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# FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

YOUR HOMETOWN, "GOOD NEWS" NEWSPAPER!

9.27.17

## Garden Club members enjoy taste of Vietnam

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The ladies of the Russellville Cultura Garden Club enjoyed a taste of Vietnam at their September meeting, as local restaurant owner Hugh Bui gave a program on Vietnamese coffee.

Bui, the owner of Destination Restaurant in Russellville, shared the history of Vietnamese coffee, how it's

made and, of course, samples to club members.

The Cultura Garden Club is a service organization that holds projects to support the downtown beautification of Russellville. The club meets on the second Tuesday of the month, from September through May. This month's meeting was at the home of Martha Sibley.

See 'CLUB,' Page 11



**PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI**  
Hugh Bui, owner of Destination Restaurant, with Garden Club members Doris Woodruff and Martha Sibley.

## School board approves personnel moves

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Although the lion's share of the meeting dealt with discussion and approval of the budget for 2018, the Franklin County Board of Education approved a number of personnel moves at its September 12 meeting.

Personnel actions included:

- Retirement: Tilda Sumerel, Federal Programs Coordinator, effective October 1, 2017.
- Resignation: LaShea Humphres, school nurse at Vina and Michelle Cole, CNP assistant at Belgreen School.
- Transfers: Betty Taylor, from special edu-

cation aide at Phil Campbell Elementary to special education aide at PCHS; Pam Ozbirn, from elementary teacher at Red Bay to gifted teacher for Franklin County Schools.

•Employment: Beth Hatton, special education aide, Tharptown Elementary; Caden Pruitt, special education aide, East Franklin; Brittany Pannell, Elementary Teacher, Tharptown Elementary School; Robynn Bragwell, Child Nutrition Program Director; Candace Cornelius, elementary class size reduction teacher at East Franklin; Brittany Smallwood, elementary teacher TES; Jessica Childers, registered nurse, Vina; Jamie Shewbart, Child Nutrition Program Assistant, Red Bay; Jamie Payne, elementary teacher,

Red Bay; Ellis Wooten, bus driver, Tharptown; Myra Frederick, half-time, temporary guidance counselor, Belgreen; Ciara Whitten, instructional aide, Tharptown; Valerie Hood, special education aide, Tharptown; Jodi Humphres, temporary special education aide, Belgreen; Derek Ergle, assistant principal Belgreen High School; Christi Tyra, CNP assistant, Phil Campbell; Regenia Potter, CNP assistant, Tharptown; Sena Mixon, CNP assistant, Belgreen and Tiffany Baker, special education aide, East Franklin.

•Employment in Supplement: Jonathan Jones, David Ward and Jacob Ward, assistant

See 'SCHOOL,' Page 11

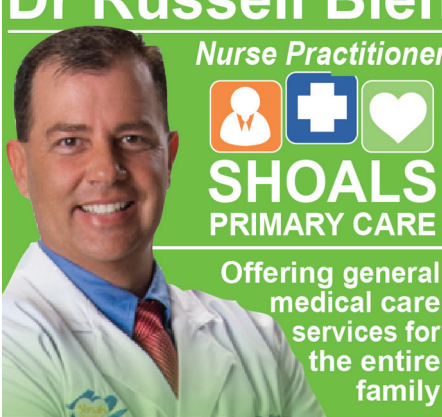
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Tuscumbia, age 78  
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Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel  
in Russellville. Interment in Poplar  
Creek Cemetery.

**Charles Edward Mitchell,**  
Russellville, age 76  
Died Saturday, September 23, 2017.  
Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel.  
Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

**Kimberly Bingham Clement,**  
Russellville, age 51  
Died Friday, September 22, 2017.  
Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home  
in Russellville. Interment in Franklin  
Memory Gardens.

**Charles Lynwood Sudduth,**  
Russellville, age 80  
Died Thursday, September 21, 2017.  
Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel.  
Interment in Love Joy Cemetery in  
Hamilton.

**Virginia T. Key,** Spruce Pine, age 70  
Died Friday, September 22, 2017.  
Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home  
in Russellville.

**Polly Bolton Wells,** Florence  
Died Saturday, September 23, 2017.  
Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home  
in Russellville. Interment in Knights of  
Pythias Cemetery.



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# Neighbors aims to 'change the conversation' in D.C.

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Rick Neighbors admits his first run at political office was a learning experience. He hopes the second time around will bring a different result.

Neighbors, a Hackleburg resident, recently announced his candidacy for United States Congress in the Fourth Congressional District. That seat has been held by Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-Haleyville) the past 20 years.

Neighbors ran for Congress in 2012. He faced Daniel Boman in the Democratic primary and lost a close race. Boman received 51.4 percent of the primary vote (10,969 votes) to Neighbors' 48.6 percent (10,353 votes).

So far, Neighbors is the only Democrat to declare his candidacy.

**"We need a different conversation in Washington if we are to move our nation forward," Neighbors said. "It's time to change that conversation from division to a focus on issues we really need to change for the benefit of the country."**

"We need a different conversation in Washington if we are to move our nation forward," Neighbors said. "It's time to change that conversation from division to a focus on issues we really need to change for the benefit of the country. There's too much hate—too much meanness these days."

Neighbors' first bid at elected office was a trial by fire, he admits. He believes he's better prepared for his

2018 campaign.

"I'm aware of the stumbling blocks out there, but I know how to campaign now—how to get my message out there," Neighbors said. "This time I'm well in front and it's a more thought out process. Do I think I can make a difference? Do I think I can win? The answer to both questions is yes.

"It's a difficult task in this district to get enough votes to win, but it's doable, and I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Neighbors said that while he has nothing against Aderholt personally, he doesn't believe Aderholt's leadership is suited to effectively represent the people of the Fourth Congressional District.

"I have no personal qualms about him," Neighbors said. "But he does not impress me with the ideas and vision of what is needed for this nation, state and district. We need more leadership and stronger representation for the rural areas of this district."

Neighbors works in management at Pilgrim's Corporation in Russellville. Most of his adult life has been spent working in the apparel business. In 1979, he took a temporary job in the apparel business that lasted 35 years. He and his wife Judy have three children, five grandchildren and three great-granddaughters.

A sharp critic of United States trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Neighbors has seen the detrimental effect they've had on working men and women throughout the Fourth District.

"Not too many years ago, a person without advanced training could earn a middle-class living by becoming skilled at making products with their hands,"

See 'NEIGHBORS,' Page 9



COURTESY PHOTO

Rick Neighbors, a Hackleburg resident, is running for United States Congress in the Fourth Congressional District.

# Franklin County 4-H team to receive Crystal Clover

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

For more than a century, Alabama 4-H has helped shape and build the citizens and leaders who make our communities, state and nation great.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System at Auburn University looks to build on this compelling history of success by ushering in a new era of 4-H Youth Development.

The Centennial Youth Initiative has created opportunities for future generations through contemporary learning experiences that emphasize the values of character, goal-setting and personal exploration.

Franklin County's Extension Office recently announced that it will receive the Centennial Youth Initiative Award. The Franklin County 4-H team will be recognized as Alabama Extension professionals for their dedicated service to the county's 4-H program. The Franklin County staff will receive the Crystal Clover, which recognizes it as a 4-H Centennial Youth Initiative County.

Jennifer Pickens serves as the part-time 4-H agent for Franklin County. She will remain in a part-time role, and the county will soon be assigned a new full-time 4-H Foundation regional agent. Funding for this position is provided by Alabama Extension and Alabama 4-H Foundation.

The interviewing process for this position will soon be underway, and officials expect to have the position filled by the end of October.

Dr. Gary Lemme, extension director of Alabama Cooperative Extension System at Auburn University, was on hand Monday in Russellville to present the Franklin County office with the Crystal Clover award.

The Centennial Youth Initiative program is committed to developing 4-H programs in order to increase access so that more youth can participate in 4-H, and to enhance the learning experiences that are available to youth in Alabama.

The award is based on five standards of excellence in Alabama 4-H programming:

- Forming a unified Alabama 4-H team and program.
- Utilizing consistent research-based curriculum resources.
- Diversifying delivery modes tailored to today's youth.
- Promoting plan-of-work development and teamwork at all levels.
- Aligning staff and position assignments to support program resources and delivery modes.


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# My take on this.... Wild animals don't belong at the circus

I've mentioned so many times how much I love animals. As a young child, the circus animals were one of my favorite acts, but I didn't know until recently the abuse those beautiful animals had to endure to entertain the young and old alike. If I'd known then what I know now, there would have been one less child attending the circus.



Gail Motes

After all, these are wild animals prevented from living in their own habitat and knowing the freedom of running and living day to day with their on kind.

The fast-paced life of the circus, having to move from town to town asnd state to state, left no time to take an animal to the vet when needed. Of course, there was no extra money for such an expense to keep the animals healthy.

Not only that, but they traveled in cages and lived in cages with very little room to move around. I never thought of those things when I was a child.

**As a young child, the circus animals were one of my favorite acts, but I didn't know until recently the abuse those beautiful animals had to endure to entertain the young and old alike.**

**If I'd known then what I know now, there would have been one less child attending the circus.**

When the YouTube video showed a close-up of a lion with sunken eyes and a broken-down body and soul, it made me sick to my stomach, and I cried as if I was watching a family member dying before my eyes. This was not the way this was supposed to be.

The next video showed a lioness cut from the chains and taken to a wild animal reserve, where it slowly walked from its cage and touched grass for the first time. She rolled and stretched and walked around. Now this was the life she should have always known.

After a couple of months of well-needed medical help and food, she showed a  
**See 'ANIMALS,' page 9**



## Six common money myths to avoid

Courtesy of DaveRamsey.com

Most of us have made a few foolish money mistakes here and there. It's the car we can't afford, the personal loan we never should've made or the mortgage that nearly sent us to bankruptcy.

So why do we keep making these same money mistakes?

Most likely, we mismanage money because of a faulty belief system. We've bought into some of culture's most popular money myths. And a lot of times we've learned them from a well-meaning yet misinformed parent, teacher or friend.

While it would be easy to sit back and blame others for falling for these money myths, the most important thing to do is realize they *are* myths.

*Myth: Debt is a tool.*

Truth: Some tools help you fix things. Other tools help you break things. So in that sense, debt is a tool—it's a sledgehammer to your financial future. Another way of putting it: Debt is the enemy of your income. The monthly payments you send to credit card companies are monthly savings you could be putting toward your retirement, your kids' college, and your down payment on a new house! Your income is your most important wealth-building tool. Don't surrender it to debt.

*Myth: Car payments are a way of life.*

Truth: If you believe debt is a tool, you're just as likely to believe car payments are a way of life. The average car payment these days is \$504 per month. That's over \$6,000 a year you're putting into something that decreases in value. Instead, save that money every month for a year and buy a nice, used car for \$6,000. The best car is the one without a payment.

*Myth: Loaning money to your family shows you care.*

Truth: Loaning money to family members is a terrible idea because it rarely gets paid back. And if it does, the time between always makes for awkward family dinners. When Uncle Jim mentions his upcoming vacation at Thanksgiving dinner, you're left wondering, "If he still owes me \$500, how did he just pay for a vacation?" If you've got the money, make it a gift. Never make it a loan. Loaning money to a family member is one of the quickest ways to ruin a relationship. And you're essentially gifting debt to your family.

**Most likely, we mismanage money because of a faulty belief system. We've bought into some of culture's most popular money myths. And a lot of times we've learned them from a well-meaning yet misinformed parent, teacher or friend.**

*Myth: You can't go to college without student loans.*

Truth: You absolutely can. Will it be easy? Maybe not. Will it be worth it? Totally. Whether it's through college-specific scholarships and grants or federal and state aid (that's aid, not a loan), going to college without debt is completely possible. And what about paying for college out of your own pocket? Rachel Cruze talks about college planning all the time. There are alternatives to loans when it comes to funding college tuition.

Many colleges offer work-study opportunities, which are essentially part-time jobs offered on campus. And no one's stopping you from getting a part-time job off campus. Working as a barista, waiting tables, or even finding a retail job can bring in some cash to offset your school expenses. Consider even creating your own side business using your skills —

**See 'MONEY,' page 9**

### FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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by Dave Ramsey

**Help parents or pay student loans?**

Dear Dave,  
I graduated from college two years ago, and I have a good job making \$60,000. I have about \$10,000 in student loan debt, but my mom and dad have a real issue with their roof. It's leaking in places to the point they have to set buckets around to catch the water, and I've gotten repair estimates of \$3,000 to \$5,000.

They're good, hard-working, blue-collar folks, but they're less fortunate financially and have more debt than I do. What should I do first—help them fix the roof or pay off my student loan debt?

Jordan

Dear Jordan,  
You've got a great spirit, man. If I woke up in your shoes, I'd probably help them fix the roof first. The only way I would do that, though, is if they agree to let you help them address the reasons they don't have any money. If you have the cash, go ahead and pay for the roof. But let them know they must pay you back by getting some financial counseling.

I know you love your mom and dad, and they work too hard to be broke. We're not talking about you shaming or condemning them in any way. Talk to them in a loving, caring way, but you have to address the situation.

If they've worked all their lives and can't come up with \$3,000, something's wrong. The fact they don't have any money is the symptom. The problem is they've mishandled the dollars they earned. Even if you don't make a lot, you can have cash set aside for emergencies if you manage it well.

You're a young guy making good money, so there's no reason you can't do both things quickly. Help your folks with the roof, then turn around and knock out that student loan debt.

It won't be a huge burden on you to help your parents in this situation. But remember, *you* fixing their lives without *them* fixing their lives *will* be a burden—to all of you!

Dave

**What's reasonable fun?**

Dear Dave,  
We're debt-free except for our house. I've been talking to a friend about how much money to allow for fun in your budget. The other day we bought a \$100 bottle of wine, and she thought that was unreasonable. What's your opinion?

Beth

Dear Beth,  
Something like that depends entirely on your overall financial situation. Buying a \$100 bottle of wine is pretty stupid if you only make \$20,000 a year. It's not unreasonable, though, if you make \$200,000 a year. Having a great income-to-asset ratio and living debt-free gives you the opportunity to relax and enjoy a few things.

You've got to take the whole picture into account. I know a guy who makes well over \$15 million a year, and he bought a \$200,000 car. As a ratio, that's a very small percentage of his income. So, it's kind of silly to say an item is too expensive, or an irresponsible purchase, based on price alone.

Dave

*\*Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 13 million listeners each week on 585 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

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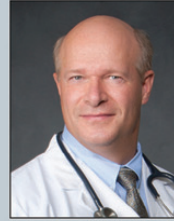
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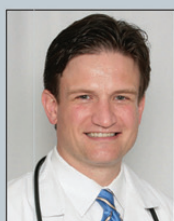
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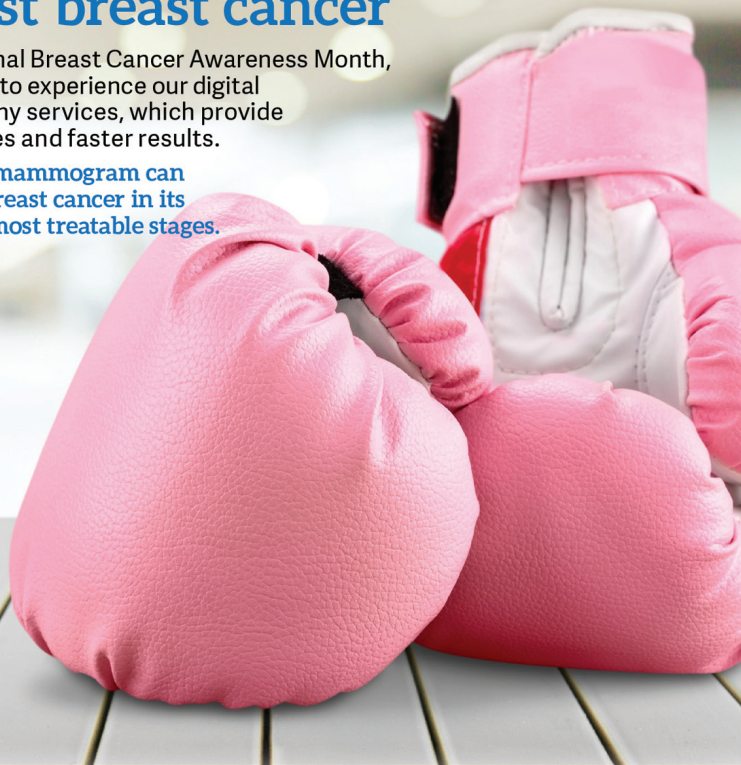
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EVENTS OF INTEREST • FAMILY REUNIONS • PLAYS • CHURCH GATHERINGS • EDUCATIONAL • CLUB MEETINGS


 A benefit for Darryl Smith will be held at Union Community Center this Friday, September 29 from 4 p.m.-until. William Bishop's smoked chicken will be for sale. Barbeque or half chicken plates with baked beans, slaw, roll, dessert and drink for \$10. Thanks for your support!


 Tharptown Elementary School will host a Fall Festival on Thursday, October 5 from 5:30-8 p.m. There will be concessions, bingo, darts, a toy walk, a fortune teller, a cake walk, great prizes, chicken stew and much, much more! Admission is free! Also, come experience the second annual "Haunted Gym" on two nights, Thursday, October 5 from 5:30-8 p.m. and Friday, October 6 from 8-11 p.m. (Haunted Gym not included in free admission.)


 The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833, will meet Thursday, October 5 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Recreation Center on Ash Avenue. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For more info, call 256-324-2317. Everyone welcome!


 Phil Campbell Study Club members are selling tickets for a barbeque dinner by Mr. William Bishop for \$10 each. Dinner will be Thursday, October 12, and plates can be picked up at the Phil Campbell Rescue Squad Building from 3-6:30 p.m. on that day. Dinners consist of smoked chicken half (with white sauce) or BBQ pork (with BBQ sauce), baked beans, coleslaw, roll, bottled water and dessert. Dinners sold in advance will be reserved for that person; however, walk-ins will be served as long as supply lasts. Proceeds will be used for scholarships and other worthwhile community projects.


 American 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, October 12.


 The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guests Charlton James and Konner Bendall at the Roxy Theatre in downtown Russellville Saturday, October 14 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.


 The Spruce Pine Historical Society will be having Craft Night on the third Thursday of each month at the Spruce Pine Community Center at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call Kim at 256-436-3992.


 Gentiva Hospice offers a grief support group, "Grieving Well Together," that meets the third Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Lenox room at Calvary Baptist Church in Russellville. The next meeting will be held October 19. You are invited to attend.

 The Helen Keller Hospital Foundation will host the Ed Borden and Steve Nesbitt Memorial Golf Tournament on Friday, October 20 at Robert Trent Jones of the Shoals. The tournament will be a four-person scramble with two flights (based on total team scores, not on individual handicaps) on each course. Players will have the opportunity to buy tickets to win a grand prize valued at over \$1,000 during the golf ball drop scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on the day of the tournament. The tournament will provide funds for the 2017 Foundation project of focusing on the Women's Center and Labor and Delivery at Helen Keller Hospital. The project also supports the Bright Little Stars Reading Program, an early reading initiative where we present books to each newborn at Helen Keller Hospital. To sign up or become a sponsor, please call 256-386-4747 or 256-386-4052.

 The Haleyville Neighborhood Facility Building (1205 10th Avenue, Rooms 3 and 4) will host a Boating License Course on Saturday, October 21 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free eight-hour course will end with a test. Pass the course and receive vessel license. Course is open to the public and covers boating safety, laws of the waterway, basic water navigation and water safety. Must have Social Security card and photo ID. For more information, contact Marine Patrol Trooper Pat Welton at 256-460-3050 or 256-810-1275.

 The Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts in Red Bay announces its 2017-2018 season. The first production will be *In-laws, Outlaws and other People (That Should be Shot)* by Steve Franco, November 9-12, 2017. The second production will be *One Toe in the Grave* by Jack Starkey, with dinner theatre available, February 15-18, 2018. The final production will be *Southern Hospitality* by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten, April 26-29, 2018. All performances will be at Community Spirit Bank's Weatherford Centre in Red Bay, with evening performances beginning at 7 p.m. and Sunday afternoon performances at 2 p.m. Admission is \$8.00, and tickets go on sale the Monday prior to the week of the production. Groups interested in dinner with the play may contact Beth Hammock at 256-356-9286 to reserve in advance.

 The Roxy's *Legend of Toyland*, a 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.

 TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) weight loss support group meets each Monday evening at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Recreation Center. Weigh-ins being at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to drop in for a free meeting visit. Call 256-446-5962 or 256-412-2855 for more information.

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# Local Cubmaster hopes to see scouting grow

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Rick Itter remembers the fun he had as a child in the Cub Scouts. That experience led Itter to volunteer as the Cubmaster for Russellville Cub Scout Pack 39 this year, and he's hoping to see scouting grow in his hometown.

Cub Scouts is for boys from kindergarten through fifth grade. Itter said there are approximately 30 boys in the pack this year. Pack 39 meets Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Russellville First United Methodist Church.

**"It's a family-oriented program where they learn bonding with other scouts," Itter said, "and in a world where video games and television have taken over, it's a good way to get outdoors and learn skills otherwise lost by this generation."**

In addition to meetings, the scouts will have campouts, community activities and other fun events over the course of the school year.

"We do camping and try to have at least four campouts a year," Itter said. "We're part of the Westmoreland District, and they have a campground north of Florence that hosts events."

Itter, a state trooper in Franklin County, said Cub Scouts is a great way for boys to learn skills they might otherwise not be exposed to in today's technology-dominated world.

"It's a family-oriented program where they learn bonding with other scouts," Itter said, "and in a world where video games and television have taken over, it's a good way to get outdoors and learn skills otherwise lost by this generation. Cub Scouts teach outdoor skills and life skills such as the Cub Scout motto to do your best and to learn how to help serve the community. We take part in community projects. It also helps the boys form a bond with the other Cubs by getting together and wearing a uniform and being part of a team all year long.

"You can make a lifetime commitment to it and always be a Cub Scout or Boy Scout."

Among the pack's community activities are a scheduled food drive in November, where scouts will team with local Girl Scouts and leave bags at local grocery stores for people to put food in to donate. The pack will go door-to-door on November 4 to collect food for Loaves and Fishes.

The kids also participate in a cleanup project to benefit the community. Last year's project was to clean City Lake Park in Russellville.



**COURTESY PHOTO**  
Russellville Cub Scout Pack 39 meets Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Russellville First United Methodist Church.

Boys can join Pack 39 at any time during the school year. Dues are \$109/year, which includes \$33 for national dues. Itter said the pack holds two fundraisers, selling popcorn and beef sticks, to offset the costs of the dues. After sending the \$33 to the national office, the remaining dues are used for activities and to purchase badges, he said.

"Any parent interested in having their son join Cub Scouts shouldn't let the money be a hindrance," he said. "We'll work with any family if that's an issue."

For more information on Cub Scouting in Russellville, visit the group's Facebook page named "Cub Pack 39 Russellville" or email Itter at cub-pack7039@gmail.com.

## 'ANIMALS,' from page 4

much stronger and more muscular body and was finally able to run through the trees and feel that cool grass on rested feet.

One of the moments that touched my heart was when I saw her lying side by side with a lion, finally knowing a warmth and closeness she had never known. That was such a special bond she had never known even existed while traveling the circus life.

I'm so thankful she got to experience the good side of life, even though it was two years later that she died of kidney failure and other problems that had resulted from her previous lifestyle. I'm so glad there were others that were rescued who had a much longer life in the wild animal reserve.

It was so good to learn that wild animals are not prone to the circus life any more because of the "cap-

ture and release" that is continuing daily.

I would only consider going to a circus again if it was wild-animal-free and still showed a high-wire act. Now, don't go getting the wrong ideas about me. It would require a safety net and a safety harness, just in case someone fell.

See there. I love people, too!

Until next time, put some fun in your life.

## 'MONEY,' from page 4

tutor other students, pick up some freelance gigs, or start a pet-sitting service. There are plenty of options to generate income while you're still in school.

*Myth: Eventually, you'll make enough money to catch up on retirement.*

**Truth:** Prepare for retirement now. But make sure you're out of debt, and have an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses before you start. After that, you're ready to start building for your future. Don't put off preparing for retirement if you're able to start today!

According to the AICPA, 49 percent of Americans say they aren't confident they'll reach their retirement goals. The more you save now, the less you'll worry later. Chris Hogan explains how to retire with dignity in his national best seller, *Retire Inspired: It's Not an Age; It's a Financial Number*.

*Myth: You already keep track of your money, so you don't need to budget.*

**Truth:** If you go online and know about how much you have in your bank account, that's good. But that's not a budget. When you just track your spending,

you're looking back at how you already spent your money. A budget looks forward. You plan how you're going to spend your money. When you do this, you can prioritize paying off your debt, saving for your emergency fund, and planning for the future. Without a plan, you're wandering aimlessly through your paycheck.

You don't have to keep falling for these money myths. Reshape your belief system today and positively change your future!

—Used with permission from *DaveRamsey.com*

## 'NEIGHBORS,' from page 3

Neighbors said. "Many of those jobs have disappeared. The rise in gross domestic product shows that wealth is being created. It's just not trickling down to the folks doing the work. To fully realize the American dream requires jobs at living wages.

"We have learned trade agreements that only benefit corporations and big investors can do great harm to the rest of us. We have learned from the disrupted

lives of millions of working Americans that our trade agreements should benefit all people and not just a few."

While Neighbors believes the Affordable Care Act was a step in the right direction for the country, he believes the debate should be more about how we pay for healthcare and not whether it should be provided or who pays.

"We Americans pay for healthcare,

whether through the purchase of insurance or in the form of taxes," he said. "The solution is to find a payment structure that is most economical that provides the best care possible.

"The market approach has not worked. This method has seen annual cost increases that surpass that of any other industry. The market solution is not an answer, because markets don't exist to make our lives better but to be profitable

for their investors. This is why thirty-eight percent of all healthcare cost does not go to hospitals, clinics, equipment, doctors, nurses, technicians or pharmaceuticals, but is 'lost in the weeds.'"

Both the Democratic and Republican primaries in Alabama will take place on June 5, 2018.

For more information on Neighbors' campaign and platform, log onto [www.rickneighborsforcongress.com](http://www.rickneighborsforcongress.com).

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78 Hughes Lane, Phil Campbell. 1 mile past PCHS on Hwy 237 on left. Watch for signs! Baby/Toddler Girl, Men's & Women's Clothes, Vintage Glass & Household Items, Lots of Books! Too much to list!

Large family yard sale this Friday, Sept. 29 at 505 North Washington.

Yard Sale this Friday, September 29 from 7 am-until. Hwy. 24 East, turn on 724. First road on right. Plus-size women's clothes. Clothes sizes small-XL for men and women. Children's clothes. Several bicycles. Priced to sell!

Yard Sale this Fri./Sat. Sept. 29/30. 7 am-4 pm. 26 Cedar Avenue, Russellville. Clothing, shoes, household items, some electronics, furniture, TV and cabinet, children's items, tools, Christmas décor and lots more!

Relay For Life Yard Sale! This Friday and Saturday, Sept. 29-30, from 7 am-until at

Southside Baptist Church Youth House. Variety of items at good prices!

Multi-Family Yard Sale this Saturday, Sept. 30 from 7 am-until. 285 Russell Valley Road. Last house on left. Home décor, baby clothes, men's and women's clothing and more!

Huge yard sale, several families, this Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 30-Oct. 1 from 7 am-until. Go 10 miles on Hwy. 48, turn left, go 1 mile to 605 Witt Store Road. Hundreds of items of name-brand clothing for men, women and boys (Polo, Gap, Miss Me, Levi's, Wrangler, Carhart, all like new). Most clothing \$1.00. Rugs, comforters, cast iron, Cabela meat grinder and slicer, case knives, guns, tools, lots of men's stuff including some farm equipment and boat, furniture, name-brand purses & shoes, jewelry. Everything priced to sell! Home of Pat Shelton.

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French provincial dining room set. Includes table, 6 chairs, china cabinet & hutch. Call 205-993-5961 or 256-577-5843. (2)

Rose recliner. Small, round kitchen table with 4 chairs. Decorator mirror - black and antique gold. Call 205-993-5961 or 256-577-5843. (2)

Genuine hand-woven Oriental rug. Size 8X10. Victorian-style, black & red. Call 205-993-5961 or 256-577-5843. (2)

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## 'SCHOOL,' from page 1

football coaches, Vina High School.

•Volunteers: Hope Cook, volunteer basketball coach THS; Jonathan Motes, volunteer baseball coach, THS; Jonathan Ergle, volunteer softball coach, THS; Stewart Blackburn, volunteer girls basketball coach, Belgreen; Terry Swinney, volunteer football coach, Vina.

•New Teacher Substitutes: Derissa Batchelor (certified); Carlee Berry, Sylvia Carpenter, Erica Cothrum, Denise Morrow, Matthew Cory Pruitt, Megan Rea, Tonya Rhudy, Rhonda Slinger (certified), Elizabeth Wooten and Heather Richardson.

In other action, the board:

•Approved a renewal of an existing line of credit in the amount of \$1.2 million from CB&S Bank.

•Approved termination of agreement with Morgan Entrekin for speech-language pathology service.

•Approved out-of-state trips as follows: Belgreen High School JV and varsity volleyball teams to Belmont High School on October 10, 2017; Vina cross

country team to Saltillo High School, Saltillo, MS, Sept. 16, 2017; Vina cross country team to cross country meet in Iuka, MS., October 14, 2017; Tharptown High School PI Club to Smoky Mountains in Sevierville, TN., April 22-27, 2018; Belgreen School

**The board approved a five-year capital plan with several priority projects. Superintendent Greg Hamilton explained that the system is required to submit a five-year capital plan to the state and that it consists largely of a "wish list" of unfunded projects.**

second grade to Disney on Ice in Tupelo on Dec. 7, 2017; Phil Campbell High School FFA to National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN., Oct. 24-27, 2017; Red Bay FFA to National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN., Oct. 24-27, 2017.

•Approved a five-year capital plan with the following priority projects: 1. Tharptown Elementary School new cafeteria with renovation of old cafeteria into four classrooms with projected budget of \$2,500,000 of leveraged public school funds. 2. Red Bay High School, new school, with \$6,000,000 projected budget with no known funding source; 3. Tharptown Elementary School construction of six new classrooms with projected budget of \$2,500,000 with leveraged public school funds. 4. Red Bay High School renovations to connect junior high and elementary buildings with projected budget of \$300,000, with no known funding source. 5. Phil Campbell Elementary School construction of four classrooms with projected budget of \$900,000 with no known public source.

Superintendent Greg Hamilton explained that the system is required to submit a five-year capital plan to the state and that it consists largely of a "wish list" of unfunded projects.

## 'CLUB,' from page 1

"The coffee was delicious, and it was a very interesting program," Sibley said. "He showed us how he makes it and told us about the history of coffee in Vietnam."

French colonists introduced coffee to Vietnam, but the Vietnamese people have put their own unique twist on the beverage. With variations that use yogurt, condensed milk, eggs and fruit, Vietnamese coffee rapidly developed its own style and taste.

The coffee is prepared by placing the coarsely ground beans in a slow-drip filter, or phin, which sits on top of the cup. A lid weights the filter, then hot water is added and water slowly trickles into the cup.

The result? A dark, strong-tasting coffee that Bui sweetens with condensed milk.

"We usually brew it a little diluted at the restaurant because it's so strong, but we can make it stronger to taste for our customers," Bui said. "It tastes like an espresso shot, but the condensed milk makes it taste better than espresso. We serve it cold or hot."

Destination Restaurant is located at 104 Montgomery Street SW. Bui offers traditional coffee as well as Vietnamese coffee.

"Our customers say they like the Vietnamese coffee more than Starbucks, so we get some good feedback on it," Bui said.

The Cultura Garden Club recently completed a fund raiser where club members sold mums. Funds go to repot downtown plants and flowers and for the care of downtown bedding plants. Club members placed hanging baskets along Jackson Avenue and have pots at the Russellville Public Library, Russellville City Hall and at the Roxy Theatre. The club will soon begin its annual Christmas decoration of downtown, where members help the Russellville Street Department decorate downtown.

The Cultura Garden Club also holds an annual "Every Light a Prayer for Peace" ceremony in front of the Franklin County Courthouse as part of the Christmas season.

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## Have a Sports Story?

Mike Self, Executive Editor  
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## Week 5 in the SEC

Mike Self  
 Franklin Free Press

Heading into the final weekend of September, here's what my Top 10 would look like if I had a vote: Alabama, Clemson, Penn State, Oklahoma, Washington, USC, Georgia, TCU, Michigan, Virginia Tech. Basically everybody but Alabama could be vulnerable on any given week, which should make the rest of the season a lot like this past Saturday—entirely unpredictable and highly entertaining.

Let's get to the Week 5 picks.

**Last week's record: 4-0 (Season record: 11-5)**

**Saturday, September 30**

**Vanderbilt (3-1, 0-1) at Florida (2-1, 2-0)**

The Gators finally found the solution last week to their offensive struggles—a defense that only plays ten guys and leaves an eligible receiver completely uncovered on the most important play of the game. Carve this in stone: Kentucky will never beat Florida. Ever.

After enduring 60 minutes of public flogging at the hands of Alabama, Vandy won't beat Florida either—at least not this week.

**The Pick: Florida 23 Vanderbilt 14**

**Georgia (4-0, 1-0) at Tennessee (3-1, 0-1)**

Setting Alabama aside, you can divide the rest of the teams in the SEC into two distinct categories: Teams That Stink, and Teams That Don't. Georgia most assuredly belongs in the latter group, while Tennessee is trending toward the former.

**The Pick: Georgia 31 Tennessee 17**

**Miss. State (3-1, 1-1) at Auburn (3-1, 1-0)**

Any guesses as to which version of the Bulldogs will show up on The Plains? Saturday's egg-laying in Athens made the previous week's rout of LSU in Starkville look like a fluke. [Perhaps, given how they struggled to put away a bad Syracuse team at home, the Bayou Bengals simply aren't very good.]

Auburn's offense got well against Missouri, and Jarrett Stidham is now 45-for-54 since the Clemson debacle. Turns out it's much easier to complete passes when you're not peeling yourself off the turf every other play.

**The Pick: Auburn 27 Mississippi State 20**

**Ole Miss (2-1, 0-0) at Alabama (4-0, 1-0)**

There is no truth to the rumor that, upon witnessing the destruction Alabama brought down on Vanderbilt last week, the Rebels opted to take a second straight bye week rather than make the trip to Tuscaloosa. In all seriousness, Ole Miss runs the type of offense (up-tempo spread) and has the type of personnel (dynamic quarterback, explosive receivers) to test the Tide defense in ways most other teams can't—particularly if A.J. Brown is healthy. Unfortunately, college football isn't make 'em/take 'em. Alabama's ground game should have another monster day.

**The Pick: Alabama 38 Ole Miss 14**

# Headed to Hartselle

Making strides on offense and giving tremendous effort, the Golden Tigers keep searching for that elusive first W

Mike Self  
 Franklin Free Press

Russellville put forth its best offensive performance of the season last Friday night against Mae Jemison, but the play head coach Mark Heaton singled out in his post-game address to the team was one that will not appear on most highlight reels.

Leading 41-10 late in the fourth quarter, Jemison sacked Golden Tiger quarterback Luke Barnwell

See 'HARTSELLE,' page 15



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Barnwell (5) threw his first touchdown pass against Lawrence County two weeks ago (above), then threw for a career-high 269 yards last Friday against Jemison. Phinizee (4) also had a breakout game, catching five balls for 104 yards and a score.

## Coming off critical win, Wildcats aim to settle score with Sheffield

Mike Self  
 Franklin Free Press

At halftime of last Friday's critical Class 3A, Region 8 showdown with rival Lexington, Colbert Heights head coach Taylor Leathers ducked into a back office inside the field house at Amos Mitchell Stadium, along with offensive line coach Justin Helms and one of the two I-Pads the team uses to watch film during games.

While his players re-hydrated in the adjacent locker room on a warm, muggy evening, Leathers reviewed a handful of the Wildcats' offensive plays from late in the first half. The I-Pad confirmed what his own eyes had told him on the sideline just a few moments earlier.

"On those last two series [of the first half], we just weren't coming off the football like we're capable," Leathers said. "We were not executing our blocks."

With his team trailing 7-6, Leathers knew exactly what it was going to take for the Wildcats to snap a streak of five straight losses to Lexington and secure a crucial region win. They had to play better at the point of attack on offense.

"We really challenged our offensive line to win the game up front in the second half," Leathers said. "We challenged our O-line to do a better job of making their blocks, holding their blocks and staying on their blocks. We didn't really change what we were doing. It wasn't about making any halftime adjustments. It was more of a halftime challenge.

"I thought if we could play better up front, we had a great opportunity to win the game."

It didn't take long for Leathers to see that his offensive linemen (senior left tackle Cain Phifer, senior left

guard Chason Scott, senior center Isaac Gipson, senior right guard Brannon Bradford and junior right tackle Tyler Tubbs, plus junior tight end Evan Norton) had embraced his challenge. Colbert Heights scored on its opening possession of the third quarter and never let up, tacking on two more touchdowns to out-score Lexington 21-0 in the second half and pull away for an impressive 27-7 win.

"When I took the job here," Leathers said, "one of the first things I was told was that our players play really hard against Sheffield. They're not in Tusculumbia, but they're right across the tracks, so to speak. It's a rivalry game, and it's a momentum game for us. We're right where we wanna be, and this game could give us a boost going back into region play."

"Driving down and scoring to start the third quarter was huge," said Leathers, whose team improved to 4-1 overall and 2-1 in region play. "That was the most important drive of the game."

By night's end the Wildcats had run 46 times for 245 yards, 171 of which came courtesy of senior quarterback Kevin Shaw. Coordinator Lonnie Robinson's defense, meanwhile, stood strong against Lexington's triple-option attack and picked off Golden Bear quarterback Tyler Pettus three times.

"Our defense bent a little, but it didn't break," Leathers said. "We did a good job taking away their inside run game with Everett [Williams, Lexington's

See 'WILDCATS,' page 18

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# Red Bay rolls into bye with two straight wins

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

Last week's 24-7 victory over border rival Belmont (MS) gave Red Bay a two-game win streak heading into its bye week, and coach Michael Jackson believes his team is trending in the right direction with five games to go.

"As a team, we played our best game of the season so far," Jackson said after the Tigers showed balance on offense and came within less than a minute of blanking Belmont on defense. "We still have to clean up some turnovers and penalties, but we played as well as we have all year. We had eighteen first downs to their seven. I thought we controlled the game all the way through.

"From game one to game five, we've really improved. We had some young guys who played their best game of the season on Friday, and that's encouraging. We'd still like to get more kids on the field, but it was good to see some of our new guys play their best game of the year."

Jackson singled out freshman linebacker Alex Kennedy and a trio of sophomores (defensive end Ethan Meier, center Dylan Hester and guard Caleb Seeley) for the strides they made in the victory over Belmont, but the veterans had a pretty productive night, too. Senior tailback Aaron Lewey posted his fourth consecutive 100-yard effort, rushing for 154 yards and a touchdown on 29 carries. Junior quarterback Kolby Bragwell threw for 110 yards on 3-for-3 passing, hooking up with senior wideout Luke Rooker on touchdown tosses of 74 and 13 yards. And senior Max Bullen added 57 rushing yards on just six carries.

As a team, Red Bay (3-2) gained 369 total yards and went a crisp 8-for-11 on third down. The Tigers continued their recent trend of popping explosive gains, picking up at least 10 yards on 13 plays.

"Our offensive line is playing better in the run game," said Jackson, whose team is now averaging 260.8 rushing yards and 106.8 passing yards per game, along with 27.8 points. "We've been able to throw the ball when we want to throw the ball. The last two weeks we've probably only thrown the ball ten times, but the passes we've completed have been very instrumental in those games. We've been able to hurt teams with the passing game."

Against Belmont, Red Bay converted one third down on a 23-yard pass from Bragwell to senior Skylar Brazil and another on a pass interference penalty. The biggest big-play threat, though, continues to be Rooker, who beat double-coverage on his 74-yard scoring grab and is now averaging 20.8 yards per reception on the season with four touchdown catches.

"Luke has really good hands," Jackson said of Rooker, who has already set career-highs this year with 16 catches for 332 yards. "He started coming on strong and making some big catches for us late last season, but he broke his hand making a catch against Phil Campbell in week nine. He's come back and done a really good job for us this year. He probably has the best hands on the team. Pretty much anything he gets close to, he catches.

"The surprising thing is how much of a deep threat he's been. We sort of looked at him as more of a possession receiver coming into the year. What's happening is, he actually plays faster than what he is. On Friday nights, he's playing faster than what he is."

Jackson said Rooker's emergence as a deep-ball threat [he also caught a 54-yard touchdown in the opener against Colbert Heights and had seven catches for 96 yards in a loss to Mars Hill] has helped open things up for Red Bay's run game. With 611 yards and seven touchdowns on 109 carries, Lewey is well on his way to his first 1,000-yard season. [He's averaging 122.2 yards per game and 5.6 yards per carry.] Bragwell, meanwhile, has run for 360 yards and four touchdowns on 56 carries, and Bullen has 158 yards on 26 attempts (6.1 yards per carry).

Defensively, the Tigers held Belmont to 225 total yards and kept them out of the end zone until the final minute of play. Belmont managed just six plays of 10-plus yards and went 1-for-10 on third down.

"We had a really good week of practice leading up to that game," Jackson said. "Our defensive coordinator, Coach [Jamie] Purser, knows Belmont as well as anybody, and he had a great game plan for us."

Freshman linebacker Cam McKinney led Red Bay in tackles again with eight against Belmont, giving him a team-high 42 stops on the season. As a team, the Tigers are holding opponents to 17.2 points and 204.2 total yards per game. Through five games, Red Bay opponents are just 9-for-57 (16 percent) on third down.

The Tigers (1-1 in Class 2A, Region 8) will face their most important (and most challenging) stretch of the season after this week's bye, with consecutive games against Lamar County, Sheffield and Sulligent—all of whom were playoff teams a year ago. Lamar County and Sulligent are both currently unbeaten in region play.

"We have a tough stretch coming up," Jackson said. "We're gonna spend this week working on ourselves and hopefully getting healthier. We have some guys who have carried the football a lot so far, and we'd like to get them some rest and also continue to see our young guys improve."

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## 'HARTSELLE', from page 13

for the sixth time on the night, forcing a fumble in the process. Senior JarQuavius Fariior scooped the loose football of the Milton Frank Stadium turf around his own 25-yard line and was off to the races, an icing-on-the-cake touchdown squarely in his sights.

The 6'3, 185-pound Fariior had at least a 15-yard head start, but Russellville senior Robert Hamilton was undeterred. Hamilton sprinted nearly the length of the entire field before finally tracking Fariior down and tackling him from behind, twelve yards shy of the end zone.

The Jaguars scored two plays later, but that wasn't the main point. Neither was Hamilton's 4.4 speed (though it certainly came in handy). Far more meaningful to Heaton was the determination and fighting spirit Hamilton demonstrated while chasing down Fariior in the final minutes of a blowout loss that would drop Russellville's record to 0-4 for the first time since 1943.

"We talked about that play after the game," Heaton said on Monday morning. "That's how our kids are playing right now. Robert is a great example of the kind of guys we want and the way we want our guys to play. He had every reason in the world to let that guy go, but he refused to quit.

"These guys have made up their mind that it's not about winning and losing right now—it's about the way we handle ourselves, the way we practice. Last Thursday's practice was the best practice we've had all year. I couldn't be more proud of these kids and the kind of men they're growing to be. We're getting better as a football team, too."

The final result (a 56-10 defeat, Russellville's most lop-sided loss since a 54-0 pasting by Colbert County in September of 1973) might not show it, but the Golden Tigers (0-4, 0-3 in Class 5A, Region 8) do appear to be making progress in the midst of a trying season. Barnwell, a freshman making his fourth career varsity start, completed his first seven passes against unbeaten Jemison for 142 yards, including a 56-yard touchdown toss to senior receiver Bernard Phinizee that gave Russellville a surprising early lead.

By night's end Barnwell had set new career-highs in attempts (38), completions (24) and passing yards (269) against a Jaguar defense that had allowed a total of seven points in its previous three games. Red-zone issues and four turnovers conspired to hold the Golden Tigers to just 10 points, however—none after kicker Kenner Perez booted a 32-yard field early in the second quarter.

"I think when you look at the struggles we've had execution-wise," Heaton said, "we're starting to pick things up on the offensive side of the ball. We executed really well at times the other night and moved the football. We should have been well over four hundred yards, without the sacks and the execution errors.

"We've gotten better every week, and we got better Friday night. In that first half, we executed at a high level. We left two touchdowns on the field, easy."

Barnwell opened the game with a 29-yard pass to Phinizee, one of his five completions on the night that went for at least 20 yards. He completed multiple passes to six different receivers, including Phinizee (104 yards on five catches), Hamilton (33 yards on eight catches), senior Logan Jones (65 yards on two catches), junior Wylie Boyd (18 yards on two catches) and fresh-

men Rowe Gallagher (18 yards on two catches) and Brooks Scott (16 yards on two catches).

"The main thing was, we knew a couple of their coverages and tried to dictate what they were in early," Heaton said. "We took advantage of that, and that early execution gave us some confidence and sort of pushed us through that first half.

"Luke is growing as a quarterback. The experience he's getting is crucial—there's no substitute for that. He's been in some tough situations, and he's growing up really fast. He takes it very serious. He's a student of the game, and he's learning everything he can. There was a lot of stuff he learned Friday night."

**"These guys have made up their mind that it's not about winning and losing right now—it's about the way we handle ourselves, the way we practice," Heaton said. "Last Thursday's practice was the best practice we've had all year. I could not be more proud of these kids and the kind of men they're growing to be. We're getting better as a football team, too."**

Barnwell, who took over as the starter full-time after dual-threat junior Devin Buckhalter suffered a broken foot in the preseason game at Athens, is getting better by the week, but Friday's non-region game at Hartselle (3-2) could be his toughest test yet. The holes he was able to exploit in Jemison's coverage aren't likely to be there against the sound, disciplined Tiger defense.

"Honestly, I think it'll be the best defense we've seen all year," Heaton said. "Even down the road, I don't think we'll see a better defense than Hartselle's. They're always very good. This will be the best look Luke will get as far as being sound on that side of the ball. Those guys have been playing in that system at Hartselle for a long time."

More consistent production from the running game on Friday night at J.P. Cain Stadium would certainly help. Through four games, the Golden Tigers have rushed for a total of just 128 yards, including minus-

four on the ground against Jemison. Barnwell, meanwhile, has already attempted 122 passes, completing 74 of them (61 percent) for 588 yards and two touchdowns. He's also been intercepted five times and sacked 13 times.

Hamilton is Russellville's leading rusher on the year, with 98 yards on 38 carries.

"For us, we're trying to make sure we have solid numbers with everything we do in the run game, to help our offensive line," Heaton said. "We look for weaknesses, and we tweak what we do to try and exploit those weaknesses. The way Jemison played their front, we knew it was gonna be hard to run the ball. When we throw those swing passes out of the backfield, those tunnel screens and side screens, that is our run game right now.

"Last week we were trying to take advantage of some things. We'll have to do a little bit more run-oriented stuff this week with Hartselle. The main focus for our guys this week will be first down. It's crucial for us to stay ahead of the sticks. We can't get in those long down-and-distance situations, because that's where they're really good."

After opening the season with wins over Cullman, Lawrence County and Athens, Hartselle has dropped back-to-back games against Florence (35-14) and Muscle Shoals (21-7). Two-game losing streak aside, Heaton is impressed with what he's seen from the Tigers on film.

"Their record really is not an indication of how good they are," he said. "First of all, they're very well coached. They're a very disciplined, very physical football team. We can't make mistakes against guys like that. They're very good at what they do.

"We'll have our hands full, like we do every week. Our goal is to get better than we were last week. We wanted to upset Mae Jemison. We made a run at it, and now the goal this week is to over there and try and knock off Hartselle. We're still searching for that first win."

Hartselle has won five of the last six meetings with Russellville, including 45-38 last season.

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# Just for kicks



PHOTO BY MIKE RICE

Students from the local All American Tang Soo Do studio in Russellville recently competed in the Region 6 Tournament. Deryll Banning won bronze medals in Empty Hand Form and Weapons Form. Dale Galloway won gold in Empty Hand Form, silver in Sparring and bronze in Weapons Form. Nick Galloway won gold in Empty Hand Form and Sparring and silver in Weapons Form. Amanda Galloway won bronze in Empty Hand Form and Weapons Form. Jarrett Baggett won gold in Weapons Form. Mary Beth Fisher won gold in Weapons Form and Sparring and silver in Empty Hand Form. Susanne Belew won gold in Empty Hand Form and bronze in Sparring and Weapon Form. She also won the Grand Champion Cup in the Senior Female Division (age 35 and up). The students are pictured above, along with chief instructor/owner Tom Jones (back row, middle).

# Bobcats look for second straight win over Phillips

Mike Self  
 Franklin Free Press

With a season-opening rout of Tharptown now buried beneath four consecutive losses, Phil Campbell would like nothing more than to turn its season around by beating rival Phillips for a second straight season.

Head coach Ryan Swinney knows it won't be easy. "They're not bad at all," Swinney said of the Bears, who turned their own season around the past two weeks with blowout wins over Vina and Shoals Christian following an 0-3 start. "They're a physical team. Their quarterback is a good athlete, and their running back has some speed. They get after you. I'm pretty impressed. They block hard, and on defense they get after the ball pretty good.

"Athlete-wise, they might not be up there with Lamar County and Sulligent, but as far as matching up with us, they'll do fine. They're a really good team."

Phil Campbell survived a mid-game lull to beat Phillips 35-20 last season at home, snapping a streak of five straight losses to the Bears. Phillips has won seven of nine meetings since the series resumed in 2006 following a 23-year hiatus.

"They'll be confident, I'm sure," Swinney said. "Last year was the first time we'd beaten them in a few years, and the game's at their place this time. It's definitely gonna be a challenge. Like I told our boys, if we'll keep the same intensity and play the same way we played last week, we've got a chance. But if we get out there and start making mistakes and taking plays off, they'll beat our tails in a hurry."

The Bobcats (1-4) lost 35-6 to unbeaten Sulligent last week in a game that was 13-0 at the half. Senior quarterback Peyton Thomas went 29-for-37 and completed at least three passes to five different receivers, but he

See 'BOBCATS,' page 17

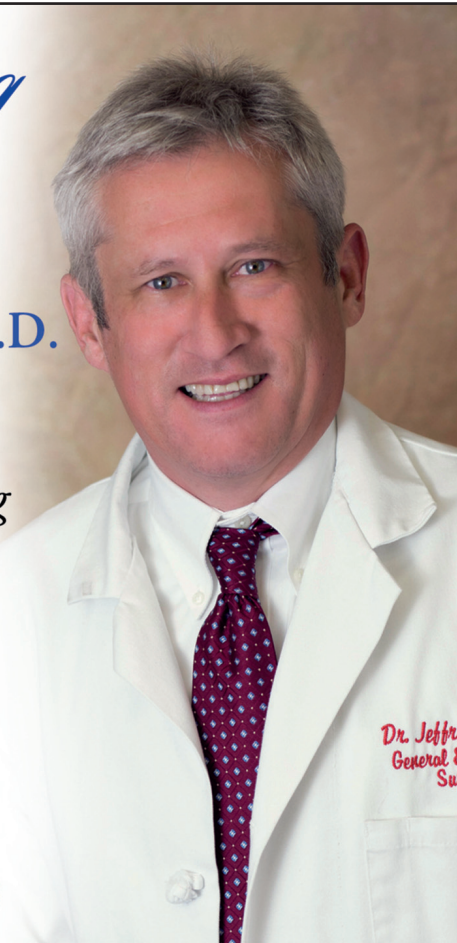
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# 'BOBCATS', from page 16

threw for only 188 yards. As a team, Phil Campbell rushed for just 14 yards.

"We don't really have that type of guy who can take it to the house from anywhere," said Swinney, whose team is averaging 17.2 points and 269.8 total yards of offense per game. "We were more athletic last year. Right now, we don't have a guy that's gonna break it from the backfield and take it sixty yards or a receiver who can beat somebody down the field with that type of speed. We have to methodically move the ball down the field, and in that situation you can't afford to make any mistakes or give up a sack or anything like that."

"Our guys caught the ball well the other night. We only had one ball that should have been caught that was dropped. We had a lot of different people get involved. We didn't have any success running the ball, so we just spread it out and tried to dink and dunk our way down the field. We did a pretty good job of it."

Brandon Thomas led the Bobcats last week with six catches for 54 yards. Sophomore Ben Williams caught three passes for 42 yards and a touchdown, and senior tight end Brody Nix had six catches for 25 yards. Senior Daniel Smith and freshman Ridge Raper (filling in for injured starter Brandon Baker) each caught four passes for 27 yards.

"Ridge stepped in at H-back and did a great job," Swinney said. "He caught

several passes and also played some safety for us. He played in Brandon's spot on defense, too."

As of Sunday afternoon, Baker was still working his way through concussion protocol. He and sophomore fullback/defensive end Imer Ordenez (ankle) are both questionable for Friday night's game at Phillips, and Swinney said senior lineman Caleb Hagood (a two-way starter) will miss the rest of the season with a leg injury.

If the Bobcats are to beat the Bears for a second straight year, they'll have to do it short-handed.

"They haven't won many games, and we haven't won many games," Swinney said. "It's an important game for us. Getting back on the winning side could really build some confidence for us going into the bye week. Then hopefully we'll have a chance to get healthy and work on some things and get ready for those last four games of region play."

For the season, Thomas has completed 72-of-124 passes (58 percent) for 772 yards and three touchdowns, with two interceptions. Nix leads the team with 15 catches for 170 yards and a touchdown, and senior Seth Brindley has caught nine passes for 121 yards. Smith has six catches for 75 yards and a score, and Williams has caught five passes for 66 yards and a touchdown. Nix leads the team with 35 tackles at linebacker.

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## 'WILDCATS' from page 13

220-pound senior fullback]. By doing that, we put them in some third-and-long situations where they had to throw the football, and that's not a position they're real comfortable with. Our defensive backs did a good job breaking on the ball and making some plays."

Shaw, who plays safety in certain situations, came up with a pair of key interceptions, including one off a tipped ball in the end zone. His performance on offense, however, made an even greater impact. The 171 rushing yards (on 25 carries) were a new season-high; he ran for two touchdowns and also made a handful of key plays in the passing game, completing 5-of-11 throws for 83 yards.

"Sheffield is an explosive team," Leathers said. "They're a big-play team. They're never short on speed and athletes. Their skill players are talented, and they love to play in space. They'll flip it out to a receiver or a running back in space, and those guys can make plays. We'll have to be disciplined and sound on defense and be where we're supposed to be."

"Kevin had another good game running the ball," Leathers said of Shaw, who had rushed for 149 yards on 22 carries in the previous week's loss to West Morgan. "We've been trying to put him in a position to run the ball more downhill lately. Teams have been taking away the dive on the option, and when that happens the quarterback is gonna end up running the football a lot. Kevin has been doing a good job on the power read, where he can give it on the jet sweep or pull it and run the power. It's more of the stuff we were doing with him last year.

"I'm proud of the leadership Kevin is showing, too. He's improving in that area every week."

Senior fullback Dylan Chandler added 40 yards and a touchdown (his ninth of the season) on 10 carries last week, and freshman Carson Shaw ran five times for 24 yards and a score. Senior Korey Saint caught two passes for 45 yards, and Norton had a 19-yard reception.

Defensively, Saint led the way with seven solo tackles and nine total stops. Chandler had seven tackles, including 2.5 for loss, and senior Blane Howard had a sack. Linebacker Brendan Borden, end Bud Pratt and corner Tanner Rickard each made five solo tackles, and Rickard also picked off a pass.

The improved play of the secondary, which surrendered four passing touchdowns on just six completions in a 35-14 loss to Lexington last season, has been key for a Wildcat defense that has allowed a total of just 27 points in the team's four wins.

"I'm very pleased with the progress we've made on the back end from last year to this year," Leathers said. "Tanner Rickard has been on the team for a while, but this is his first year to really play a lot. He's done a good job in coverage for us. Kevin spot-plays at safety, and he made a great play the other night where he came across the field from his safety position and picked one off.

"Those guys have been more consistent as far as not getting the deep ball thrown over them and tackling everything in front of them. That's one area where I think we can still improve—coming up and tackling on run downs and on the short stuff."

Limiting big plays and tackling in space will be key for the Wildcats this week if they hope to end a streak of six straight losses to rival Sheffield. The Bulldogs dropped to 1-4 with last week's 21-13 loss to Mars Hill, but Leathers is wary of their big-play ability.

"Sheffield is an explosive team," he said. "They're a big-play team. They're never short on speed and athletes. Their skill players are talented, and they love to play in space. They'll flip it out to a receiver or a running back in space, and those guys can make plays. We'll have to be disciplined and sound on defense and be where we're supposed to be."

Last week's win over Lexington puts Colbert Heights in solid position to end a five-year playoff drought. With two wins in their final four region games (home against Elkmont, home against Colbert County, at Lauderdale County and home against East Lawrence), the Wildcats would almost certainly qualify for the postseason. [Elkmont beat East Lawrence 40-12 last week; the two teams are now a combined 1-8 on the season.]

For the time being, though, Leathers said his players are fully focused on Friday's trip to Sheffield.

"It's the next game for us, and we approach every game the same whether it's a region game or not," said Leathers, who is midway through his second season at Colbert Heights. "It might not have any playoff implications, but we don't talk about that with our players. Our preparation is the same, and we practice with the same level of intensity. Our goal is to win every game we play.

"When I took the job here, one of the first things I was told was that our players play really hard against Sheffield. They're not in Tusculumbia, but they're right across the tracks, so to speak. It's a rivalry game, and it's a momentum game for us. We're right where we wanna be, and this game could give us a boost going back into region play."

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## Kevin Shaw

Senior QB/DB, Colbert Heights

Shaw showed up and showed out in last week's critical Region 8 showdown with Lexington, rushing for 171 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Wildcats to a 27-7 win. His longest run of the night went for 72 yards, and he also threw for 83 yards on 5-for-11 passing. Defensively, Shaw picked off a pair of Lexington passes.

Heading into Friday's game at Sheffield, Shaw leads Colbert Heights with 443 yards rushing on 80 carries this season.



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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 5 must be postmarked by Friday, September 29, and picks submitted by email for Week 5 must be received by Saturday, September 30 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 4 winner **BRYANT KING**, who went 8 for 10 and picked Georgia to beat MSU 33-24!

# Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 5: Sept. 30	Brady's Pick	Your Pick
Vanderbilt at Florida	Florida	_____
Georgia at Tennessee	Georgia	_____
Mississippi St. at Auburn	Auburn	_____
South Carolina at Texas A&M	Texas A&M	_____
Ole Miss at Alabama	Alabama	_____
Iowa at Michigan St.	Michigan St.	_____
Oklahoma St. at Texas Tech	Oklahoma St.	_____
Clemson at Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	_____
Colorado at UCLA	UCLA	_____
California at Oregon	Oregon	_____
Tiebreaker Score:	Georgia _____	Tennessee _____
Your Name:	_____	
Phone number:	_____	

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**PREGAME@6:30**  
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