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10.18.17

Phasing out Phil Campbell?

Recent cuts by college cause concern for local campus

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Former Alabama governor George Wallace's legacy includes the fulfillment of his vision to greatly expand Alabama's junior college system. Part of that vision included Northwest Alabama Junior College, founded in 1963 in Phil Campbell. When the school merged with Shoals Community College

30 years later to become Northwest-Shoals Community College, many in Phil Campbell felt that move was the beginning of the end for the Phil Campbell campus. Recent cuts to faculty and staff did nothing to change that sentiment among former and current NW-SCC students.

"Governor Wallace started the junior college movement in Alabama, and it

"Governor Wallace started the junior college movement in Alabama, and it started right here in Phil Campbell," said former Northwest student and Phil Campbell city councilman Mike McQuary. "It will simply destroy his dream if we start phasing out our junior college, and that's what's happening....These cuts are just another step in the process. Their whole intention is to just phase out Phil Campbell."

See 'COLLEGE,' Page 9

County seeks info on inmate health program

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission hopes a new Alabama program will lead to reduced costs for medical expenses for inmates in the Franklin County Jail.

Commissioners approved sending a notice of intent to participate in the Medicaid for County Inmates program, created by the Alabama Legislature in 2016 as a way to help local counties save money on inmate medical expenses.

While commissioners approved the notice of intent, they are not bound to participate in the program. A decision will be made by the

commission and Franklin County sheriff Shannon Oliver once more information on the Medicaid for County Inmates program is received.

Commissioners approved sending a notice of intent to participate in the Medicaid for County Inmates program, created by the Alabama Legislature in 2016 as a way to help local counties save money on inmate medical expenses.

There was a legislative deadline of October 16, 2017 for counties to send their notice of intent.

The program applies to persons who were already Medicaid-eligible at the time of their arrest. Medicaid regulations normally suspend benefits for someone in jail. The new program allows for an otherwise Medicaid-eligible inmate with a major medical situation that involves a hospital stay of 24 hours or more to have his or her Medicaid benefits apply for those expenses.

Each participating county would be responsible for 30 percent of those expenses.

"It's supposed to be a lower rate, and we only reimburse the state share of thirty percent of an already reduced rate," Oliver told the commission. "But we're working to get

See 'INMATE,' Page 10

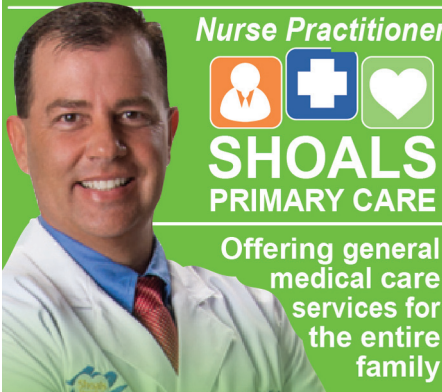
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William Ford "Bud" Bolton, Russellville, age 79
Died Friday, October 13, 2017. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

Michael Lee Fleming, Florence, age 56
Died Thursday, October 12, 2017. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville.

Martin Rufus Golden, Jr., Russellville, age 94
Died Thursday, October 12, 2017. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

Jo Ann Gray, Russellville, age 81
Died Sunday, October 8, 2017. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

William "Billy" Gene Harrison, Russellville, age 83
Died Tuesday, October 10, 2017. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Tharptown Cemetery with full military honors.

Anthony Lorn Jeffreys, age 76
Died Saturday, October 14, 2017. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Old Bethel Cemetery.

Marshall Lee Kinard, Russellville, age 86
Died Monday, October 9, 2017. Funeral held at Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church. Interment in Oak Grove Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

Ashley Nicole McAlister, Phil Campbell, age 27
Died Thursday, October 12, 2017. Visitation was held at the home of her parents in Phil Campbell. Interment will be at McAlister Cemetery at a later date.

Inez Newell Duboise Pierce, Russellville, age 91
Died Sunday, October 8, 2017. Funeral held at Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church. Interment in Oak Grove Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home was directing.

Peggy Irene Wood Wells, Phil Campbell, age 83
Died Monday, October 16, 2017. Funeral held at First Baptist Church, Phil Campbell. Interment in Phil Campbell Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.



Dr. Wayne Stevens

Dr. Martha Morrow

Dr. David Britton

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Let's do lunch

Local officials, public servants join students for meal during National School Lunch Week

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Who says you can't enjoy a school lunch?

Some of Franklin County's and Russellville's elected officials, along with members of the Russellville Police and Fire Departments, joined Russellville High School students for lunch last Thursday as part of National School Lunch Week.

This year's theme for National School Lunch Week was "Recipes for Success," with some of students' favorite healthy meals offered during the week.

"We appreciate the invitation to join students for lunch today, as well as the great job done by Elaine Vaughn and others to make sure our students have healthy, nutritionally balanced meals every day," Grissom said.

Elaine Vaughn, child nutrition director for Russellville City Schools, said that school lunches have improved in their nutritional content while continuing to offer students the choices they enjoy.

"School lunches are healthier than ever, with more fruits and vegetables, whole grains and less fat and

sodium," Vaughn said. "National School Lunch Weeks helps us educate parents and students about all the benefits of our lunch program, and the appealing choices we offer."

The Franklin County Commission and probate judge Barry Moore, along with Russellville mayor David Grissom and the city council, city police and firemen, were invited to be honored guests Thursday, to show appreciation for all they do for the community.

"We appreciate the invitation to join students for lunch today, as well as the great job done by Elaine Vaughn and others to make sure our students have healthy, nutritionally balanced meals every day," Grissom said.

The federally funded National School Lunch Program offers nutritionally balanced, healthy meals to RCS students every day. The program has been serving our nation's children for more than 60 years and requires school meals to meet federal nutritional standards like offering fruits and vegetables every day, serving whole grain-rich foods and limiting fat, calories and sodium.

The "Recipes for Success" campaign is sponsored by the nonprofit School Nutritional Association.

For more information on National School Lunch Week, visit <https://schoolnutrition.org/nslw/>.



COURTESY PHOTO

Local firefighters and elected officials enjoyed a lunch last Thursday at Russellville High School as part of National School Lunch Week. The officials and public servants were invited to eat as honored guests of the school to show appreciation for all they do for the community.

Local surgeon encourages patients to be informed

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Russellville's newest physician has an impressive resume prior to his arrival at Russellville Hospital two months ago.

Dr. Jeffrey Manord, a general and vascular surgeon, came to the hospital from Winfield, where he was on the staff at the Northwest Medical Center. Manord, a native of the Simcoe community near Cullman, received his medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham. He completed his surgical residency at Oschner Clinic in New Orleans and completed a vascular fellowship at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Manord also served on the faculty at the University of South Alabama School of Medicine.

Vascular surgery is a surgical subspecialty in which diseases of the vascular system (or arteries, veins and lymphatic circulation) are managed by medical therapy, minimally invasive catheter procedures, and surgical reconstruction.

"It deals largely with the arteries and veins," Manord said. "That can include pain in the legs, sores on the legs or feet, poor circulation issues and complications from diabetes."

Manord said he wasn't looking to relocate from Winfield, but when officials at Russellville Hospital contacted him after Dr. Jeffrey Ryan relocated to Alaska, Manord liked what he saw both at the hospital and in the community.

"Even though Russellville isn't a huge town, it's larger than Winfield, and there's more access to things in the community," Manord said. "Surgery in a big city means you compete for OR space. We don't have that problem, but the population is bigger here.

"And it's still close enough to Winfield where I don't have to abandon my patients there."

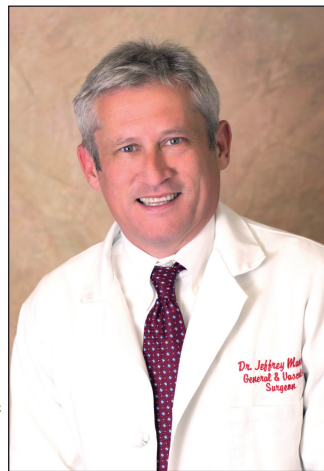
Another attractive factor for Manord was the stability of the hospital's administration, including CEO Christine Stewart.

"I like the stability here," Manord said. "Every time you change administration, the whole place changes gears, and that's difficult to go through. Also, I like the strong emphasis on the hospital-physician relationship here in Russellville."

Manord and his wife Nicole have two children, one grandchild and a second on the way. They make their home in Russellville.

"The only bad question is one that doesn't get asked," Manord said. "Surgery is a big deal for the patient. I want them to be informed. That procedure is important to each patient and family, and they need to ask questions to know what to expect."

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Manord to our community and medical staff," Stewart said. "With Dr. Manord being board-certified in both general and vascular surgery, Russellville Hospital now offers vascular surgery services to our community in a convenient location close to home."



Dr. Jeffrey Manord

While diabetes is the main risk factor for circulatory problems, Manord said other factors include obesity, high cholesterol and smoking.

"Nicotine itself has a spasm effect on blood vessels," Manord said. "You get less blood flow, and that causes damage. Things in the smoke like carbon monoxide and other ingredients get into the blood, and these are toxic to the arteries and the cells that line the artery. Then the artery has to repair itself, and that creates scar tissue and creates a spot where plaque can build up."

In addition to vascular surgery, Manord's general surgery practice includes common procedures like scopes, colonoscopies, upper endoscopies, gall bladder removal, hernia repair, colon surgery, diverticulitis surgery and colon surgery.

Manord encourages patients facing surgery to ask questions, something they are sometimes apprehensive about.

"You need to ask. The only bad question is the one that doesn't get asked," Manord said. "Surgery is a big deal for the patient. I want them to be informed. That procedure is important to each patient and his or her family, and they need to ask questions to know what to expect."

When patients are better informed, they are more likely to follow through with surgeries that can heal, or prevent, diseases like cancer.

"The good thing about colon cancer is it's preventable. You can get rid of polyps, and they don't turn into cancer," Manord said. "That's why a colonoscopy is a good test to have."

Manord's office is located at 15225 Highway 43, Suite D, next to Russellville Hospital. The office is open Monday thru Thursday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and he sees patients Tuesday and Thursday. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Manord, call 256-332-1500.

Honey Do: Gas heaters

Zone heating is the process of heating your home in needed areas, rather than running the central unit to heat the whole thing. This process can save you a lot of money and save precious resources.

Gas heaters are one of the best options around for heating specific areas. If you have one or are thinking about installing one in your home, there are a few things you need to know.

First of all, as with any appliance or tool, read your owner's manual. This is the best source for care and maintenance of any product you buy. Also, it is recommended to seek out a licensed, bonded service man when dealing with gas line hookups.

Gas heaters are one of the best options around for heating specific areas. Like anything else, they need a little TLC from time time to work properly and efficiently. These heaters have proven to be very safe and dependable.

The greatest enemy of unvented gas heaters is dust. LP (liquid propane) and natural gas are both delivered at very low pressures. A build-up of dust or a small spider web is all it takes to create a clogged line. Most of the time a little spray of compressed air around the pilot

and ignition system will clear them.

[Caution: Air compressors are not recommended, as these areas can be easily damaged. Canned air, such as that used to clean computers and electronics, works well.]

Heavy dust build-ups can be removed with a duster, and surface areas can be cleaned with a damp cloth. Remove the front of the heater if possible to make the controls and burner more accessible. This can be done without disturbing any gas lines on most models.

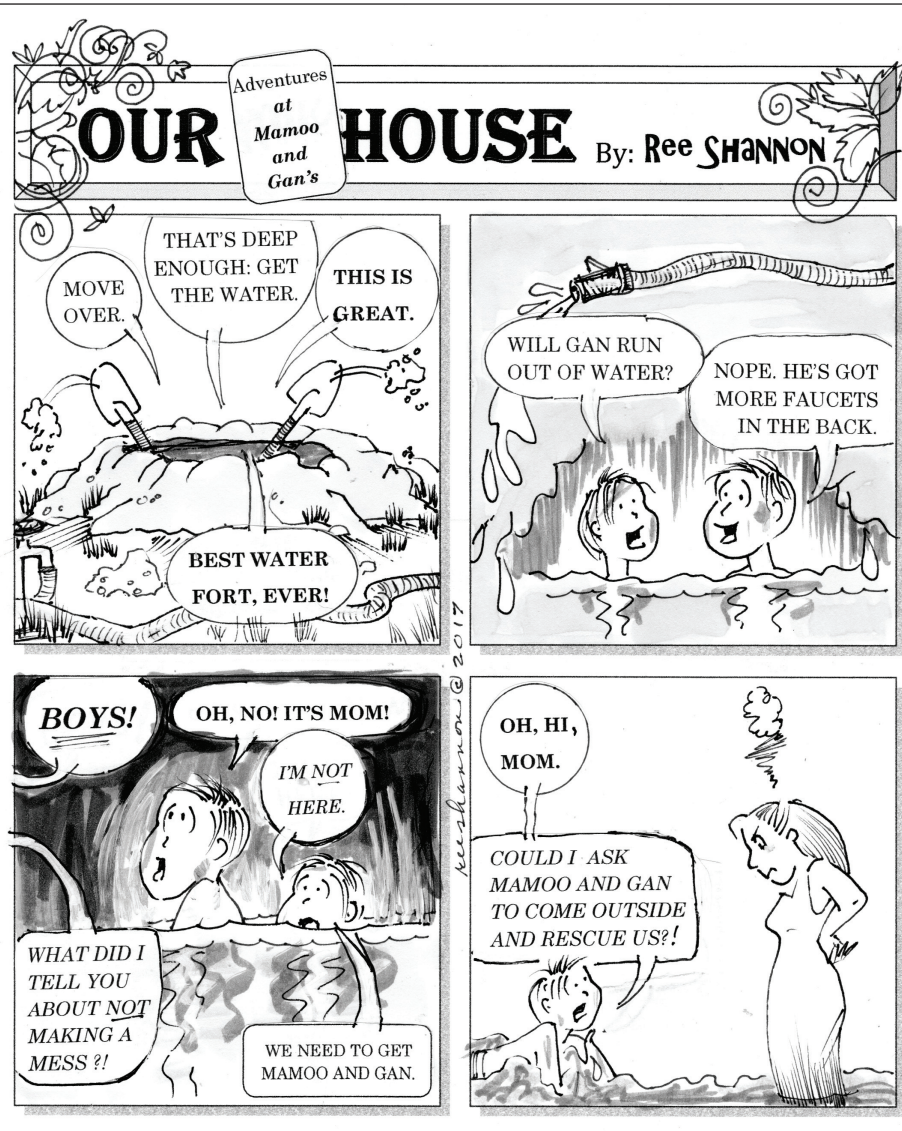
If, after cleaning, the heater doesn't light, it's time to do a little troubleshooting. The most common parts that may need to be replaced are thermocouples and igniters. A bad thermocouple will cause the pilot to go out when you release the control knob. Look for a spark at the pilot assembly to see if the ignitor is working.

A gas heater, like anything else, needs a little TLC from time time for it to work properly and efficiently. These heaters have proven to be very safe and dependable.

For other heating ideas and help with your honey do list, remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green



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Letters to the editor

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

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My take Have we become lazy or on this... smarter as time goes on?

Gail Motes
For the FFP

I have found that a yard sale is a great place to buy a picture for a few dollars. Even if I don't like the picture, it's much cheaper to replace the picture. You can use a picture from a calendar, magazine or the front of a blank card. I have now turned an ugly picture into a pretty one.

I have even bought one for the frame only and thrown the picture away. Most of us know the price of a frame well exceeds a yard sale price.

I've wanted to replace a long curtain with a valence. I wouldn't recommend putting one in a yard sale that can be cut to the required length, or dyed or tinted a different color. Its only expense would be the cost of the dye or tint, which is not only simple but saving.

I remove buttons from blouses and dresses that have passed the point of repair. Buttons can be placed in a Zip-loc bag, and they not only take up very little space but also are easily seen when needed.

When I lose a button on a favorite blouse or dress, I just remove all the buttons and replace with matching ones. Problem solved. The buttons I removed are placed into the bag for a future emergency.

Buttons also make perfect eyes for a homemade doll or sock puppet. Just imagine the variety of colors you could have to choose from.

When I was young, a hold in my clothing was

patched. Now I'm more stylish if I tear a hole in my jeans. No patches are needed, and I've increased the value of my jeans to twenty dollars.

We have got to be very careful of what we hem, too! Even hems are not always in style. Just cut off the bottom and leave as is. Whether it folds under or frays on the end, it is now considered "boutique clothing." [That simply means it sells for more.]

I remove buttons from blouses and dresses that have passed the point of repair. Buttons can be placed in a Zip-loc bag. When I lose a button on a favorite blouse or dress, I just remove all the buttons and replace with matching ones. Problem solved.

So, have we become lazy or smarter as time goes on? I'm not sure.

Never throw a garden rake away if the handle has broken. Just remove the broken handle. Use sandpaper, if needed, to remove rust. Wipe clean with an old T-shirt that you have cut into pieces to use as rags [I hope]. I would use a rust-free high-gloss spray paint, but of course the choice is yours. Hang it with the forks pointed up. It makes a very pretty and practical way to hang necklaces.

I saw this idea at a friend's house. Well, I have the garden rake. All I need is time. You may have these items, but not the time. But, as a rule, if we don't finish the projects, no one else will.

Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoon panels, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.



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by Dave Ramsey

Vacation home for rent?

Dear Dave,
What is your opinion of buying a vacation home, then renting it out when you're not there?

J.P.

Dear J.P.,
I see nothing wrong with it, as long as you're buying with cash and you're also debt-free. A vacation home is a wonderful "extra" as you start building wealth. Remember, though, it's still basically a very large, very expensive toy. In most cases it will go up in value, and if you rent it, it might become something of a money-maker for you.

But here's another side to vacation home rentals. You'll probably make some money, but in most cases there will be several weeks during a year when it sits empty. You're not going to get rich renting it out. So they're not really great investment properties.

What you're talking about is more of a plan to offset the annual costs of your toy. If you look at it that way, I don't think you'll be disappointed.

If you're determined to go this route, be ready to deal with spills on the carpet and damage from your guests, along with general maintenance and repairs. There's always something that needs attention when you own a property. But if you can handle all that emotionally and financially—and you're not looking for it to be a big-time investment that will make you rich—you'll be fine.

Dave

Wait on IVF?

Dear Dave,
My wife and I are on Baby Step 2 of

your plan. We have about \$60,000 in debt left to pay off before we'll be debt-free, and a household income of \$140,000 a year. We have one child, but we would like to expand our family.

We would have to do this using in vitro fertilization. We've talked to a doctor, and he's given us a ballpark figure of about \$20,000 for the procedure.

Should we wait until we're debt-free to have this done?

Jim

Dear Jim,
Babies are wonderful, important things. Having kids, even the thought of having kids, is a big emotional deal. But sometimes it can cause people to change their financial plans and directions.

I would urge you not to accept the first opinion and pricing model you receive on something like this. I've heard prices of \$35,000, but that includes as many attempts as it takes until your wife becomes pregnant. I've also heard of single attempts priced at \$7,500 each. There are all kinds of options and guarantees, because they understand someone who is willing to do this *really* wants a baby.

If I'm in your shoes, I'm not accepting the idea that there's one approach and one pricing structure to all this. I would explore other options, as far as doctors and clinics are concerned. Then, with your income, you could consider taking off a couple months from paying down debt and put some money toward the IVF. If it doesn't work, pay off a little more debt, pause the debt payoff, and try for a baby again.

Take some time, learn a little more, and go from there—always using cash for the endeavor. God bless you two!

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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What's Happening


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


 Northwest-Shoals Community College will offer FREE job readiness workshops Tuesday, October 17 and Wednesday, October 18, prior to the beginning of the Northwest Alabama Job Fair each day on the Shoals campus. The job readiness workshops will be held in building 115 on the Shoals campus from 3-4 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17 and 9-10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 18. NW-SCC will host the Northwest Alabama Job Fair Tuesday, October 17 from 4-8 p.m. and Wednesday, October 18 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Patriot Center (gym) on the Shoals campus. Online pre-registration for job seekers is available at www.nwscc.edu. For more information on the job fair, please visit <https://www.nwscc.edu/your-path-starts-here/special-programs/northwest-alabama-job-fair>.


 Northwest-Shoals Community College's Foundation will celebrate its 25th consecutive year of the annual Pathfinders' Dinner this Thursday, October 19 at George's 217 in Sheffield. The semi-formal evening, sponsored by Helen Keller Hospital and Zoey Belle's, will consist of a reception at 6 p.m., dinner beginning at 7 p.m. and entertainment by the NW-SCC Jazz Band. Tickets can be purchased online via PayPal at <https://www.nwscc.edu/about-nwscc/foundation> or by calling 256-331-5215/5240. Contributions are federal income tax-deductible, and all proceeds will go to the NW-SCC Foundation Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$75 or \$600 per table (seats 8) and include reserved seating. Tickets are now available at all branches of First Metro Bank. For more information or tickets, please contact Teresa Harrison at (256) 331-5215 or teresah@nwscc.edu, or contact Adriana Wuotto at (256) 331-5240 or awuotto@nwscc.edu.


 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. You are invited to attend.


 Belgreen High School will host a Fall Festival this Thursday, October 19 from 5:30-8 p.m. There will be bingo, concessions, a haunted house, a cake walk, hayrides, fun games, a fortune teller, a toy walk, great prizes and much, much more! Admission is free!

 The Helen Keller Hospital Foundation will host the Ed Borden and Steve Nesbitt Memorial Golf Tournament this 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 St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Relay for Life team will have a yard sale this Friday, October 20 from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, October 21 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. at Born Again Auto Collision Center (formerly Wimberley Auto Collision Center) at the intersection of Hwy. 243 and Hwy. 81 in the Traptown Community. Pancake breakfast, hamburgers and hot dogs, and bake sale on Saturday. Boston butts available while they last. All money raised goes to the American Cancer Society. Call 256-810-0009 for more information.

 The Alvin Baker Family Reunion will be held this Saturday, October 21 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Union Community Center (5988 Hwy. 93, Russellville, AL 35654). Friends and relatives are invited to bring a covered dish. Lunch will be served at noon. For more information, call Louise Baker at 256-398-8158 or Leila Moore at 256-460-0849.

 Russellville Public Library will host the fifth annual Zombie Walk in downtown Russellville this Saturday, October 21. Admission is free, and the doors open at 10 a.m. The festivities include a professional makeup team to help you get zombie-ready, zombie karaoke, zombie trivia and movie marathon, a brain-eating contest, a dance party for all ages, a costume contest and more. Shoals Kitchen food truck will be on site to provide a full menu for attendees hungry for more than brains. This is an all-age event, and the walk begins at 5:30 p.m. Door prizes have been generously donated by local businesses. Event T-shirts are available for presale (\$10 each) through October 7, with the proceeds going directly to the Friends of the Russellville Public Library. If your business would like to help sponsor this annual event, let us know! For more information, contact Ashley at Russellville Public Library (256-332-1535). Follow Russellville Public Library on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and SnapChat for up-to-date details.

 The Haleyville Neighborhood Facility Building (1205 10th Avenue, Rooms 3 and 4) will host a Boating License Course this 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.

What's Happening

256.332.0255

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

The Littleville Fall Market will take place this Saturday, October 21 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Shooting Star Flea Market off Hwy. 43 in Littleville behind the Chevron Gas Station. Craft and antique market with music and food. Come get a head start on your Christmas shopping!

Revival at Beulah Missionary Baptist Church (Highway 38, Russellville) will be held Sunday, October 22 through Tuesday, October 24 with Sunday night service at 6 p.m. and Monday-Tuesday night services at 7 p.m. Evangelist is Bro. Ricky Yocom. Everyone welcome!

LifeSouth Community Blood Center will host a blood drive at Russellville Hospital on Wednesday, October 25 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. LifeSouth is the primary supplier of blood products to Russellville Hospital. Please contact Deborah Lindsey to schedule an appointment at 256-332-8676 or by email at deborah.lindsey@curaehealth.org. Please be sure to bring your photo ID when you donate. Everyone who signs up to donate will receive a free T-shirt, an appetizer card from Texas Roadhouse, a free cookie dough card from Papa Murphy's and a free meal ticket from Russellville Hospital. We will also be giving away DOOR PRIZES! Please call if you have any questions, and thank you for giving the gift of life!

A Senior Health Fair will be held Thursday, October 26 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the A.W. Todd Center in Russellville. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.! Learn more about Social Security updates, weight management, healthy eating, estate planning, funeral planning, exercise, breast cancer updates, tours & trips, and much more! Area exhibitors will be on site! Event is free of charge, and lunch will be served. Pre-register by calling the Franklin County Extension Office at 256-332-8880 or the Foster Grandparent Program at 256-332-6800. Sponsored by Foster Grandparents and Alabama Extension.

A Broadband Meeting to discuss county-wide broadband internet service will be held Thursday, October 26 at 6 p.m. at the Phil Campbell High School auditorium. Steve Foshee, president/CEO of Tombigbee Electric Cooperative, will speak at the event hosted by the Franklin County Water Service Authority, which is charged with overseeing and managing countywide broadband after Franklin County citizens approved a ballot referendum in 2014.

Mount Moriah Baptist Church (6350 Coburn Mountain Road, Tuscumbia) will have a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 28 from 1-3 p.m. Trunk or Treat starts at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

A Community Trunk or Treat will be held Tuesday, October 31 from 6-8 p.m. in downtown Russellville on Jackson Avenue. Admission is free. To register your organization or for more information, call 256-332-1760. Deadline for registration is October 27, 2017.

The Russellville Scorpions Elite 9-and-Under Baseball Team is selling chances on 30 Guns in 30 Days as a team fund raiser. Drawing begins November 1 and continues for 30 days, with one gun given away daily. Donations for chances are \$30/ticket. You do not have to be present to win. Funds will be used for team travel and expenses. Chances available through October 31. Call Blake Entrekina at 256-483-7512 for more information.

The United Methodist Women will sponsor their annual Rummage/Bake Sale from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday, November 3 and 7-11 a.m. on Saturday, November 4 in the Ministry Center directly behind the First United Methodist Church in downtown Russellville. This event is held to raise money for local and foreign missions. Items for sale include household goods, furniture, books and white elephants. Cakes, pies and other homemade baked goods are available for purchase. A \$3 lunch, including homemade chili, crackers and tea, will be served beginning at 11 a.m. until it is gone. Take-outs will be available.

Restoration Church will hold its first annual golf tournament at Twin Pines Country Club on Friday, November 3. The tournament will be a four-man scramble format with a cost of \$65/person. Registration begins at 11 a.m. with tee-off at noon. Prizes for first and second place teams. For more information, contact Pastor Kevin Palmer at 256-324-7047.

The Cowboy Church of Franklin County (25100 Hwy. 24, Russellville) will host a Fall Festival & Judgment Hayride on Saturday, November 4. Gates open at 5 p.m. There will be games in the arena and food from the chuck wagon. First hayride along "The Eternal Trail" leaves at 7 p.m. Last hayride leaves at 8 p.m. Gates close at 9 p.m.

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, November 9.

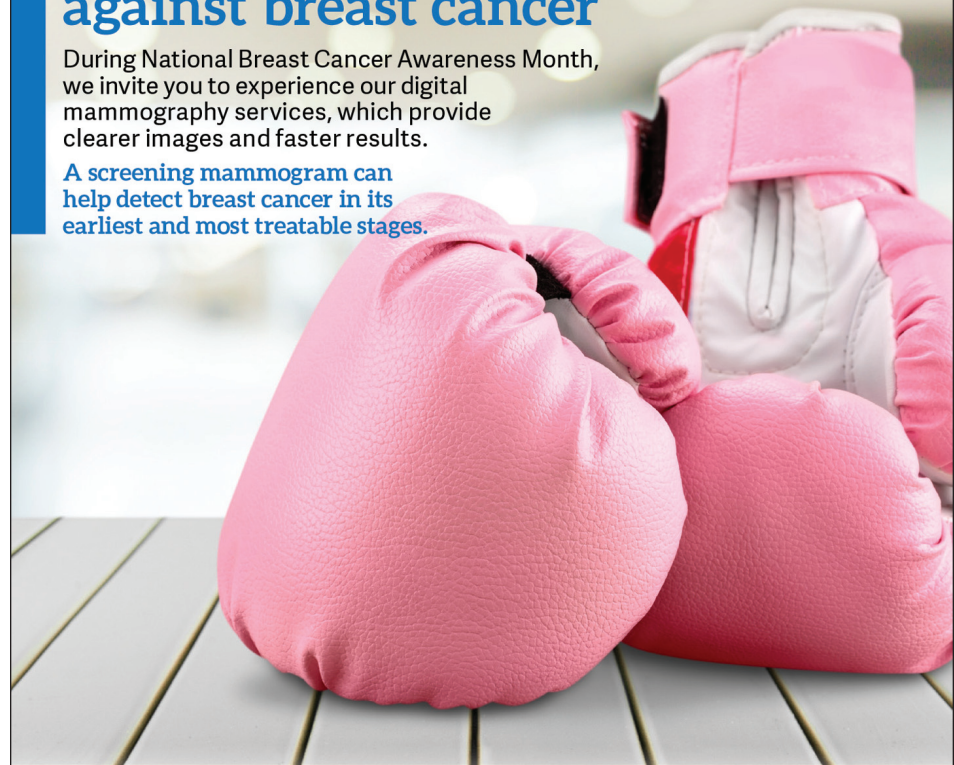
God Cares For You Worship Center (located behind the A.W. Todd Center in downtown Russellville) will have a gospel singing with Jeff and Sherry Easter on Saturday, November 11 at 6 p.m. You are invited each week to attend Sunday School at 10 a.m., Sunday worship services at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., and Wednesday night service at 7 p.m.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre in downtown Russellville on Saturday, November 11 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. Proceeds go toward the renovation and restoration of the historic Roxy Theatre. Group discounts available! Call 256-335-4356.

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Appointments are on a first-come, first-served basis. Physician's order required. This amount includes radiologist interpretation.

Russellville Hospital

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Cassie Medley, Executive Director
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franklincountychamber.org

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GAME@7:00

'COLLEGE,' from page 1

started right here in Phil Campbell,” said former Northwest student and Phil Campbell city councilman Mike McQuary. “It will simply destroy his dream if we start phasing out our junior college, and that’s what’s happening.”

McQuary is concerned about the school’s recent announcement that 16 employees were to be let go either immediately or at the end of the current semester. Among the cuts were Tony Shackelford, Mark Lee and Kim Miller, the Phil Campbell campus faculty for the health and physical education department, which means that department will be eliminated from the Phil Campbell campus. Other cuts came in the department of broadcasting and the elimination of campus security, which is now contracted out.

“These cuts are just another step in the process,” McQuary said. “Their whole intention is to just phase out Phil Campbell. We’ve been hearing that for a while, and we saw it when they phased out sports here. Now it’s just a matter of cutting out Phil Campbell completely.”

According to information received from NW-SCC, the three cuts in the health and physical education department were the only employees among the 16 based at the Phil Campbell campus. When asked if he would specifically pledge to keep the Phil Campbell campus of NW-SCC open as long as he remains president of the college, Lee did not give a direct answer. He told the *Franklin Free Press*:

“The Phil Campbell and Shoals campus play vital roles in the success of Franklin and Colbert County and the rest of Northwest Alabama. I am committed to using the college’s resources to provide the students on each campus with the best educational environment and instructional opportunities possible,” Lee said. “The Phil Campbell campus of Northwest-Shoals Community College continues to play a vital role in our mission of educating and training the citizens of our five-county service area in northwest Alabama. Regardless of the decrease in enrollment we have experienced, we remain committed to providing academic, career technical and lifelong educational opportunities to our area residents.”

“It is vital that the community college system continues to serve those it was established to serve—rural Alabamians,” Kiel said. “Students from Red Bay and Vina to Russellville and Haleyville and beyond have benefited by having the college nearby so they could both work and go to college. It is imperative that we protect this asset to our community.”

McQuary remains unconvinced. A former student at Northwest, he has a daughter who attends NW-SCC and another daughter who plans to attend next fall. He says that without a college in Phil Campbell, many families would not be able to send their children to college at all.

“You don’t have to ship them off to college somewhere else and pay room and board and travel expenses,” McQuary said. “The campus is within a mile of my house. It’s not just for us in Phil Campbell, but also for the surrounding communities of Bear Creek, Hamilton, Hackleburg and Haleyville. To see this college just phased out is devastating. Not everybody can afford to go to a big four-year college.”

For Russellville businessman Jamie Kiel, the Phil Campbell campus isn’t just an important asset for the community; it’s something more personal. Kiel was the NW-SCC Student Government Association President in 1994, the year after the merger. Even then, there were concerns about the long-term survival of the Phil Campbell campus.

“I was concerned both then and now about the future of the Phil Campbell campus,” Kiel said. “It is vital that

the community college system continues to serve those it was established to serve—rural Alabamians.

“Students from Red Bay and Vina to Russellville and Haleyville and beyond have benefited by having the college nearby so they could both work and go to college. It is imperative that we protect this asset to our community.”

FALL SEMESTER ENROLLMENT AND CREDIT HOURS FOR NW-SCC, PHIL CAMPBELL CAMPUS:

FALL 2013:
ENROLLMENT 734 • CREDIT HOURS 7,231

FALL 2014:
ENROLLMENT 732 • CREDIT HOURS 7,122

FALL 2015:
ENROLLMENT 658 • CREDIT HOURS 6,134

FALL 2016:
ENROLLMENT 673 • CREDIT HOURS 5,968

FALL 2017:
ENROLLMENT 612 • CREDIT HOURS 5,540

Kaitlyn Vandiver, a Tharptown High School graduate and a NW-SCC student, said she loves her college experience at Northwest, but as a representative of the Student Government Association she regularly hears concerns of other students that the Phil Campbell campus isn’t part of the college’s long-term future.

“I’ve had some students approach me and say they think we’re the afterthought here compared to the Shoals campus,” Vandiver said. “Personally, I don’t know. Dr. Lee spoke to the SGA officers this summer, and we had some ideas to submit to him for improvements on the campus. We’re working on that.”

Vandiver is concerned about the elimination of the physical education department, and she wonders about the future of intramural sports at the Phil Campbell campus.

“The Phil Campbell campus of Northwest-Shoals Community College continues to play a vital role in our mission of educating and training the citizens of our five-county service area in northwest Alabama,” said Lee, the school’s president. “Regardless of the decrease in enrollment, we remain committed to providing academic, career technical and lifelong educational opportunities to our area residents.”

“I definitely think sports is a big part of the college experience, especially for us at Phil Campbell,” she said. “With no athletics any more, intramural sports allow us to watch and participate in athletic activities. I was looking forward to intramural basketball.”

Vandiver said there are a number of minor repairs that could be made on campus that would enhance the daily experience of students at the Phil Campbell campus.

“I’ve had students come to me about the area where we all hang out in the Sub,” she said. “There’s old, uneven furniture. The pool tables need to be recovered. There are some small things that would make a big difference.”

“I love my education at Northwest-Shoals, and I think it’s great. I wouldn’t trade this experience for anything. I just want to see this campus continue to be a part of the college.”

Lee said there are capital project priority lists for both campuses of NW-SCC.

“Projects recently concluded or ongoing on the Phil Campbell campus will total approximately \$600,000,”

Lee said. “These include repairing roofs to the OC [building 302], repairing the gym roof, replacing the gym floor, repairing the roof to the administration building [301] and the creation of the Student Success Center in the Learning Resources Center.”

Trent Randolph, NW-SCC public information officer, sent the following statement from Lee at the time the cuts were announced:

“Shortfall in the 2017 fall enrollment [approximately 8% decrease expected] have led to a reduction in force for specific departments. College departments affected include: Broadcasting, Campus Security and Health/Physical Education [including fitness centers],” Lee said. “I tried to make cuts that would be least impactful on the instructional programs offered to our students.”

According to information from the college, there has been a steady drop in credit hour production the last five years. From the fall 2013 semester to the fall 2017 semester, that drop was 23.3 percent for the Phil Campbell campus of NW-SCC. Enrollment in fall 2013 was 734, compared to 612 this semester, a drop of 16.6 percent.

Credit hour production in fall 2013 was 7,231 credit hours, compared to 5,540 this fall.

The *Franklin Free Press* also requested the names of the 16 employees who were let go, and that request was refused by the college. A second request was made pursuant to the Alabama Public Records Law, and that request remains unanswered.

McQuary, in his first term as a Phil Campbell city councilman, wants to turn to the area’s state legislators to safeguard against what he believes to be the ‘continued erosion’ of the Phil Campbell campus.

“The first thing we have to do is get our state legislators involved,” McQuary said. “Our senator and representative could help us, as well as Congressman Robert Aderholt. Maybe we need to set up a meeting with Dr. Lee and voice our concerns with him. We have to get some people involved who are willing to step up to the plate and save this college.”

“If something’s not done, Phil Campbell is on its way out.”

“I’ve had some students approach me and say they think we’re the afterthought here compared to the Shoals campus,” said Vandiver, an SGA representative. “I love my education at Northwest-Shoals, and I think it’s great. I wouldn’t trade this experience for anything. I just want to see this campus continue to be a part of the college.”

When asked whether he would be amenable to meeting with community leaders and the public to address their concerns about the future of NW-SCC, Lee did not directly commit.

“I speak with community leaders in Franklin County every opportunity I have,” Lee told the *Free Press*. “I am open to the concerns of our residents and community leaders.”

In an 2013 interview with the *Franklin Free Press*, Lee said there was a goal of returning baseball and softball to the college by 2016. His latest comments don’t create optimism for their return.

“The return of athletics has been a very popular conversation since they were suspended in 2011 due to budget cuts,” Lee said. “We have researched the financial possibility of bringing athletics back each year. However, the return of athletics does not seem financially feasible in the near future.”

For news updates throughout the week, go online to www.franklinfreepress.net!



Classifieds

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BUSINESS • LOST & FOUND • GARAGE SALES • PETS • APPLIANCES • HELP WANTED • SERVICES • APPLIANCES • CLOTHING • FURNITURE

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YARD SALES/ ESTATE SALES

Moving Sale this Friday & Saturday, Oct. 20-21 from 7 am-until at 1 Nola Drive. Rain or shine. Come see us.

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Fri./Sat. Oct. 20-21. 8 a.m. on Friday, 7 a.m. on Saturday. 4194 Duncan Creek Road. Follow the pink arrows. Christmas Items, lots of jewelry, furniture, clothing and lots more!

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Fri./Sat. Oct. 20/21. 8 a.m.-until. Turn at Chevron on Hwy. 43. Go up hill to American Self-Storage, Unit 178. Men's, women's, boys' and girls' clothing.

shoes, household items, Christmas, etc.

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Fri./Sat. Oct. 20/21. 8-4 Fri., 8-12 Sat. Franklin Estates Subdivision, south of Russellville. Lots of good buys! Come see us!!

Three-Family Yard Sale this Friday & Saturday, Oct. 20-21 from 7 am-2 pm at 1975 Underwood Road.

GIVEAWAYS

Free kittens. Five available. Please call 256-332-3908. (2)

HELP WANTED/ LOOKING TO BUY

Red Bay T.R.A.C.K.S. afterschool program is off to a great start this school year. Enrollment is up, and there are many exciting enrichment activities for students and their families to enjoy! Due to the increased

enrollment, Red Bay is in need of an increase in staff. Positions available include: Teacher, Certified Teacher Aide and Aide. If you are interested in one of these positions, you will need to fill out an employment packet and have a fingerprint/background check done (through the Franklin County Board of Education's approved sites). There is also a Mandatory Reporter (Erin's Law) training that must be completed online, with a certificate turned in along with your application. For more information or pay rates for these positions, contact Franklin County Community Education at 256-331-0005. (5)

HOUSES, APARTMENTS, REAL ESTATE, PROPERTY FOR RENT OR SALE

House for rent to own in Russellville. 149 Wedgewood Drive. \$2,000 down. \$550 a month. Call 256-412-8333.

House for sale in Colbert Heights. 2 BR, 1 BA. Lease to own. Call 256-263-8716. (4)

House For Sale. Includes 15 acres. 3 BR/3 BA. Highway 61 in Spruce Pine. Call 256-436-9758. Owner financing available. (5)

FURNITURE

For sale: Small, round kitchen table with 4

chairs. Decorator mirror - black and antique gold. Call 205-993-5961 or 256-577-5843. (5)

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1993 Bandit Wood/Brush Chipper, Model 90, Gas Engine. I have extra knives and the title. Call 256-332-3837.

For sale: Hunting clothes & boots, guns. Loading ramps. 2-hp outboard motor, new. Call 256-383-2058. (3)

Microwave cart. Brother printer with two new ink cartridges. Call 205-993-5961 or 256-577-5843. (5)

Franklin Free Press Classified Rates Yard Sale Rates: **FREE**, Deadline Monday at Noon; Real Estate-Homes, acreage, lots for sale or rent. \$25 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 40 words per ad; Vehicles, Boats, RVs, Motorcycles for sale. \$15 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Pets For Sale only \$10 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Free of Charge: Lost & Found, Giveaways, and Items Under \$100 (Private Parties Only). 15-word limit; Commercial Classified Rates: \$25 for

Businesses, 15 words or less for six weeks. Ads exceeding word limit add \$10 per additional 15 words. The number in parentheses represents the number of times the ad has appeared. Call us at 256-332-0255 to place, cancel or renew your ad. Payment is required in advance of publication for ads.

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AUCTIONS

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Tech Center classes prepare students to be workplace-ready

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

With 62 percent of Franklin County residents' educations concluding with high school graduation, it's more important than ever to arm our young people with job-ready skills tailored to the local market.

That's been the role of the Franklin County Career Technical Center for many years. And now, under the leadership of director Scott Wiginton, Tech Center classes are preparing students to be workplace-ready in addition to having the skills needed to land a job.

The simulated workplace program began last year as part of the curriculum for all eight career tech programs. The simulated workplace program is based on the West Virginia Simulated Workplace and includes 12 measurement areas that help students meet the needs of tomorrow's workforce.

The students learn business practices that provide them necessary skills sets, certifications and academics needed both to be successful citizens and successful employees. Instead of just attending a class, they show up to and participate in an actual business setting.

Workplace protocols including professionalism, attendance, punctuality and safety. Studies have shown that simulated workplace instruction not only enhances a student's career tech education but also creates a more engaged student.

Wiginton said the simulated workplace setting allows students the opportunity to become more directly involved in day-to-day learning.

"The kids take more of a role and the instructor more of a facilitator role," Wiginton said. "Students serve in job capacities including customer manager, quality control officer, safety officer, receptionist, payroll clerk and more. They call in if they are going to be absent or late, just as they would in an actual job. The human resources manager's job is to go check the phone daily

See 'CLASSES,' page 11



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI
Alyssa Murray clocks into Cabinet Making class as part of the Franklin County Career Tech Program simulated workplace.

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Asbestos Claims, LLC, Isabel L. Hamill Attorney at Law, ARPC7.2(6) No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

'INMATE,' from page 1

more information about rates and what type of cost savings there might be."

In other action, the commission:
 • Accepted the retirement of Ricky McAnally from the Franklin County Solid Waste Department, effectively December 1, 2017, and agreed to allow Solid Waste Manager Duncan Ward to hire a temporary employee.
 • Approved a contract with Mar-Jac for Franklin

County Sheriffs Department deputies to provide security at the company's two facilities at each deputy's specified overtime rate. Security will be provided 6 p.m.-6 a.m., seven days a week. There will be no cost to the county for these services.

• Authorized North Alabama Council of Local Governments to administer the grant for the Mar-Jac project in Spruce Pine.

Grand Opening



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Tractor Supply of Russellville held its grand opening Saturday, October 14. The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce was on hand for a ribbon cutting as Tractor Supply employees and representatives joined Chamber director Cassie Medley above. Tractor Supply is located in the Franklin Shopping Center.

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'CLASSES,' from page 10

and see who's not going to be there."

Wiginton said the program has worked so well he hopes to see it implemented in other classes outside of career tech.

"I'd like to see us develop into regular classrooms with this. In Enterprise, they have developed a pre-kindergarten program for simulated workplace," Wiginton said. "The idea is to instill in younger ages that there are responsibilities and consequences for failing to live up to those in the workplace."

In Andrea Sornberger's health science classes, students clock in daily before assuming their various workplace roles. Students submitted resumes and went through interviews for the jobs at the beginning of the school year.

"They enjoy having the responsibility for the work they do here," Sornberger said. "We want them to have

the leadership skills they need beyond their education. The students work well together and have also developed teamwork skills."

Students learn the importance of living up to their responsibilities whether it's in the role of a receptionist or an office manager.

"They understand that if they don't do the job they will be demoted to another position until they work their way back up," Sornberger said.

Sornberger believes the simulated workplace training will benefit her students when they begin clinicals at local hospitals and health care providers in the spring.

In Todd Johnson's cabinet making class, students start the day by swiping their time cards, followed by going to their locker to get their safety glasses and work shirt. To stress the importance of being on time, half of the students' grades come from daily attendance and partic-

ipation.

"They clock in and out at the end of class," Johnson said. "We have a payroll clerk who pulls all the data every two weeks and writes out [simulated] checks for everyone."

As director, Wiginton communicates with representatives of local industry regularly and the most frequent concern he hears about their work force is attendance.

"Kids need to walk out of here into G&G Steel, Southern Energy Homes, Tiffin Motor Homes, Pilgrim's or wherever they go and know their responsibilities," Wiginton said. "They need to know what FICA is, how to use a time clock, what role an HR manager plays and not wait until they have graduated and then have to learn. We want to get the training to them now so they can be completely focused on their jobs later."

Library set to host uplifting program

Ashley Cummins
For the FFP

The Russellville Public Library will host an event with folk artist and quilter Wanda Robertson and Christian author Vona Elkins on Tuesday, October 24 at 10:30 a.m.

About twenty years ago, Wanda Robertson attended a quilt show and was amazed at how quilting has changed since she helped her mother and grandmother quilt as a child. That show inspired her to begin quilting again, learning the new tools and techniques offered now. Since then, she has taught quilting classes at guild meetings, quilt shops and in her home. Her work has hung in many quilt shows, the Kennedy-Douglas Arts Center in Florence and the Alabama Governor's mansion. For several years, she taught quilting through the Continuing Education department at UNA.

In 2008, she received a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to teach traditional quilting. She has received five additional grants as a Master Quilter to continue this teaching. In April of 2015, she hosted "Common Threads," an Alabama Folklife Association event designed to bring the community together

through traditional arts.

This program will show a series of art quilts based on some favorite Bible verses, using nontraditional techniques. We hope it will challenge and inspire you.

Vona B. Elkins raised her family on a horse and cattle farm in Mount Hope, Alabama. Now living in nearby Moulton, she has been published in Southern Writers Best Short Fiction and Missions Mosaic. She writes for Christ to the World Ministries, a worldwide missions organization. She is a member of the Lawrence County Writers Guild and American Christian Fiction Writers.

Beneath Vona's gracious Southern exterior resides a surprising passion--for God and life, family and community, singing and Auburn football, and her new love of writing. Her delightful humor, gentleness and gift of hospitality draw people in, prompting her granddaughters to grant her the affectionate title of "The Friend-catcher."

We hope you will join us for this uplifting event!

Ashley Cummins, Director
Russellville Public Library
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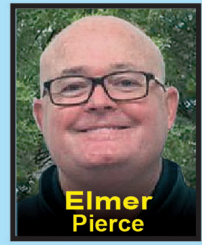
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Week 8 in the SEC

Mike Self
 Franklin Free Press

In case you hadn't noticed, college football is crazy. The insanity this past weekend started when reigning national champion and second-ranked Clemson had its 12-game road win streak and 11-game overall win streak stopped by 23-point underdog Syracuse, which pulled off a 27-24 stunner in the Carrier Dome. Later that night, No. 8 Washington State went from unbeaten to badly beaten in the blink of an eye, losing 37-3 on the road to 15-point underdog California.

The upset bug spread to Saturday, when No. 10 Auburn scored the first 20 points of the game and looked ready to run LSU out of Tiger Stadium before the much-maligned home team rallied to score the last 20 points of the game and grab a 27-23 win that could drastically alter the course of the season for both teams. Then, to cap off a wild weekend, unranked Arizona State (which had allowed 30-plus points in 11 straight games, the longest such streak in the nation) hosted an unbeaten Washington team averaging 43 points a game and—naturally—pitched a shutout for three-plus quarters before holding on for a shocking 13-7 win. The fifth-ranked Huskies became the fourth Top 10 team to lose in a span of 24 hours.

And we've still got seven weeks to go. Better buckle up. It could be a wild ride.

It was a rough week on the picks, but we'll try and do better.

Last week's record: 1-3

Season record: 19-9

Saturday, October 21

Kentucky (5-1, 2-1) at Miss. State (4-2, 1-2)

Kentucky is a late collapse against Florida away from being 6-0, and it's not outside the realm of possibility that the Wildcats could go into the Georgia game on November 18 with a chance to win the East for the first time ever. For now, though, winning in Starkville will be challenging enough.

The Pick: Mississippi State 24 Kentucky 21

Tennessee (3-3, 0-3) at Alabama (7-0, 4-0)

Some observers believe that Butch Jones' fate is already sealed. Even if it's not, a trip to Tuscaloosa won't do him any favors. Play-calling, clock management and personnel continue to be trouble spots for the UT offense. Meanwhile, a non-existent run defense must deal with an Alabama ground game averaging 6.5 yards a carry (fourth in the nation).

There hasn't been a shutout in this series since 1980, but you tell me how Tennessee is going to score on Saturday.

The Pick: Alabama 41 Tennessee 0

Auburn (5-2, 3-1) at Arkansas (2-4, 0-3)

Auburn is bound to come out flat following last week's collapse in Baton Rouge, but Arkansas

See 'SEC,' page 17

Hunger games

Last season's big breakthrough has Belgreen hungrier than ever to reach its ultimate dream

Mike Self
 Franklin Free Press

Just as they did a year ago, the Belgreen Bulldogs have the talent, depth, size and shooting to win a lot of games this season. Unlike last year, they now have two additional key ingredients that could help them take a significant step forward—the experience that only comes from playing in big games, and the extra motivation that only comes from losing them.

“Just the experience of being there

See 'HUNGER,' page 18



After tasting Hanceville last year, Bragwell (2), Hiser (10) and Scott (30) are eager to return.

'Historic' win has Wildcats in position to chase region title

Mike Self
 Franklin Free Press

Years from now, perhaps decades from now, a great many people from in and around the Colbert Heights community will claim to have been in attendance at Amos Mitchell Stadium on the night of Friday the 13th in October of 2017.

Most of them will be telling the truth.

Others simply won't be able to resist the urge to attach themselves, however loosely, to the historical significance of the Wildcats' first home win over rival Colbert County since 1980.

“I had some people tell me at church Sunday morning, ‘Hey, we weren't even at the game, but we drove up toward the end of the game.’” said second-year head coach Taylor Leathers, whose team sent shock waves throughout northwest Alabama with a start-to-finish 35-7 rout of the Indians. “They said people were telling them, ‘You're not gonna believe this, but Colbert Heights is beating Colbert County—convincingly.’ So there were people getting to the game late, people who didn't get there until after the game.”

The latecomers missed the most lopsided win—and just the fourth win, *period*—over Colbert County in Colbert Heights football history, but at least they arrived in time for the party.

A party 37 years in the making.

“I was told that the last time that Amos Mitchell Stadium grass had seen a win over Colbert County was 1980, which was Roger Moore's team,” said Leathers,



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Leathers became only the fourth head coach in Colbert Heights history to lead the Wildcats to a victory over Colbert County.

See 'WIN,' page 16

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Palmer spearheaded a strong performance by Russellville's offensive line in last Friday's loss to Brooks. The 5'9, 245-pound senior, who started at left guard last season before sliding over to center this year, graded out at a season-best 96 percent against the Lions, helping the Golden Tigers rush for 177 yards on 36 carries.

The play of Palmer and the entire O-line has helped revive a Russellville ground game that has put up 361 yards the last two weeks. The Golden Tigers visit East Limestone Friday.



Offensive line keys resurgent rushing attack for Russellville

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Two weeks ago against St. John Paul, a change in personnel helped Russellville revive a dormant rushing attack. Last week against Brooks, a change in scheme helped the running game keep rolling.

According to head coach Mark Heaton, though, a third factor has been the driving force behind the resurgent ground game—improved play from the offensive line.

"We've established a ground game over the last few weeks, and that's helped us," said Heaton, whose team rushed for 177 yards on 36 attempts in last Friday's 54-21 loss to the Lions. "One of the keys to that has been the fact that we're getting better up front. We're gelling a little. Our guys did a great job of getting a hat on a hat the other night. They've got a great idea of what they're doing now, and that's gonna help us down the stretch."

After rushing for a total of just 159 yards through the first five games of the season, the Golden Tigers (1-6, 1-4 in Class 5A, Region 8) have run for 361 yards on 67 carries in the last two games—an average of 5.4 yards per attempt. Senior Bernard Phinizee was the breakout back two weeks ago in Madison, rushing for 106 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries in a 42-21 win over St. John Paul. Last week it was senior back Robert Hamilton, who ran 21 times for a season-high 102 yards and two scores in the loss to Brooks.

"We've established a ground game over the last few weeks, and that's helped us," said Heaton, whose team rushed for 177 yards on 36 attempts in last Friday's 54-21 loss to the Lions. "One of the keys to that has been the fact that we're getting better up front. We're gelling a little. Our guys did a great job of getting a hat on a hat the other night. They've got a great idea of what they're doing now, and that's gonna help us down the stretch."

The addition of 6'2, 205-pound senior Jeff Lloyd (a starting defensive end) as a blocking fullback has given the ground game a jolt the last two weeks, and the implementation of a Wildcat set with Phinizee taking direct snaps from center did the same last Friday night. Phinizee broke loose for a 41-yard run out of the Wildcat formation on Russellville's second possession, a 13-play, 83-yard march that ended with Hamilton's one-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-goal and stands as the Golden Tigers' most impressive drive of the entire season to date.

Phinizee finished the night with 56 yards on nine carries and would undoubtedly have had more had he not exited the game for good in the second quarter with a stinger. Heaton said on Monday that Russellville fans can expect to see Phinizee—and the Wildcat—back and ready to roll for Friday night's critical region game at East Limestone.

"He's gonna be fine," Heaton said of Phinizee, who has rushed for 210 yards on 40 carries this season while also catching 14 passes for a team-best 202 yards and returning two kickoffs for touchdowns. "He'll be back at practice [Monday] afternoon, and we'll see how he does, but we're looking for him to be close to a hundred percent by Friday."

"We're gonna try and utilize [the Wildcat formation] as much as we can, just to help us have a little more success in the running game."

Freshman Luke Barnwell, a pure pocket passer, had taken every snap at quarterback this season before Heaton broke out the Wildcat for the first time last Friday, with Lloyd leading the way as an extra blocker and Phinizee taking the snaps and either keeping it himself or handing it to the fleet-footed Hamilton on a jet sweep.

"A lot of it was just what Brooks does defensively," Heaton said of his decision to incorporate the new approach. "They run that four-four defense, and we're trying to find ways to get guys out of the box so we can maximize our opportunities to have better numbers in the box. With a physical blocker like Jeff in there at fullback, we went with more twenty personnel, which is two backs and three receivers. But when you have a quarterback back there with the two backs, that's essentially three backs back there, and the defense puts an extra guy in the box."

"Having Bernard take those snaps takes the quarterback out of the mix, and that means the defense has one less guy in the box than they would normally have."

The formation was highly effective in the first half, due in no small part to another solid performance from an offensive line led by senior center John David Palmer, who graded out at 96 percent.

"We put a lot on his plate this week, and he played really well," Heaton said of Palmer, who was joined up front by junior left tackle Will Rushing, freshman left guard Edgar Amaya, junior right guard Ondre Armstead and senior right tackle John David Aycock. "We used him a lot pulling as the lead guy on kickouts, and he did a tremendous job."

Heaton said the Wildcat formation can continue to benefit the Golden Tigers against remaining opponents East Limestone, Ardmore and Colbert County, all of whom employ defensive schemes similar to that of Brooks.

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'LINE' from page 14

"The cool thing is, of the teams we play down the stretch, two out of the three—and sometimes even the third—play the same look," Heaton said. "The other part of it, too, is it allows us to use some of the weapons we have to help offset some of the runs Bernard would have by using Robert in some motion."

Phinizee and Hamilton have combined for seven touchdowns over the past two weeks—five more than Russellville had as an entire team through the first five games. The Golden Tigers totaled 647 yards on 102 offensive plays (6.3 yards per play) against St. John Paul and Brooks after putting up just 782 yards on 255 plays (3.1 yards per play) in the first five games combined.

Russellville will look to keep that offensive success rolling Friday against East Limestone (4-3, 3-2), which has allowed a total of just 13 points the last two weeks in wins over Lawrence County and St. John Paul.

"They're a good football team," Heaton said. "They're well coached, and they do a good job with what they do. They're very similar defensively to Brooks scheme-wise, with different personnel. They're stronger in some areas."

Barnwell made some impressive throws last week in

the first half and finished the night with 124 yards on 10-for-19 passing. He threw a touchdown pass to senior receiver Calen Bragwell, who caught three passes for 36 yards. Hamilton added four catches for 45 yards, and Phinizee gained 25 yards on a screen pass on the play where he suffered the stinger injury.

"Offensively," Heaton said, "we have to capitalize on every opportunity we get right now."

For the season, Barnwell has completed 60 percent (106-of-177) of his attempts for 909 yards and six touchdowns with eight interceptions. Hamilton has a team-high 28 catches for 181 yards and two touchdowns, and senior Logan Jones has caught 12 passes for 156 yards and a score. Freshman wideout Rowe Gallagher has 15 catches for 108 yards and a touchdown, and Bragwell has caught 11 passes for 101 yards.

On the other side of the ball, a Russellville defense allowing an average of 305.9 rushing yards per game and 6.7 yards per carry will be tested by a ground-centered East Limestone attack.

"Offensively, they're very multiple, but they want to

line up and run the football," Heaton said. "They will get into some three- and four-receiver sets and try to throw it at times, but I expect we'll see them line up and run the football at us."

Last week's loss likely means the Golden Tigers will miss the playoffs for just the second time in the past 18 seasons, but they could remain mathematically alive by knocking off the Indians on the road Friday night.

"There's still a lot of wild scenarios out there," Heaton said, "but, again, we've gotta take care of ourselves. That starts with winning Friday. It's a tough place to play. We know that; we've been over there before. We've gotta cut down on the simple mistakes we're making that are hurting us. We can't give people the ball and give them extra possessions. We have to protect the football, and we have to become a better tackling team. Wrapping up and tackling, we did not do a good job of that Friday."

"Offensively, we have to capitalize on every opportunity we get right now."

Russellville is 7-2 versus East Limestone over the past nine years, but the Indians have won the last two meetings in Athens, including a 21-14 win over the Golden Tigers in Heaton's first season in 2014.

Red Bay rally falls short in tight loss to Sheffield Tigers' 18-year playoff streak ends

Staff reports

Red Bay rallied from a 15-point first-half deficit to pull even with Sheffield late in the fourth quarter last Friday, but a 56-yard touchdown run by tailback Ced Carroll—his fourth of the night—gave the Bulldogs a 35-28 win at Fred Bostick Memorial Stadium.

The loss ended any hopes for Red Bay (3-4, 1-3 in Class 2A, Region 8) to extend its streak of consecutive playoff appearances to 19. The Tigers will miss the postseason for the first time since 1998.

Senior tailback Aaron Lewey matched Carroll with four rushing touchdowns on Friday, including a two-yarder in the final minute of the first half that cut Sheffield's lead to 21-12. Another two-yard touchdown run by Lewey late in the third quarter (plus a two-point conversion) brought Red Bay within one at 21-20, but Carroll responded with his own two-yard touchdown run at the 8:13 mark of the fourth quarter to make it 28-20.

Lewey scored from 36 yards out with 4:33 remaining, and the Tigers converted another two-point try to tie the game at 28-28. Just 16 seconds later, however,

Carroll's final touchdown run of the night gave the Bulldogs (3-5, 3-2) the lead for good.

Lewey posted his sixth straight 100-yard rushing effort, finishing with 117 on 22 carries. Senior Max Bullen added 47 yards on nine carries, and junior quarterback Kolby Bragwell threw for 99 yards on 9-for-18 passing with one interception. Senior receiver Luke Rooker caught five passes for 66 yards.

Freshman linebacker Cam McKinney led the Tigers defensively with a career-high 18 tackles. Bragwell added 10.

Red Bay will travel to face Region 8 co-leader Sulligent (6-1, 4-0) on Friday.

In other action last week:

Shoals Christian 60 Vina 58


The Red Devils erupted for 46 second-half points last Friday but fell just short of claiming their first win of 2017.

Vina (0-8, 0-4 in Class 1A, Region 8) trailed 26-12 at the half and fell behind by three touchdowns before exploding on offense. Jackson Landers led the Red Devils with 262 all-purpose yards (178 rushing, 60 passing, 24 receiving).

Blake Hardin ran for 102 yards and threw for 92 more, and Austin Harper added 115 yards from scrimmage (55 rushing, 60 receiving).

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'WIN', from page 13

who joined Moore, Shannon McGregory (1999) and Ivan Denton (2011) as the only coaches in program history to beat the Indians. "I'm a big history guy, so it was really neat to kind of savor that. Once the game ended, my phone never stopped getting texts. I was contacted after the game by over twenty-something people. I had to return calls from local area coaches, former coaches. Like I told our guys all week, this was a history-making game.

"We left the scoreboard lights on 'til two in the morning. It was awesome to see the looks on the fans' faces, the former players. There were guys coming up and telling me, 'I was on the 2011 team,' or 'I was on the 1980 team,' or the one in between. Only three teams at Colbert Heights had ever beaten Colbert County, and now we're number four. That'll never be forgotten."

Leathers had spent all week convincing his players—18 of whom are seniors, but none of whom had ever been part of a victory over Colbert County—that they could hang with the Indians, who had won the previous five meetings by a combined score of 190-25. But even he never imagined the Wildcats would win in such overwhelming fashion. He knew there were some significant mental and psychological hurdles standing between his team and history.

"We wanted to be competitive in the game," Leathers said on Sunday night. "I have a lot of confidence in this football team and in these players, but I knew how we responded last year when we played Colbert County [and lost 41-0 in Leighton]. We responded in a negative way.

"I felt that if we were mentally prepared, athletically we could play with them. If we were mentally prepared and focused and believed, we could keep it competitive, and then in the fourth quarter our conditioning would step in."

It seems safe to assume, then, that the game plan did not include any stipulations on how to handle playing with a three-touchdown lead in the first half.

"It did not," Leathers acknowledged with a laugh.

But that's exactly where the Wildcats (7-1, 4-1 in Class 3A, Region 8) found themselves after a near-perfect start. Colbert County (4-2, 3-2) went three-and-out

on its opening possession ["That was huge, just a huge way to start the football game," Leathers said], and then Colbert Heights' first drive ended in a punt as well. On the second play of the Indians' second drive, Wildcat senior linebacker Brendan Borden picked off a pass and returned it deep into Colbert County territory.

"That first turnover was what really got the momentum flowing in our direction," Leathers said. "Our defense was phenomenal. Coach Robinson [Lonnie, the team's defensive coordinator] did a great job on the game plan, and our players were committed to doing their job every play. We didn't have anybody out there freelancing and doing their own thing. Our guys were bought in to doing what they were coached to do, and that made a huge difference for us."

"We left the scoreboard lights on 'til two in the morning," Leathers said. "It was awesome to see the looks on the fans' faces, the former players. There were guys coming up and telling me, 'I was on the 2011 team,' or 'I was on the 1980 team,' or the one in between [1999]. Only three teams at Colbert Heights had ever beaten Colbert County, and now we're number four. That'll never be forgotten."

Borden's early interception set up a short touchdown run by Braden McCaig that put Colbert Heights on top 6-0. Coming into the game, Leathers firmly believed that his team needed to steal a possession or two from the Indians in order to pull the upset; with the Wildcats out to an early lead, he wasn't about to back down.

"In order to win big games," he said on Sunday, "you've gotta take chances."

He called for a surprise onside kick, and the Wildcats recovered the loose football around midfield. With the home sideline—and the home crowd—going nuts, Leathers could feel his players' confidence starting to swell.

"The momentum was so high on our sideline," he said. "I could see the look in our players' eyes, and I thought to myself, 'Yes, we're definitely ready to do this thing.'"

A few plays after the onside recovery, senior quarterback Kevin Shaw found tight end Evan Norton in the end zone for a 36-yard scoring strike. The Wildcats then ran a trick play on the try for two, and freshman Carson Shaw hooked up with senior Devin Holt on a double-pass to give the home team a stunning 14-0 lead.

On Sunday night, Leathers reflected on his decision to roll the dice with the early onside kick.

"It was definitely an in-game call," he said. "To me, it felt like the right call at the right time. We already had the momentum from the three-and-out and the interception. The whole first half, it felt like the momentum was on our side."

The early onslaught continued later in the first half on a third-and-one play from the Colbert Heights 30 when senior fullback Dylan Chandler broke loose for a 70-yard touchdown run, his team-leading 13th of the season. The Indians answered with a score just before half-time, and the Wildcats took a 21-7 lead into the locker room.

Leathers was pleased, obviously, but still very wary of Colbert County's quick-strike ability [which was undoubtedly lessened by the absence of dynamic senior tailback Kobi McCoy, serving the second game of an indefinite suspension for an unspecified violation of team rules].

"I knew they were two plays away from tying the game, even though everything had gone our way up until that point," Leathers said. "It's a 48-minute game, and we reminded our guys to take it one play at a time. We came out in the second half just as focused as we were to start the game, because we knew they were two plays away.

"Our defense played lights-out in the second half."

The Wildcats went three-and-out to open the third quarter, but the D rose to the occasion again when Kevin Shaw picked off a pass from his safety position and ran it back 38 yards to the Colbert County 12. Chandler scored his second rushing touchdown of the night a couple of plays later to make it 28-7 with 7:50 remaining in the third.

See 'WIN,' page 17

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'WIN' from page 16

"The two interceptions were huge," Leathers said, "and the two returns were huge. Brendan and Kevin both put us in really good position to score."

Trailing by three touchdowns and running out of time, the Indians went for it on fourth-and-four from the Wildcat 36 on their next possession. Senior defensive end Bud Pratt, who led Colbert Heights with eight tackles on the night, dropped the ball-carrier in the backfield to end the drive.

"The momentum was through the roof on our sideline at that point," Leathers said. "That was a huge play. We knew Colbert County was talented enough to turn the game around at any moment."

Instead, things continued to go the Wildcats' way—even when they didn't. A second-half drive by Colbert Heights stalled out after eight plays, and Colbert County blocked the ensuing punt. The ball bounced directly to Borden, who proceeded to pick up the first down and extend the drive. It lasted nine more plays and ended with a touchdown run by Carson Shaw that made it 35-7 and put the icing on the cake—one that tasted especially sweet after such a long wait.

"It's a huge win for our program," Leathers said. "We want to establish a consistent, competitive program, and in order to do that you've gotta win the big games like this. This was a signature win for our program, a head-turner for Colbert Heights football. We've been on the losing end a lot [against Colbert County], so to be able to win that game in the fashion we won it was big for us."

"We dominated the game, and that's a tribute to our players, of course, as well as our coaches for putting in the time it took to get where we needed to be."

Regardless of what happens going forward, Leathers' second season on The Mountain has been a truly remarkable one. In starting 7-1 for the first time since 2010, the Wildcats have snapped six-year losing streaks against Red Bay and Sheffield and five-year skids against Lexington and Colbert County. As of last Friday night, they've also ended a five-year playoff drought. But the spanking of the Indians opens the door to even greater possibilities.

"I told the guys going into the game that they had an opportunity to make history," Leathers said. "But our goals for the season are much bigger than this one game."

Those goals can now legitimately include a region title, which the Wildcats haven't won since 1999. Up next is another critical showdown with reigning region champion Lauderdale County, which improved to 5-0 in region play (and 5-2 overall) with last Friday's 63-12 rout of Elkmont. Lauderdale County has won its last



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Senior fullback Dylan Chandler (21) has run for 14 touchdowns in eight games, including this one (above) against Sheffield on September 30 and two more in last week's 35-7 rout of Colbert County.

three meetings with Colbert Heights, including a 37-14 win last season.

On the one hand, Leathers realizes how difficult it will be for his team to summon the same emotional fervor they played with last week; the Wildcats are bound to come down off the mountain, both literally and figuratively [Friday's game is in Rogersville]. On the other hand...

"You look at the confidence factor and think, man, we just played our best football game, hands down, in all three phases," Leathers said. "On offense, defense and special teams, the effort was the best we've played with all year. The way we carried ourselves was great. It was awesome, but it's in the past now. We've gotta get focused on Lauderdale County."

"There's a ton on the line. There's a potential region championship on the line, the possibility of a home playoff game on the line. I think the kids understand the magnitude of this one."

'SEC' from page 13

appears to be in no position to take advantage. The Tigers, who are yet to score a second-half touchdown in October, must win out from now through Thanksgiving if they hope to keep the SEC West race interesting going into the Iron Bowl.

Jarrett Stidham has played his best football (as most quarterbacks do) when he's not facing a dynamic pass rush, and Arkansas is tied for last in the SEC in sacks with just 10. That bodes well for a bounceback game for Stidham, who struggled mightily in the second half at LSU.

The Pick: Auburn 30 Arkansas 14
LSU (5-2, 2-1) at Ole Miss (3-3, 1-2)

This game looks a lot more interesting after last week, doesn't it? The Rebels' porous run defense allowed Ralph Webb to have a breakout game last week. Is Derrius Guice next?

Ole Miss has a significant edge at quarterback and home-field advantage, but LSU is starting to gain steam and certainly has much more to play for.

The Pick: LSU 31 Ole Miss 27

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'HUNGER' from page 13

and tasting that success—that in itself will be huge for our guys,” said second-year head coach Clint Isbell, whose team lost 87-73 to eventual state finalist South Lamar in the Class 1A Northwest Regional semifinals in Hanceville this past February and finished the season 22-9. “Of course we wanted to go further, but losing in that first game—especially losing the way we did, having a lead and then losing it and then trying to battle back—gives our guys the motivation to get back and experience that again and redeem themselves.

“As soon as that game was over, they were ready for the next season. You could tell that by the way they worked this offseason.”

The Bulldogs must replace a handful of key contributors (including athletic wing and Coastal Alabama signee Adam Green) from last year’s team, but their six returning players include four starters and their top three scorers—6’5 junior post player Mason Bragwell (16.1 points per game last season), 5’9 junior sharpshooter Brant Bragwell (10.6 points per game) and 6’1 senior point guard Jacob Mayberry (9.2 points per game).

Belgreen, which opened preseason practice on Monday, also brings back versatile 6’0 forward Payton Scott and fellow seniors Seth Taylor and Eli Hiser, both of whom played major minutes as reserve guards a year ago.

“I pretty much look at that as six starters right there,” said Isbell, who led the Bulldogs to both county and area championships in his first season as head coach. “Eli and Seth have as much experience as any other starter as well. All of those guys did a good job working this summer, getting bigger and stronger and working on their skills.”

A bigger and better version of Belgreen’s Big Three is a tantalizing thought. Mason Bragwell was the most efficient offensive player in the county as a sophomore, shooting 58 percent from the field (including 62 percent from inside the arc) and 77 percent from the foul line (94-for-122). His size and skill in the post can alter an opponent’s defensive game plan, and he’s more than capable of stepping out and knocking down perimeter shots [he made 14 threes last season]. Bragwell scored in double-figures in each of the Bulldogs’ final 29 games, topping the 20-point mark eight times, and also led the team in rebounds (6.8 per game) and blocked shots (39).

Mayberry, meanwhile, enjoyed a standout summer following a junior season in which he led Belgreen in assists (4.2 per game) and steals (54 total) while serving as the engine for Isbell’s free-flowing, up-tempo attack. Mayberry came on late as a scorer, too, averaging 15.5 points in four postseason games. His dribble-drive, mid-

range game is a perfect complement to the perimeter shooting provided by his back-court mate Brant Bragwell, who shot 34 percent from beyond the arc and made 51 threes last season while topping the 20-point mark four times. Bragwell shot 74 percent (53-for-72) from the foul line and ranked second on the team (behind Mayberry) in both assists (47) and steals (48).

“We’re very lucky as a team to have really good guards and post guys who can play in and out,” Isbell said. “It sets us up good for the way we like to play, spreading it out and using our quickness and things like that. I’m never opposed to one of our post players grabbing a rebound and pushing the ball up the floor. We’re lucky to have guys who can do that.

“What we need from those three guys is to come in and be leaders. They were our top three scorers last year, and we expect them to score again this year as well as get the guys around them involved and lead them by example. All six of the guys we have back can come in and lead, especially those three. They can really help in that area, just by guiding the guys around them and bringing them together to play as one.”

“These guys are very hungry,” Isbell said. “We’ve talked about our goals for this year, and a lot of that includes the things we accomplished last year. We’ve also got some higher goals set. Our main goal is to ultimately be a championship program, and to be willing to do whatever it takes to get there. We’ll try to work hard and grind every day to get to that point. All the guys are hungry for that. We’ll just take it day by day, try to out-work everybody we can and see where it takes us.”

Last year’s team got an A-plus in chemistry, but that’s an intangible quality that can change from one year to the next—especially with six old players gone and five new ones joining the fray. Junior Gaven Taylor and seniors Ashlee Britton and Caleb Pinkard are back for their first full season of varsity action after moving up from the B-Team last February. Seniors Jake Taylor (Seth’s twin) and Mason Donahoe are also back in the fold this season after not suiting up a year ago.

“Those B-Team guys who moved up at the end of the year got a little bit of experience at the varsity level,” Isbell said. “And then we have two guys who didn’t play last year but have played in the past. Those two guys [Donahoe and Jake Taylor] are gonna bring some physicality to the team that maybe we haven’t had in the past. They’re guys who get in there and get on the floor and dive for loose balls and just play physical. They have a different mentality, and hopefully that’s gonna rub off on everybody else.”

This year’s eight-member senior class also includes Scott, who averaged 3.7 points per game last season and provided a major spark defensively—particularly when the Bulldogs went to their frenetic full-court pressure. Seth Taylor supplied timely production off the bench, knocking down 19 threes at a 35-percent clip and also shooting 75 percent (30-for-40) from the foul line while averaging 4.1 points per game.

Hiser is an athletic combo guard who can score (3.4 points per game off the bench last season), shoot (10 threes made) and handle the ball.

“Eli and Seth, who were pretty much two of our main bench players last year, came in and did a really good job for us,” Isbell said. “We’re expecting a lot of big things from them this year. They worked really hard this summer, and they both improved their game tremendously. That gives us six guys with a lot of experience.”

Isbell believes that added experience will be instrumental in helping the Bulldogs build off last year’s breakthrough.

“I feel like this year’s team has another year under their belt,” he said. “Just being a year older, being seniors, having been to Hanceville—which was an experience we had never had before—and being more mature will make a difference. Also, this team can be more physical than last year’s team underneath the goal, on the boards and stuff.

“We’re still gonna play quick. We still wanna be able to run guys in and out and play that fast-tempo game. That’s what we wanna do. But being more physical than last year and having more experience is gonna be huge.”

In an effort to better prepare his team for a potential postseason run, Isbell has beefed up the Bulldogs’ schedule with the addition of larger-school opponents like Carbon Hill, Fayette County, Colbert County and Sheffield.

“We’re trying to prepare ourselves to play at that high level,” said Isbell, whose team will also compete in the *TimesDaily* Classic in December. “The games we’ve added this year will benefit us greatly.”

The tougher schedule should help keep the Bulldogs focused and motivated throughout the regular season (which opens November 17 at home against Red Bay), but Isbell doesn’t anticipate that being an issue.

“These guys are very hungry,” he said. “We’ve talked about our goals for this year, and a lot of that includes the things we accomplished last year. We’ve also got some higher goals set.

“Our main goal is to ultimately be a championship program, and to be willing to do whatever it takes to get there. We’ll try to work hard and grind every day to get to that point. All the guys are hungry for that. We’ll just take it day by day, try to out-work everybody we can and see where it takes us.”



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Congratulations to Week 7 winner MARTY W. HARGETT, SR., who correctly picked 9 out of 10 games and also picked LSU to beat Auburn 27-24!

Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 8: October 21

Brady's Pick

Your Pick

Tennessee at Alabama

Alabama

Kentucky at Mississippi St.

Mississippi St.

Auburn at Arkansas

Auburn

LSU at Ole Miss

LSU

Louisville at Florida State

Louisville

Oregon at UCLA

UCLA

Michigan at Penn State

Penn State

USC at Notre Dame

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