road rout of Tharptown did more than just even their record at 1-1 and give them some positive momentum heading into this week's Class 2A, Region 8 opener at Mars Hill. It pushed Jackson into the ranks of a fairly exclusive fraternity among high school football coaches in the state of Alabama.

He's now a member of the 100 Win Club. Burning the midnight oil at the Red Bay football facility last Friday night, Jackson (reluctantly) took a brief moment to reflect on his head coaching career, now in its 16th season.

"For me, it's been about being consistent and going to work every day," said Jackson, a 1987 graduate of RHS who went on to play defensive back at the University of North Alabama. "When I got into coaching, I tried to approach things the same way I did when I was playing

See 'JACKSON,' page 16

# Simple approach on D has Wildcats at 2-0

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

Prior to the start of the season, Colbert Heights football coach Taylor Leathers ordered up a bundle of chrome "CH" decals in anticipation of handing out helmet stickers after each game to reward his team for wins and his players for standout individual achievements.

At the rate his defense is performing, he may need to order a new batch by October. "Once again, the majority of our stickers went to the defensive side of the ball," Leathers said on Sunday evening, two days after his team improved to 2-0 with a 30-0 win at Phil Campbell. "That's the second week in a row we've seen our defense play well, and we've been very proud of that. Any time you shut out a team, we take pride in that. Everybody on the team got a sticker for the win, and everybody who played on defense got a sticker for the shutout."

"We wanted to reward the whole defense. Phil Campbell was driving with the football at the end, and it was good to see our young guys preserve the shutout."

"On defense," Leathers said, "you can do so much that if the kids aren't getting it, they're not gonna be where you want them to be. So we're trying to keep it simple on the defensive side of the ball and just focus on each individual doing their job."

Those younger guys were simply picking up where the Wildcats' defensive starters and rotation players left off. One week after largely stifling Red Bay's power running game in a 14-6 win, coordinator Lonnie Robinson's unit held Phil Campbell to just 190 total yards while recording the team's first shutout since a 39-0 rout of West Morgan in the final game of the 2015 season.

A year ago, Colbert Heights allowed a total of 59 points in its first two games; this season, the Wildcats have given up only six—to the same two opponents. Leathers credits a streamlined approach that has allowed his defenders to spend less time thinking and more time making plays.

"I would say we've simplified things from last year to this year," said Leathers, whose team ended up allowing an average of 29.5 points per game while going 4-6 in 2016. "That's the key ingredient for us this year. I give a lot of credit to Coach Robinson, our defensive coordinator, along with Isaac Fuller and Scott Hunter and the other guys on our defensive staff. We wanted to simplify things on defense and be sound on everything we did."

"On defense, you can do so much that if the kids aren't getting it, they're not gonna

See 'SIMPLE,' page 15

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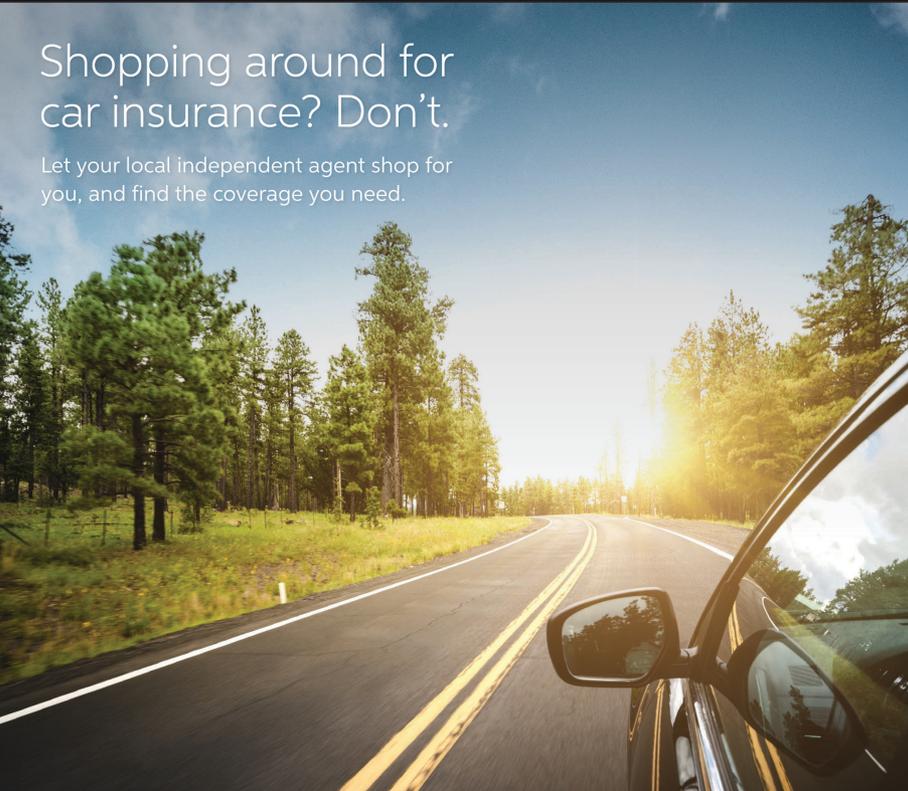
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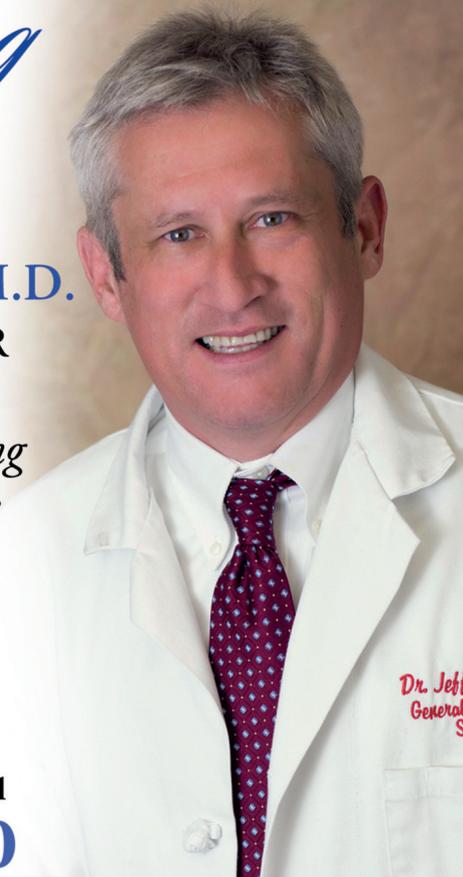
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## 'SIMPLE', from page 14

be where you want them to be. So we're trying to keep it simple on the defensive side of the ball and just focus on each individual doing their job."

Those jobs are not all the same, of course. In the Wildcats' 4-4 scheme, defensive linemen like 300-pound Isaiah Miller, 250-pound senior Cain Phifer and active junior Tyler Tubbs tie up blockers at the point of attack, allowing senior linebackers Brendan Borden (19 tackles in two games), Dylan Chandler (17 tackles), Korey Saint (17 tackles) and Bevin Foust (14 tackles) to run to the ball and make plays. [Senior end Bud Pratt, who has 14 tackles thus far, also falls into the playmaker category.]

"It starts with those guys up front," said Leathers, whose team limited Phil Campbell to 59 rushing yards and kept constant pressure on Bobcat quarterback Peyton Thomas throughout the night. "The job of our defensive line is occupying offensive lineman. That's what they're doing. Then the linebackers are gonna be sound and be in good position. Their job is to read their keys and recognize formations, which is another thing our defense has done well so far.

"We know based on tendencies and film study what [offenses] are gonna do, and we relay that to our players so they know what to expect when it gets there. But they still have to make the play. The credit goes to the kids for making the plays on the field."

Leathers and company have simplified things on the back end, too, where starting corners Carson Shaw and Tanner Rickard and whoever happens to be playing safety (usually senior Kevin Shaw or junior J.J. Michael) are now only responsible for playing two different coverages—as opposed to the four or five they played last year.

"The goal is to give fifteen-, sixteen-, seventeen-year-old players less to think about," said Leathers, who spent four years as an assistant at Lexington prior to taking over the Wildcat program last season. "The best defensive teams I've been around, once the game started those guys just went out and played. There was not a lot of calling being done on defense. They just recognize the formation, and they play it."

That's not to say that Leathers and his staff aren't pushing a few buttons. They installed a "rabbit" package last week against Phil Campbell, deploying smaller, quicker slot-backs like senior Chandler Willis as pass-rushers in certain situations to get more pressure on Thomas, who threw for 225 yards and two touchdowns against the Wildcats last season.

The strategy was highly effective. Colbert Heights was leading just 7-0 in the third quarter when Willis raced into the backfield and took down Thomas in the end zone for a safety to jump-start a 23-0 second-half run—and earn himself an extra helmet sticker.

"A sack is an effort play," Leathers said, "and we had several sacks the other night. They were throwing the ball a lot with a really talented quarterback, but those sacks are effort plays. We preach, 'Don't give up.'"

Leathers had another pointed message for his team at Sunday's meeting, when he walked into the room and wrote, "The road to the playoffs starts now," on the white board. The Wildcats haven't been to the postseason since 2011, but a win at Clements (1-0) in the Class 3A, Region 8 opener on Friday would be a pivotal first step toward ending that drought.

"This week is a huge region game," Leathers said. "Our region, across the board, is more competitive than it was last year. For us to continue on the path with our

goal of returning Colbert Heights to the playoffs, it has to start this week. We need to have a great week of prep and get our offense rolling."

The Wildcats had scored just 21 points in six quarters this season before busting out with three second-half touchdowns in the rout of Phil Campbell. They'll look to keep that momentum going on offense while continuing to get lights-out play from their defense and special teams unit, which blocked a pair of punts against the Bobcats.

"That second half last week was the best we've played on offense all year," Leathers said. "It's just a matter of us having better mental focus on that side of the ball. But there are three phases in the game, and when one phase is not playing well, it's great to see the other two step up and really carry us."

The defense will almost certainly see more speed from Clements than it did in either of the first two games. The Colts only scored 14 points in a season-opening win over Danville two weeks ago, but Leathers was impressed by what he saw on film.

"I've been coaching against Clements for six years now," he said, "and this is the best and most complete Clements team I've seen. On offense, they run the football. They run it a lot based on numbers. They're gonna try to out-flank you. It's really a single-wing offense out of the shotgun, with a lot of moving parts.

"They have two quarterbacks, in a sense. Both of those guys are splitting the center, both of them have their hands up, and they can snap it to either back and then they're off to the races. They really like to attack the perimeter."

The Wildcats beat Clements 22-9 at home last season, extending their win streak in the series to four games.

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## 'REGROUPS,' from page 13

Heaton said. "Some of that was fatigue, and some of it was having some guys in positions they've never been in before. We're still having to learn from those mistakes and those situations. That's gonna get better the more we play.

"We're trying to get our guys to understand, this season isn't a sprint—it's gotta be a marathon for us. We've got a lot to learn as we go through some things and a lot of experience to gain. But as we get that, if our guys will maintain a positive attitude and a great work ethic, we've got a chance to get better and win some games down the stretch that will affect the playoff picture."

With that in mind, a win for the Golden Tigers (0-1) against Lee (1-0) in the Class 5A, Region 8 opener at Louis Crews Stadium in Huntsville on Friday would almost qualify as a bonus, a head start of sorts for a team that figures to get better—and, Lord willing, healthier—as the season progresses. Heaton acknowledged on Monday that the margin for success is "very thin" right now—particularly for an offense playing without junior Devin Buckhalter, a dual-threat quarterback and dynamic big-play receiver who is expected to miss six to eight weeks with a broken bone in his foot.

"What you saw Friday night was, we've gotta be able to sustain long drives," Heaton said. "We can't make a lot of mistakes, because we're just not a big-play team at this point. Everything is pretty methodical. We can't afford those penalties that set us back on early downs or keep us from getting points."

On its opening possession against Deshler, Russellville picked up four first downs (one of which came when senior back Robert Hamilton bolted for 22 yards on a third-and-20 play) and gained 71 yards on 12 plays, ultimately settling for a 24-yard field goal by Samuel Bahena. On their 10 remaining drives for the rest of the night, the Golden Tigers had nearly as many punts (six) as first downs (seven) and netted only 130 yards on 49 plays.

Meanwhile, a defense that played well—especially up front—for most of the first half suffered a couple of untimely breakdowns on Deshler's second drive, first allowing junior quarterback Channing Marmann to scramble for 12 yards on fourth-and-seven and then giving up an easy touchdown toss from Marmann to receiver Hayden Stutts on fourth-and-goal from the 14-yard-line.

The Tigers cashed in a short field late in the second quarter, extending their lead to 12-3 on a three-yard touchdown run by senior back Xavier Trotter. After picking off a pass by freshman quarterback Luke Barnwell to thwart a Russellville scoring opportunity right before the half, Deshler dominated the third quarter to open up a 28-3 lead and put the game away.

Reflecting on the loss Monday afternoon, Heaton was in a glass-half-full kind of mood.

"I think the main thing is how much better our guys played in the first half," he said. "We played two really good quarters of football. We saw a lot of improvement with early execution in comparison to the week before [a 35-7 loss in the preseason game at Athens]. It's hard to walk off the field after a 35-3 loss and say you felt like you played better, but I thought we did in that first half.

"We left some points on the field, and on that first scoring drive by Deshler we gave up two big fourth-and-long conversions. So it's like we told our kids, we have to find a way to make those big plays that really impact the game when we have the opportunity. I didn't feel like we did that the other night, and Deshler did."

The Tigers wound up rushing for 223 yards on 30 attempts, including 107 yards and two touchdowns on eight carries by Marmann. He also threw for 132 yards and two scores on 10-for-15 passing.

Bright spots for Russellville on offense were fewer and farther between, but there were at least a couple. Hamilton, seeing his first extended time on offense after playing exclusively at corner last season, had seven carries for 62 yards on the Golden Tigers' first two drives of the night. He finished with 70 yards on 18 attempts and also caught four passes for 34 yards.

"We've been looking for a guy to step up and make plays," Heaton said, "and Robert brings that big-play capability to the table. He's done a great job transitioning into helping us on both sides of the ball. We just have to find a way to get him some rest early on in the game so he can be fresher in the second half."

Ten different players caught a pass last week for Russellville, with Hamilton and senior receiver Calen Bragwell (four receptions for 35 yards) leading the way.

"We're gonna have to be a team offensively that spreads the ball around," Heaton said. "That can be tough to defend week in and week out, and it makes it harder for opponents to prepare for you. You have to take what people give you and be patient, and on the first drive the other night I thought we did that a lot. The more we can do that, the more explosive we can be down the road and the less predictable we'll be."

"The key is, all those guys have to make plays."

Barnwell finished his first varsity game 21-for-33 for 125 yards, with one interception. Fullback Brooks Scott, another freshman, rushed three times for 11 yards and also caught an 11-yard pass. Fellow ninth-graders Rowe Gallagher and Cole Barnett each had one catch for six yards, and freshman Edgar Amaya played virtually every snap at left guard. Grayson Eady, yet another ninth-grader, handled the punting duties.

Lee won its opener in thrilling fashion last Friday, beating Grissom 24-23 in overtime. The Generals prevailed when quarterback (and holder) Noah Watkins picked up a botched snap on an extra-point attempt and raced around right end for the game-winning two-point conversion. Watkins finished the day 6-for-11 for 110 yards and



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

The play of linebackers Scott (36), Bragwell (1) and the rest of Russellville's front seven will be key this week against Lee's Wing-T attack.



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## 'REGROUPS', from page 16

two touchdowns—a 46-yarder to KeMari Artis and a 13-yarder to Darius Taylor.

Lee also found the end zone on defense when senior linebacker Jalen Humphrey (6'1, 230) scooped up a first-half fumble and returned it 47 yards for a touchdown. Humphrey (whose monster day included 14 solo tackles, two sacks and a safety) leads a fast, athletic defense that also features 6'6, 269-pound end Malik Langham (a three-star recruit who has received at least eight SEC offers) and veteran defensive backs Chris Reid, Cortez Brooks (6'0, 210) and Curtis Brooks (6'0, 195).

**"We're trying to get our guys to understand, this season isn't a sprint—it's gotta be a marathon for us. We've got a lot to learn as we go through some things and a lot of experience to gain. But as we get that, if our guys will maintain a positive attitude and a great work ethic, we've got a chance to get better and win some games down the stretch that will affect the playoff picture."**

"Defensively, they're pretty good," Heaton said. "They're very good and very athletic. Their defensive front is pretty solid. That's why the kicking game and special teams are gonna be so important for us, as far as shortening the field and taking some pressure off our offense."

"Special teams can win this football game for us. It can literally make us 1-0 in the region. I think we'll have a chance to make a lot of big plays in that category that can help us win a region game on the road against a very athletic football team."

Russellville's defensive front flashed play-making potential last week at Deshler, with senior outside linebacker Bernard Phinizee and senior ends Roman Cortez, Jeff Lloyd and John David Aycock all making things happen at (or behind) the line of scrimmage. Heaton believes that group will play a vital role this Friday against a Lee offense still finding its way early in the season.

"They're struggling to find an identity on offense," he said. "They're running a little bit of Wing-T, but they're struggling with it a bit, and that helps us. We're strong up front, and against the Wing-T you've gotta be strong defensively up front."

"I thought our guys controlled the line of scrimmage most of the night last week. We need them to play above and beyond right now, and you saw some of that. They were in the backfield all night disrupting plays."

The Golden Tigers are 19-2 in region play since Heaton arrived. Russellville leads the all-time series with Lee 11-2, winning 10 straight since a 35-20 loss in 1991.

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## 'JACKSON' from page 13

the game of football in high school and college—getting ahead by being consistent and doing what's right and working as hard as I could."

With an overall record of 100-69, Jackson joins Muscle Shoals coach Scott Basden (152-59 with the Trojans, Cordova and Parrish) as the only two active head coaches among 28 schools in the *TimesDaily* coverage area to have reached the century mark in their careers. [Hamilton's Rodney Stidham, with a record of 99-52, is next in line.] Even more impressively, only around 15 percent of active head coaches in the entire state have won 100 games, and less than 10 percent of all the head coaches in state history have reached the mark (according to AHSFHS.org).

"A lot of the old-school coaches are gone now," said Jackson, who cut his teeth as a Russellville assistant before taking the Buckhorn job in 2002. "Traditional schools are hiring people with less experience than they used to. That's just a proven fact."

Does Jackson include himself in that 'old-school coaches' category? "Yeah, kinda sorta," he said. "That's the group of guys that I came up with and worked for—Don Cox, Perry Swindall, John Mothershed, those kind of guys that were always around. It seemed like, twenty years ago, there were very few coaching changes at those schools."

Naturally, Jackson credits all the players he's coached in his 16-year career with helping him reach the 100-win milestone.

"We've had good players over the years at all those schools," he said. "The main thing is getting the kids to buy into what you're coaching and what you're preaching, getting them to understand about the offseason and how important it is. I've always been a big offseason person my whole career. That's the only way I got to play college football, was the way I worked in the weight room."

"The main thing I've tried to do is bring enthusiasm to the average kid to help him achieve more than what he can. Every team has different talent every year. Some teams will achieve more just because of the team chemistry and the intangibles they have that maybe a team with a lot of talent doesn't have."

The paint is far from dry on Jackson's current team, but these Tigers already own the distinction of being the youngest team he's coached in 16 years. They looked the part in the season-opening loss at Colbert Heights, but last Friday's rout of Tharptown was a step in the right direction. Red Bay (1-1) rushed for 320 yards and held the Wildcats (0-2) to 125 total yards and five first downs.

"The most important thing tonight was for us to play better," Jackson said after the milestone win. "That's how we approached this week—it was all about us and getting better, just taking care of the things that hurt us last week like penalties, missed assignments and things of that nature. We preached all week, 'Let's take care of us and get ready for a region game next week.'"

"I thought the guys did a good job of that and executed that well. We didn't turn the ball over, we had no bad snaps, we didn't have the costly penalties we had in the first game. We had four penalties in that first game that killed four drives. The kids took that to heart and corrected those mistakes."

Red Bay got things rolling against Tharptown on the opening kickoff, which senior Aaron Lewey returned 85 yards for a touchdown. Junior quarterback Kolby Bragwell ran in the two-point conversion to give the Tigers a quick 8-0 lead.

Sophomore Colbie King added a seven-yard touchdown run to make it 15-0, and then Lewey scored on a 14-yard run to stretch the lead to 21-0 with 2:08 left in the first quarter.

Bragwell's 25-yard touchdown run early in the second quarter made it 27-0, and then Lewey's third touchdown of the night (a seven-yard run) pushed the lead to 33-0 at the half.

King scored from 16 yards out to make it 40-0 early in the third quarter before Tharptown junior K.J. Hamilton got the Wildcats on the board with a three-yard touchdown run at the 2:40 mark of the third quarter. The Tigers tacked on two more touchdowns in the fourth quarter, the first on a 26-yard toss from Bragwell to senior receiver Luke Rooker and the second on a 46-yard run by freshman Jalen Vinson that made it 53-7 with 2:20 remaining.

"We had a lot of guys who played their first varsity game last week," Jackson said last Friday night, "and some of those guys took big steps this week. Some of them still have a ways to go. Our main focus this week was to take care of us and try to get some of the pieces of this puzzle in the right place."

Lewey led Red Bay on Friday with 146 yards rushing and two touchdowns on just 10 carries. King ran for 69 yards and two scores on five attempts, and Bragwell ran three times for 26 yards and a score. He also threw for 59 yards and a touchdown on 4-for-13 passing. Rooker caught three passes for 54 yards and a touchdown, his second of the season.

With his thoughts already turning toward another road game—Red Bay's sixth in a row dating back to last season—and the region opener at Mars Hill, Jackson was asked on Friday night if he feels like he's got another 100 wins in him. More to the point, perhaps, does he have another 16 years in him?

"Here's the thing—it wouldn't take me that long," he said with a smile. "I don't plan on starting out 3-19 again. But I'll tell you this—I'm looking for number 101 Friday night. That's all I'm looking for."

After opening its season with a 48-0 rout of Vina on August 25, Mars Hill fell to 1-1 with last Friday's 21-14 loss to Cherokee. Red Bay is 3-0 all-time versus the Panthers, winning 54-0 in 2014, 52-0 in 2015 and 30-8 last year.

### Aaron Lewey Senior RB, Red Bay

Lewey helped the Tigers get off on the right foot in last week's 53-7 win at Tharptown, returning the opening kickoff 85 yards for a touchdown. He later added first-half scoring runs of 14 and seven yards and finished the night with 146 yards on 10 carries, notching the fifth 100-yard rushing effort of his career.

Heading into Friday's Class 2A, Region 8 opener at Mars Hill Bible School, Lewey leads Red Bay in rushing this season with 214 yards on 32 carries.



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# Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 2: Sept. 9 Brady's Pick Your Pick

<b>TCU at Arkansas</b>	<b>TCU</b>	_____
<b>Auburn at Clemson</b>	<b>Clemson</b>	_____
<b>South Carolina at Missouri</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>	_____
<b>Georgia at Notre Dame</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	_____
<b>Pittsburgh at Penn State</b>	<b>Penn State</b>	_____
<b>Nebraska at Oregon</b>	<b>Oregon</b>	_____
<b>Oklahoma at Ohio State</b>	<b>Ohio State</b>	_____
<b>Stanford at USC</b>	<b>Stanford</b>	_____
<b>Utah at BYU</b>	<b>Utah</b>	_____
<b>Boise State at Washington St.</b>	<b>Washington St.</b>	_____

Tiebreaker Score: Auburn \_\_\_\_\_ Clemson \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

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 phone number at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. **Picks sent in by mail for Week 2 must be postmarked by Friday, September 8, and picks submitted by email for Week 2 must be received by Saturday, September 9 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. Thanks for playing! Congrats to Week 1 winner **PHILLIP KING**, who nailed all 10 games and picked AL to beat FSU 38-13!

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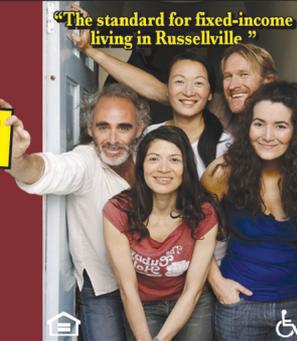
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**PREGAME@6:30**  
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