

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!



PRSR STD US POSTAGE
PAID Franklin Free Press
113 Washington Ave. NW
Russellville, AL 35663

FranklinFreePress.net

12.27.17

AT&T debuts fixed wireless internet in Franklin County

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D-Red Bay) stood below the first AT&T cell tower to provide broadband wireless internet to Franklin County residents, he took time to reflect as he gazed at the traffic traveling on the new four-lane Alabama 24.

"Seeing this tower and those trucks passing through on our four-lane highway, those are the two projects I've worked on more than any other since I've been in the legislature," Morrow said. "I thank AT&T for what they've done in the past and for why



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Officials gather at the base of the first AT&T cell tower connected to fiber, enabling users within a range of three to five miles to have wireless broadband internet. The tower is located in eastern Franklin County near Macedonia Baptist Church on County Road 724.

See 'INTERNET,' Page 9

Proposed cancer center could be game-changer for local residents

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D-Red Bay) believes that what's good for Birmingham, Huntsville and Alabama's major metropolitan areas is also good for Franklin County and the Shoals.

That's why Morrow is actively supporting a proposed cancer center that would be a joint project between the future North Alabama Medical Center and the University of Alabama Birmingham health care system.

"Franklin County folks shouldn't have to go to Huntsville or Birmingham for their cancer treatment," Morrow said. "That's why this project is so important."

The location of the cancer center would be adjacent to the new hospital that is being constructed in Florence,

along Veterans Drive just north of the Patton Island Bridge.

"Franklin County folks shouldn't have to go to Huntsville or Birmingham for their cancer treatment," Morrow said. "That's why this project is so important."

Northwest Alabama Cancer Care LLC applied to the State of Alabama Certificate of Need Board seeking permission to build a 19,000-square-foot facility. The application describes a "comprehensive cancer treatment facility that would expand ECM Hospital's current treatment services, while adding the latest technology and resources from the UAB Health System."

The proposed center has met with opposition from

See 'CENTER,' Page 9

Have an opinion?
Story idea?
Let us know!
We're All Ears!
256.332.0255

KIEFER REA
REALTOR
COLDWELL BANKER
TENNESSEE VALLEY REALTY
256.627.0109

Taking care of your family's dental needs
Brett M. Bowen, DDS
Bowen Family Dentistry
243 Underwood Road • Russellville 256.332.4000

BURNS NURSING & REHAB
PRIVATE REHAB ROOMS
Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy
Long-Term Care
(256)332-4110 • 701 Monroe St • Russellville

Call Our Daddy Today!
SOUTHERN COMFORT SERVICES
HEAT & COOLING
Brennen Shore's
256.394.4662

EXTENDED FLOOR LAMP & SHADE SALE
\$299.95 SALE \$139.95 Choice of Shades
Southern Shades and Lighting
3703 Florence Blvd • 256-767-0045

ALABAMA GUN & PAWN
Title & Cash LOANS
15347 Hwy 43 • Rsvl
(256) 332-1108
Cash Spot
Title & Payday LOANS
310 Jackson Ave N Downtown Russellville
(256) 332-3220

MedExpress Littleville
1369 George Wallace Hwy
Littleville, AL
256.331.9700

Russell Bien, CRNP
Nurse Practitioner
SHOALS PRIMARY CARE
Offering general medical care services for the entire family
340 Cox Blvd • Sheffield, AL
256.383.4473 Ext. 2021

FAMILY Pharmacy GROUP
BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama
Family Pharmacy of Littleville
Accepting Tricare and BCBS
1369 George Wallace Hwy
256.332.4021
familypharmacygroup.com

***Sale good December 27
through January 2***



MARTY'S MEAT MARKET

This Week's

Specials

Fresh Lean
Ground Beef
\$1.99 lb.
fam. pack

Qtr Loin
Pork Chops
\$1.49 lb.

Value
Chicken Fingers
\$12.99
5-lb. bag

Boneless
New York Strip Steaks
\$5.99 lb.

Boneless Skinless
Chicken Breast
\$1.99 lb.

Smoked
Hog Jowl
\$1.59 lb.

Boneless Beef Chuck Roast \$3.99 lb.

Center Cut Pork Chops
\$1.99 lb.

Country Pleasin' Smo. Sausage \$3.99 pkg

Blackeye Peas or Purple Hull
\$3.99 / 2-lb. bag



Cut Fresh Daily!

**Open Jan. 1st!
Happy New Year!**



256-331-9285 • 85 Scotty Moore Dr
Mon.-Sat. 8 to 6 and Sunday 10-6

LOCAL • PERSONAL • CARING



Monuments are Designed & Lettered in our local shop.
On-site Engraving & Sandblasting
Franklin County's Home Owned and Operated Monument Dealer!

Grant & Beverly Atkins
403 East Lawrence Street
Russellville, Alabama

"In Memory of our loved ones..."

*brought to you by Atkins Marble and Granite Works
and Franklin Memory Gardens*

Rickey Phillip Dill, Hackleburg, age 57
Died Tuesday, December 19, 2017. Graveside service held at Liberty Hill Cemetery.

Wilmer Gene "Ham Bone" Duncan, Russellville, age 78
Died Thursday, December 21, 2017. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Blue Springs Cemetery in Phil Campbell.

Johnny W. Wood, Russellville, age 71
Died Tuesday, December 19, 2017. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net!

Almirol INTERNAL MEDICINE



John R. Almirol, M.D.

**Appointments may be made
by calling 256.331.1900**

Mon-Thur: 8:30-5:00

Friday: 8:30-12:00

Se habla Español

**15225 Highway 43, Suite G
Russellville, Alabama**

FOR SALE



Convertible For Two.

Clean, 20,000 miles, Air conditioning,
cruise, automatic.

\$6,500

33 City/42 Highway
rated at fuelconomy.gov



Call 256.332.0255 Today!

Corn vending machine the first of its kind in Alabama

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Count this among the inventions you may never have heard of: A corn machine that vends shelled corn opened last week in Franklin County.

The machine, manufactured by a Guin company called Maize Kraize, LLC, is owned and operated by Franklin County farmer Thomas Murray. A ribbon cutting for the corn machine was held last Wednesday.

The machine is located on Highway 24 East, at the intersection of 24 and Hwy. 77, three miles east of Russellville.

Maize Craize, LLC, was founded in 2016 by Jason Spiller and Ben Burleson. The company's goal is to provide customers the ability to sell several products directly without the need to package them.

According to the company's web site, www.maizekraize.com, the machine allows farmers the opportunity to automate their existing equipment to sell directly to consumers from their home, farm or other locations.

The automated grain vending market is not limited to corn, according to the company. The machine can be adapted to sell cattle pellets, seeds or any type of grain, Spiller said. Farmers deal directly with the company, from sales to installation to tech support.

Murray's machine is the first to enter operations in Alabama. Murray, a board member of the Alabama Farmers Federation, sold the first bag of corn to Sen. Gerald Dial (R-Lineville), who was instrumental in getting the machine approved in Alabama. According to Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D-Red Bay), Dial asked to be allowed to purchase the first corn from the very first legal corn machine in Alabama.

"In Alabama, we can do anything, and this is history today," Sen. Gerald Dial said. "It's the first time we've seen an operation like this, and it's great to see in Alabama and here in Franklin County."

"We thank Senator Dial for his help in this project," Morrow said.

Dial recently announced his candidacy in 2018 for Alabama Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Industries. He will not seek reelection for his senate seat.



COURTESY PHOTO

CORN KRAIZE - A ribbon cutting was held last Wednesday for the Maize Kraize corn machine on Highway 24 at Co. Road 77.

The Maize Kraize machine is not a vending machine, but rather a weighing device that vends shelled corn. The machine is approved and tagged by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries to make sure of its accuracy when weighing product.

"We went ahead and got our license for scale certification to be sure what we're giving the customer is a legitimate, accurate machine," Burleson said.

Dial said he was proud to see such innovation in Alabama.

"Having a farmer sell his product should never be a problem in Alabama. I congratulate these guys for coming up with a system to do this," Dial said. "The weighing machine assures the customer who puts his money into it that he gets what he's supposed to out of it. In Alabama, we can do anything, and this is history today. It's the first time we've seen an operation like this, and it's great to see in Alabama and here in Franklin County."

Council commends locals for bringing *Toyland* to Roxy

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council said thanks for a job well done to two of the main contributors of this year's return of *Toyland* to the Roxy Theater.

Hillary Malone Hall and Chase Sparks received framed copies of resolutions commending them for their efforts in bringing the long-running production to Russellville, along with its creator Lanny McAlister.



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Chase Sparks and Hillary Malone Hall are pictured above with the Russellville City Council after receiving resolutions commending them for their efforts with the *Roxy's Legend of Toyland*. Hall and Sparks met with *Toyland* creator Lanny McAlister in January to discuss the possibility of doing a revised show that would fit the parameters of the Roxy Theater. The council recognized McAlister at its previous meeting.

Hall and Sparks met with McAlister in January to discuss the possibility of doing a revised show that would fit the parameters of the Roxy. One month later, they met with the Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council to discuss what it would take to do the show for a week.

The cast of *the Roxy's Legend of Toyland* performed 14 shows in five days for school children and the public last month.

At its previous meeting, the council presented McAlister with a resolution commending him for his dedication and commitment. McAlister rewrote his production to fit the confines of the Roxy Theater this year.

Over its multi-year run at Northwest-Shoals Community College and Gordon State College in Georgia, *Toyland* entertained more than a half million people. This year's *Toyland* run raised funds for the Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council, which operates and maintains the Roxy Theater.

The council also commended local car club, the Cotton Flats Cruisers, for its \$500 contribution to the Russellville Fire Department's Helping Santa Christmas toy drive.

In other action at last week's meeting, the council:

- Contracted with Cory Trapp, d/b/a Precision Turf and Sports Fields, to perform landscaping and maintenance work at the Hal Kirby, Jr. Park, John Blackwell Fields (a/k/a the Lee Sports Complex), Southside and Eastside Parks, Chucky Mullins and Tom Strange Field, to begin January 3, 2018. Trapp will be paid \$950 every other week for his services.

- Approved a quote of \$9,316 for roof repairs at the John Blackwell Sports Complex from Mid-America Roofing.

- Declared two vacancies for the maintenance/programmer position in the Russellville Parks and Recreation Department to be promoted from within the Classified Service.

- Accepted a letter of resignation from dispatcher Micah Hitt with the Russellville Police Department and declared a vacancy for the same position and authorized advertisement to solicit job applications.

- Approved an ordinance to rezone property owned by the Franklin County Water Service Authority on Hwy. 24 West near Franklin Animal Hospital from multi-family (R-3) to business general (B-2).

- Declared Tuesday, December 26 and Tuesday, January 2, city holidays.

The council will next meet on Wednesday, January 3, with work session at 12 p.m. and meeting to follow.

Honey Do: Cold can be costly

Sometimes this column may seem a little repetitive, but I try to focus on projects that are current and that will save you time or money (or both) right now. With the cold weather and winds we've had recently, dollars may be flying out of your hands through cracks and drafts in doors and windows.

There are a couple of simple tests you can do to see if your warm air (and hard-earned money) is slipping away. If you can see daylight around your door frame, there is outside air coming in. A good way to test this is to take a flashlight outside after dark and shine it on the door. If someone inside can see light, you have a draft. Another test is to take a dollar bill and close the door with the bill placed between the door and the frame. If you can pull the dollar out with very little resistance, you have a draft. Perform this test at several places around the door frame.

Drafts around doors are most easily and economically fixed with self-adhesive foam tape. This tape is available in several widths and thicknesses, so pay attention to the width of the area you will be sticking it to and also the thickness of the drafty gap you want to fill. If the tape is too thick, the door will be

hard to close.

Drafts at the bottom of doors can be stopped by replacing threshold inserts or installing door sweeps. If the door isn't used a lot, a quick fix is to roll up a towel and place it firmly against the bottom.



Doug Green

Windows that are single-pane and do not have storm windows installed should be insulated with a plastic storm window kit. Some current styles have tape that sticks to the window frame; then sheets of plastic stick to it. After installation, you can use a blow dryer to smooth out wrinkles. If panes are loose, replace the glazing or use weather-proof tape around the edges. Heavy curtains can be purchased rather inexpensively to help insulate windows.

Close off any rooms you are not using with curtains or quilts to save on heating expenses, and use energy-efficient space heaters to keep living areas warmer while turning down the central heat.

Remember, any time you are sealing off doors and windows, never block emergency escape routes. Stay warm, be energy-efficient and remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.

Ree Shannon's

Our House



Here Comes Christmas!
By Patty Moon Woodruff

Here we are once more! It's Christmas time again.

The world celebrates it now just as they did back then.

We've put up the "Christmas stuff" with a tree in every room!

There are lights in every window to brighten up the gloom.

There's the old Nativity set with Baby Jesus in the manger.

Shepherds are there with Wise Men coming to see the tiny stranger.

Children of every age—young and old, or in between, look at the manger stall in wonder at the things that they have seen.

The Hand of God has healed precious friends that they have known.

Strangers have sown seeds of kindness where weeds of grief were grown.

The whispers of the wind in the chilly winter air carry the sound of angel's wings. Can you hear their prayer?

They're asking for "Peace on Earth" and "Good Will to men."

Each year we remember when Baby Jesus comes to us again.

He's in our hearts, our minds, our souls all throughout the year, but so much more at Christmastime. All His wonder seems more clear.

So, come to us now, sweet Jesus—you precious, perfect Boy.

You glorify your Father—source of never-ending Joy.

Help us to do your Holy Will. Help us to seek your goals.

We welcome you into our hearts—even more into our souls.

Help us to share your Grace with everyone we meet—the rich, the poor, the helpless, the homeless strangers on the street.

You've given us so much Love and Grace, abundant and unending.

Help us to reach out our hands to the ones we should be "Friend-ing."

Give us Christmas Grace and Mercy. We can feel it in the air.

Help us to spend our lives spreading your blessings everywhere!

And, Lord, not just now at Christmastime, but with each day we live, help us to go and give and share—to be kind and to forgive.

We thank you, Lord, for every blessing. God, you have been so kind.

You "stooped" to our Humanity—took on a heart and soul and mind.

You sent us precious Jesus—your Holy Presence on this Earth.

Love Transcendent and Incarnate was sent here by human birth.

We thank you, Lord, We magnify you and praise your holy Name.

You gave us a Way to find You, and we'll never be the same.

Jesus Christ, our Savior, shared our Humanity with Grace.

You condescended to us, Father, giving Love a human face.

Thank you, Lord. Amen.

FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

113 WASHINGTON AVE. NW
RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35653
256-332-0255

The *Franklin Free Press* is published weekly by
Pilati Investments, Inc.

Our publication is mailed to our readers at no charge.

Publisher

John Pilati

Executive Editor

Mike Self

E-mail: franklinfreepress@yahoo.com

Sales Representatives

Linda Bumpers, John Pilati

Content Contributors

Mike Self, John Pilati, Brady Petree, Ree Shannon,
Doug Green, Rebecca Thomason, Sheryl Hamilton,
Ashley Cummins, Gail Motes

Graphic Design

Jason Hill

Correction Policy

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

Letters to the editor

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

Copyright Information

Published by Pilati Investments, Inc. Copyright 2016
All materials and content are copyrighted by the Publisher
This publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any method, without the express written permission of the Publisher.



CASH FOR CLUNKERS

Because of the popularity of this offer, we have extended it until **12/31/17!**

We'll pay you CASH for your old equipment!
Call now before this offer disappears!

Finalize your purchase before the offer expiration date and you can still have your new system installed after 12/31/17



FULLER

HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING • PLUMBING

AL HVAC CERT 91114

256.774.9019



DAVE SAYS

Financial Straight-Talk

www.davesays.org

by Dave Ramsey

The past can haunt you

Dear Dave,
My wife co-signed on a loan for an old boyfriend five or six years ago. Now, a collection agency is after her for the remaining \$5,000. We make about \$90,000 a year combined, and our attorney recommended we file Chapter 7 bankruptcy. The idea of filing bankruptcy scares me. Is there a better way to handle this?

Jeffery

Dear Jeffery,
Your attorney doesn't sound very bright. A bankruptcy stays on your record for years. It's just plain stupid to consider trashing your financial life over \$5,000.

This collector bought the loan for pennies on the dollar. It's an old debt, and that means there are very low expectations for collection. At the same time, your wife did co-sign for the loan.

If you have the money, and you can pay it off without hurting yourselves financially, do it. That's the right thing, both morally and legally. If you don't have that kind of cash on hand, try haggling with them. See if you can get them to agree to settle for \$2,500. Remember to get this agreement in writing before you send them a dime, and do not give them access to your bank account.

Chances are they'll threaten to sue and all that stuff, but my guess is you can work out something on an old loan like this. It may take a cou-

ple of weeks and a little patience, but that's a small price to pay if it saves you \$2,500.

Sorry, but you guys will have to pay something to make this go away. And I hope it teaches you both a valuable lesson—never co-sign on a loan!

Dave

Apps and stocks?

Dear Dave,
What do you think about online investing apps, and the way they allow you to jump in and out of stocks for really low fees?

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,
I don't think about them, and I don't use them. I don't play single stocks—period.

There's a ton of research out there showing that people who play individual stocks on their own—or with their broker, or with a golfing buddy—see a rate of return of about seven percent on average. You can make anywhere from 10 to 14 percent, on average, with good growth stock mutual funds.

I could probably play single stocks more intelligently than most people, but why? If the average is noticeably less than I'm seeing with my mutual funds, why bother going there? Plus, with a mutual fund portfolio, you've got someone who does this kind of thing for a living managing and researching your investments for you in your best interest.

I don't have an app on my phone that lets me trade stocks, nor do I plan on getting one. There's nothing wrong with apps in general, but I'll never recommend jumping in and out of single stocks as a method of investing.

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.*

REWARD YOURSELF...

GIFT CARDS Available

OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE

Angel Harris
Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495
Reiki Practitioner II

256.332.4220
Creative Image Salon
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

TIMMONS TREE SERVICE

Locally owned and operated by
Russellville Native Josh Timmons

**TREE TRIMMING
CROWN REDUCTION
REMOVAL
SHAPING
STUMP REMOVAL**

FREE ESTIMATES **(256) 627-7703**

Great Rates on Fall Tree Trimming!

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

Five money hacks to help you have a happy New Year

Courtesy of DaveRamsey.com

Do you ever feel like you're in a chronic cash crunch? That can put a real damper on your days, and take the hope and expectation out of a new year.

But if money tops your list of New Year's resolutions, you're in luck! Research shows you're on the road to success.

According to Fidelity Investments, 56 percent of people who resolved to improve their finances last year did just that. Better yet, 83 percent said last year's financial resolution is an ongoing event instead of a one-time goal.

Who knew change could be so exciting?

Put those resolutions into action—and get a leg

up on your happy New Year—with these five money hacks.

1. Use Cold, Hard Cash

Lots of folks choose plastic over cash for everyday purchases, and research shows that can lead you to spend more. Why? According to a *Journal of Experimental Psychology* study, parting with cash really is sweet sorrow. Plastic simply doesn't tug at your emotional strings in quite the same way.

So, put a little more pain back into your purchases. Use envelopes to divvy your dollars up across everyday budget categories. You might have one for groceries, restaurants, entertainment, clothing and pocket money.

On payday, fill your envelopes with the cash you

budgeted for each category. When an envelope's empty, the spending stops for that category until your next paycheck. It's that simple!

2. Give Impulse Buys a 30-day Notice

You went to the store for one thing and somehow ended up with a cart full of stuff. Sound familiar? If so, join the crowd. A recent study found five in six Americans are impulse shoppers.

We all know it pays to sleep on a big money decision overnight. But what about smaller purchases that crop up throughout the month? Why not add them to your wish list and wait 30 days? That gives you a chance to work them into next month's budget. And who knows? That can't-live-without item you had your eye on just might be on

NEW NOW LEASING

Village at Oliver Place NEW 2 & 3 Bedroom

Apartment & Townhomes
Water included starting at:

2 BR \$419 • 3 BR: \$493

205.993.5005 • Pike Avenue • Phil Campbell
TDD (Hearing impaired) 800.548.2546

Now
Offering
Move-In
Specials



Now Available!
FINANCING
For Home
Improvement
Projects!

Only
\$11,450
Installed
\$6,800
Carry Home

*Appliances not included
*Tax extra

Finance \$12,000
24 months
\$564/mo.
•
48 months
\$316/mo.

See Aldo!

Kitchens
Windows
Flooring
Doors
Pools
Roofing
Landscaping
Outdoor
Kitchens



All wood
Several finishes

Reasonable Rates!

Financing for
complete projects!
Apply online at...

256.332.8181
HWY 43, Littleville
Alabama

aandlbuildingmaterials.com



What's Happening

256.332.0255

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

Russellville Masonic Lodge 371 will be selling Boston Butts during Super Bowl weekend. Butts are \$30 and may be pre-ordered by calling 256-810-1970. Pick-up will be Saturday, February 3 from 8-10 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge on Coffee Street.

Hawkins Church on Railroad Avenue in Phil Campbell will hold a New Year's Eve service this Sunday, December 31, starting at 7 p.m. Bring a covered dish. Everyone is welcome! For more information, call 256-324-5288.

New Life Ministries Church will hold a special New Year's Eve service this Sunday, December 31 at 7 p.m. with the Grace Way singers, the Cooper family and other singers. Church is located five miles west of Russellville and four miles east of Belgreen on Hwy. 24. Everyone is welcome!

Kids and Kin dates for January through March in Franklin County are as follows and will be held at the Franklin County Baptist Association Building, 128 Guard Street NE, Russellville, AL: Thursday, January 11 at 5 p.m.—“Tips Relative Child Care Providers Can Use to Guide Children's Behavior,” Elysia Ergle, Southern Wellness; Thursday, January 25 at 5 p.m.—“Sensory Processing Disorder Signs in Infants and Toddlers,” Alisha Albright, Family Guidance Center of Alabama; Thursday, February 8 at 5 p.m.—“Teaching Children Tolerance,” Rebecca Richmond, Child Care Central; Thursday, February 22 at 5 p.m.—“Healthy Habits,” Alisha Albright, Family Guidance Center of Alabama; Thursday, March 8 at 5 p.m.—“Ready or Not, Here I Come,” Dee McNalley, UCP; Thursday, March 22 at 5 p.m.—“Ways Babies Learn When You Sing to Them,” Alisha Albright, Family Guidance Center of Alabama.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guests Danika and Jeb at the Roxy Theatre in downtown Russellville on Saturday, January 13 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.

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.

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.

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.

If you are interested in the study of the Civil War and have an ancestor who was in the Confederate Army, join the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month (except January and July) at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center. Next meeting will be February 1. The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, VA in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the period from 1861-1865 is preserved. Membership in the SCV is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate Armed Forces. Membership can be obtained through either direct or collateral family lines, and kinship to a veteran must be documented genealogically. Join us for the celebration of our heritage! The minimum age for membership is 12. Call 1-800-MYDIXIE or 256-324-2317.

Mountain Valley Hee Haw features live music every Friday and Saturday night. Show time is 6 p.m. Karaoke at 7 p.m. on Thursday nights. Free admission. No alcohol or drugs. From Russellville, take 243 to Hwy. 79, turn right, go 1/4 mile, third building on left. Call 256-332-5479 or 256-810-4840.

Kevin G. Kelly, M.D.

Serving your family for over 35 years

FAMILY PRACTICE
Pediatrics
Newborn Care
256-332-5901

Dr. Kelly's
Urgent Care
Bonnie Bendall, CRNP • Jena Hamm, CRNP • Ashley Ozborn, CRNP

New Saturday Hours 8am - 3pm
Two providers available M-F 8am - 6pm
Sunday hours: 1pm - 5pm

Available through lunch time!

WEIGHT LOSS SPECIAL

NEW weight loss patients get a FREE vitachrom shot!
ALL weight loss patients REFER A FRIEND and get a FREE Vitachrom shot!
NO LIMIT to the number of FREE shots you can earn!

13150 Hwy. 43 Suite 10
Russellville, AL
(intersection of Hwy. 24 and Hwy. 43)

256-331-2092

School board hears update on thriving CTE program

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Russellville City Schools Career Technology director Natalie Bendall gave the Russellville City Board of Education an update on a busy fall semester for the system's career and technical education program at the board's December 14 meeting.

"Career Technology has an impact not only on our students' future but on the community, too," Bendall said. "This is the bridge we need to build a work force that in time will build our city."

Bendall explained that the career and technical education program has a strategic plan similar to that of Russellville City Schools.

"We started doing a strategic plan with goals, like our system did," Bendall said. "I think we're going to see a lot of things change in our educational system in the next few years."

One of those goals is to encourage students to understand that a career in a technical field can be the foundation to a successful professional future.

"February is Career Technology Month and we'll have activities systemwide from kindergarten through twelfth grade at every school," Bendall said. "Our goal is to de-stigmatize some of the career tech programs we have for students. We want students to find out what they're passionate about and get them plugged into the right spot."

"We've said so much how you have to go to college to be successful, but there are many students who can be very successful and never attend col-

lege."

RCS superintendent of education Heath Grimes said that more than a third of high school students don't attend college and that it's vital to provide those students with the necessary training and skills to find some other professional trade.

Grimes is pleased with the growth of the career and technical education program, but the program is faced with a major roadblock now that it has grown.

"Career Technology has an impact not only on our students' future but on the community, too," Bendall said. "This is the bridge we need to build a work force that in time will build our city."

"We have a list of programs we'd like to offer, but we can not because we're so limited on space. That is definitely something we need to address," Grimes said. "We don't have a single space to put another teacher into or to expand this program at all."

Bendall told the board about some of the program's fall semester accomplishments, including:

- Receiving positive BIC reviews for Plant Systems (Ag), Engineering and Auto Tech.
- Participation in the North Alabama Works summit and cluster meetings to build relationships with business and industry and to listen to their needs.
- Starting an EMS program that now has 19 students.
- Organizing business/industry tours for students not planning to attend a university upon graduation.

tion.

•Participation in an Educational Attainment Focus Group at Calhoun Community College. This is part of a statewide effort to build a strategic plan that will make recommendations on how to increase educational attainment in Alabama.

Some of the needs Bendall said career technology has at Russellville City Schools include:

•Need for more space to effectively implement the hands-on, project-based learning that is needed for an impactful CTE program.

•Support to pursue innovative waivers to the State Department of Education that will allow career tech students to take courses where their passion is and that are aligned with their future.

•Support for business and industry credentials to continue to be awarded at the high school level.

In other action, the board:

•Approved Cory Trapp as an athletic consultant for the Russellville junior varsity and varsity baseball programs. Board member Greg Trapp abstained from this vote.

•Approved renewal of a one-year contract for school resource officer Donald Aycock.

•Approved facility use requests for West Elementary gymnasium on January 10 and 11, 2018, for a cheer clinic sponsored by the RHS cheerleaders, and on January 15 and 16 for the RHS Tigerettes to host a Tigerette clinic as a fundraiser.

•Approved a change in board meeting times from 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month to 8 a.m. on the same date.

Spirit of the season on full display in RCS system

In the midst of the holiday season that is full of such joy, generosity and good will, I can't help but think of how these things are on full display, not just during the holidays but year-round, in our community and in our schools.

For those of you who have been part of this community for many years, the level of generosity and community spirit present in the city of Russellville might seem like the norm. But as someone who isn't from here and has had the unique opportunity to see this community camaraderie from the outside looking in, let me just say that we are truly blessed at RCS, because not every school has such a great support system the way we do.

Just during the last few months, I have been truly amazed at the many different forms of support our students, faculty and schools have received. We have wonderful parental involvement in this system, and I truly believe this is a major factor in student success and high teacher morale. It is encouraging as an educator to know the parents of your students are involved in this process and care about what is happening inside the classroom.

But our parents have gone beyond this and have also shown their appreciation and encouragement through special events and direct

teacher support, and that has been a great thing to see. I believe our educators are some of the very best in the state, and it is encouraging to me to see this community appreciating that fact. They work so hard day in and day out for their students, and I am thankful there are many parents and community members who recognize this and choose to show their appreciation in such thoughtful ways.

I have also been thankful for the generous support I've seen this past fall of our students and the many activities and events they are involved in. Our student-athletes who participated in fall sports worked very hard this year and showcased their talent, determination, hard work and strong character. Our fine arts students also showcased the high caliber of talent we have here at RCS through their amazing performances, and our elementary students wowed the community with several public performances for special events.

Throughout all of these events, we had great support and participation from our community. I very much appreciate this support of our students and the hard work and effort they put forth in the



Heath Grimes
RCS Sup't

events and activities they have, not to mention all the community support that makes all of our various student fundraisers successful each year.

This community has been so very good to the Russellville City School System, and I just want each of you to know that your generosity and continued support does not go unnoticed. In fact, it is vital to the success of our system!

In this season of giving and thankfulness, I wanted to make sure to express my appreciation and thank you for being great community partners and continuing to invest in our city's future by investing in our students!

There is so much more taking place within our system, and we would love for each of you to know about our events, activities and successes, so that you can be part of those things, too. If you want to keep up with what's going on at RCS on a daily basis, make sure to follow our district Twitter (@RussellvilleK12) and Facebook accounts as well as the Twitter (@Russellville_HS, @RussellvilleMS, @ResElem, @Westatrcs) and Facebook accounts for each of our four schools.

As always, it's GREAT to be a Golden Tiger!

Heath Grimes
Superintendent
Russellville City Schools

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!



FRANKLINFREEPRESS.NET



RUSSELLVILLE DRUGS

FREE Local Delivery!

**Welcome
CVS Pharmacy
Customers!**

**We are a 
Blue Cross-Blue Shield
Preferred Pharmacy!**

**(256)331-1919
14001 Hwy 43, Ste 13
Franklin Shopping Ctr**

Welcoming Patients
JEFFREY CHENYI, M.D.

**Dr. Chenyi is board certified
by the American Board of
Family Medicine and
specializes in comprehensive
care for the entire family
including child, adolescent
and adult healthcare.**



CHENYI
Family Medicine

15225 Highway 43 • Suite I
Russellville, Alabama

256-331-2700



Franklin write-in votes tallied for Senate race

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

With overseas, provisional and write-in ballots now counted in Alabama, the result remains the same from the December 12 Senate election. Doug Jones maintained a lead of more than 20,000 votes.

According to Alabama secretary of state John Merrill, who received one write-in vote in Franklin County, there were 366 overseas ballots returned, 4,967 provisional ballots received and 2,888 of those verified.

As far as write-in votes, each of Alabama's 67 counties turned in those results as well on December 19. The final election results are expected to be certified between December 26 and January 3.

Franklin County probate judge Barry Moore's office released the write-in results from Franklin County voters. Forty-eight write-in votes were counted and surprisingly, Nick Saban, was way down the list.

Current senator Luther Strange garnered the most write-in votes in Franklin County, with 15.

Lee Busby, who worked an active write-in campaign for the Senate seat, received 10 votes. Sen. Trip Pittman received four votes, Libertarian candidate Ron Bishop three votes and former state senator Roger Bedford two votes.

Saban and Merrill joined a list of 12 others who received one vote each in Franklin County. They included: Billy Joe Mitchell, Charles Barkley, Gregory Williams, James Webb, Kyle Taylor, Meredith Wood, Michael Bishop, Rep. Mo Brooks, special counsel Robert Mueller, former Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville and Star Wars villain Sheev Palpatine. One vote was cast for "blank."

After the counting of military, provisional and write-in ballots, Jones' margin of victory remained more than 0.5 percent, so no automatic recount was triggered under Alabama state law.

'MONEY' from page 5

sale by then.

3. Ignore Interest Rates when Paying Down Debt

Want to put a big dent in your debt this year? You might be tempted to grab debt by the jugular and attack the biggest interest rate first. But it takes more than math to win. According to Fidelity, the number one reason people stick to a money resolution is because they're encouraged by their progress.

That's where the debt snowball comes in. Here's how it works: List your debts in order by outstanding balance, and attack the smallest one first. Once you knock it out, roll that cash over to your next debt, working your way up to the biggest of the bunch. You'll build momentum—and motivation—as you watch your debts disappear and your cash grow!

4. Go Roth with Your 401(k)

These days, most full-time workers have access to a 401(k) through their employer. This is a great way to save for retirement, because it enables you to make pre-tax contributions for your future.

What you may not know is many employers offer a Roth 401(k) option, too. According to a Willis Towers Watson study, 54 percent of large and midsize companies do, yet only 10 percent of employees take advantage. That means lots of folks are missing out on tax-free growth.

And now, any pre-tax match dollars your employer puts in can be converted to a Roth. That's means even more opportunity for tax-free growth. Just keep in mind that you do have to pay taxes on any money you convert. An investing professional can show you how it works, so you can weigh your options and choose the strategy that's right for you.

5. Take Advantage of Free Financial Education

It's no secret that money issues can cause big-time stress. According to the American Psychological Association, 72 percent of adults worry about money, and 32 percent say money woes stand between them and a healthy lifestyle.

This stress can distract you on the job, too. It's hard to get work done when you're preoccupied with money problems. No wonder almost 90 percent of employers surveyed by Aon Hewitt had considered implementing a financial wellness program.

If your company offers this benefit, don't miss out. It's a great way to learn how to manage your money, and plan for the future. That's something everyone can feel good about!

—Used with permission from DaveRamsey.com

Phil Campbell native makes Dean's List at Berea College

Submitted to the FFP

Zachary Campbell, a resident of Phil Campbell, has been named to the Fall 2017 Dean's List at Berea College. A student is named to the Dean's List who achieves a GPA of 3.4 or higher while passing at least four total credits, a course load equivalent to 16 semester hours.

Berea College is distinctive in higher education.

Offering bachelor's degrees in 33 majors (including arts and sciences and select professional programs, as well as independent majors designed by students to mirror approved majors at other colleges), Berea College awards four-year tuition scholarships to all of its students, who because of financial circumstances can not otherwise afford a high-quality, residential, liberal arts education.

All students are required to work at least 10

hours per week in campus and service jobs.

Founded upon inclusive Christian principles in 1855, Berea was the first interracial and coeducational college in the South. The college promotes understanding and kinship among all people, service to communities in Appalachia and beyond, and sustainable living practices that set an example of new ways to conserve our limited natural resources. For more info, visit www.berea.edu.

'INTERNET,' from page 1

we're here today."

Morrow was part of a group that gathered in the parking lot of Macedonia Baptist Church on County Road 724 for a ribbon cutting ceremony recognizing the first of a planned series of towers in Franklin County to be equipped to offer wireless broadband internet service.

According to Dave Hargrove with AT&T governmental affairs, the tower will provide a minimum of 10 megabit-per-second speed to users within a three-to-five-mile range of the tower. Hargrove said there are approximately 250-300 residences and businesses in that range that would be eligible to subscribe to the service.

AT&T fixed wireless internet works through an antenna installed on the user's home or business and an indoor Wi-Fi Gateway router. That antenna communicates with the nearest cell tower to ensure the strongest, most reliable signal, according to <https://www.att.com/internet/fixed-wireless.html>.

Tentative plans call for AT&T to install at least three more towers in Franklin County in the next year, although Hargrove said those plans are not set in stone. Location of the towers is determined by census information and a formula used by the Federal Communications Commission, Hargrove said.

With the FCC determining locations based on census information, Franklin County probate judge Barry Moore pointed out the importance of having local residents answer the next census, scheduled for 2020.

AT&T receives grant funding through the Connect America fund to install the towers in Alabama, which is one of the nation's most rural states. The grant monies are available to subsidize the projects in rural areas where internet service is not currently offered.

AT&T is deploying the technology in 33 Alabama counties, including Lauderdale, Lawrence and Limestone counties. Hargrove expressed his appreciation to Morrow for his continued efforts to bring affordable broadband service to rural Franklin County.

"Johnny Mack has been advocating this for a long time, and he helped launch the Franklin County Broadband Task Force," Hargrove said. "We talked in early meetings about how there would be a variety of different providers and technologies to accomplish that goal. Wireless internet is the solution for rural Alabama and America."

Although specific pricing details were not offered, the cost is projected at \$60/month (\$50/month if bundled with another AT&T service). Interested users can log onto AT&T's web site to

find out if they qualify in their area for AT&T fixed wireless internet.

AT&T is also working on another technology that could be a game-changer for providing internet to underserved or unserved rural areas.

According to AT&T's web site, Project AirGig is a transformative technology from AT&T Labs that could one day deliver low-cost, multi-gigabit wireless internet speeds using power lines. Urban, rural and underserved parts of the world could benefit from this innovative wireless connectivity.

The technology involves using antennas and devices invented by AT&T and connecting them to existing power lines so as to provide "4G LTE and 5G multi-gigabit mobile and fixed deployments" according to www.att.com.

In order to use this technology locally, AT&T would have to negotiate pole attachment agreements with local utilities like Russellville Utilities and Franklin Electric Cooperative.

Although wireless internet is not seen as the best solution to the long-term broadband issue by many, it's a step in the right direction and an option for those within the tower's coverage area.

"This is about creating a positive work environment, something we're all working toward," Morrow said. "We appreciate AT&T for their continued work in the state of Alabama."

'CENTER,' from page 1

Alliance Oncology, a division of Alliance HealthCare Services, Inc., a national provider of outsourced healthcare services. Alliance Oncology has a partnership agreement with Huntsville Hospital Health System.

Alliance's opposition is based on the project "not being in the best interest of the public."

RegionalCare applied with the board in 2013 to build the cancer center, but that application was denied by the Certificate of Need Board.

Alliance had the option of requesting a contested hearing, but the deadline for such a request has passed. The board will meet January 17, 2018 in Montgomery to consider the application. Morrow plans to attend and address the board at that hearing.

"The Shoals area can have a state-of-the-art cancer center that's easily accessible to all of our citizens," Morrow said. "UAB is willing to invest its time, money and clinical expertise in our area, and this will give patients who are leaving Franklin County and the Shoals a choice to be treated by UAB in the Shoals area instead of having to travel a long distance."

"Why shouldn't patients have this choice?"

Morrow held a press conference at the proposed site of the cancer center on December 15, joined by several elected officials from the Shoals.

Russell Pigg, ECM Hospital CEO, said the cancer center would continue his facility's commitment to providing top-notch health care for its patients.

"This partnership will bring UAB cancer knowledge and therapies to this part of the state, which is a huge asset to patients and shows our interest as an organization in enhancing quality clinical care and new services," Pigg said.

Pigg said construction of the cancer center would begin as soon as the certificate of need is approved.

"The Shoals area can have a state-of-the-art cancer center that's easily accessible to all of our citizens," Morrow said. "UAB is willing to invest its time, money and clinical expertise in our area, and this will give patients who are leaving Franklin County and the Shoals a choice to be treated by UAB in the Shoals area instead of having to travel a long distance. Why shouldn't patients have this choice?"

Sen. Larry Stutts (R-Tuscumbia) said he will not oppose or support the proposed cancer center. Instead, Stutts said he has concerns as to whether the Certificate of Need Review Board is still necessary in Alabama.

"I'm not in that fight, but the current law is the CON board makes the call. But it's an expensive, long process and takes a lot of money, time and patience to navigate through the system," Stutts said. "There's only so much money in the health care system, and that money is generated by taking care of patients. When you spend millions of dollars fighting projects or advocating projects,

that's millions of dollars that could go back into the health care system for technology, employee raises and to provide better services."

CON laws are currently enforced in 35 states, according to information from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. That number is on the decline, with Wisconsin and New Hampshire the most recent states to do away with CON laws. Florida is in the process of dropping its CON law.

Stutts explained that the original purpose for CON boards no longer justifies their existence and that the boards merely create another level of government red tape in the health care process.

"It's just another level of bureaucracy," Stutts said. "Personally, I'd like to do away with the CON board and let the free market decide who builds what. The purpose of the CON board was to help control health care costs by controlling overbuilding. But today, the federally controlled programs [Medicare, Medicaid] reimburse on a set rate, which is another reason to do away with the CON board."

Stutts also said the CON board appointments (which are made by the governor in Alabama) are ripe for corruption.

"That's what did in Richard Scrushy and Don Siegelman," Stutts said.

Siegelman, the former Alabama governor, and Scrushy, then-HealthSouth CEO, were convicted of federal charges relating to Siegelman's appointment of Scrushy to the CON Review Board in 1999.



Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

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

3-BR, 2-BA house for rent. Deposit required. Call 256-436-4622. (4)

AUTO

1992 Ford truck for sale. Camper top, new tires. Call 205-269-4620 or 256-332-3269. (4)

PETS

Boxer bull terriers for sale. Ready for Christmas! Call 256-668-5160. (4)

Amigo Paisano

Compre su casa hoy. Haga una cita con Don Enrique, en Russellville por 62K + basement @ 256-740-2356. Trabaja con su propio nombre pero, solo tiene seguro verde y pasaporte de su país? tambien podemos ayudarle. Don Enrique es un agente de bienes raices con American Realty Company of Russellville. Buy your first home with no down payment, with no closing cost. Your credit score needs to be 620 or higher. I will help you get a home for 62K. Call Enrique Aguilar at 256.740.2356. Alabama Real Estate Agent. American Realty Company of Russellville.

FURNITURE

4-piece antique BR suite, \$200. Call 256-398-0629. (2)

APPLIANCES

19-inch color TV. Call 256-398-0629. (2)

For Sale: 16 cu. ft. upright freezer. Extra-wide wheel chair. Call 256-436-8468. (3)

ELECTRONICS

Tablet w/charger, \$100. Call 256-398-0629. (2)

HELP WANTED

BARBER NEEDED!

Full-time or part-time. McCullar & Reed Barber Shop, Washington Ave., Russellville. Some experience, good personality, meets public well. If interested, call Renee Reed at 256-332-4777. (3)

MISC. FOR SALE

Two pairs of size-12 diabetic shoes. Brand new. For men or women. Call 256-398-0629. (2)

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.

ALASCAN

FOR SALE

ACORN STAIRLIFTS. The affordable solution to your stairs! Limited time - \$250 off your Stairlift purchase! Buy direct & save. Please call 1-800-471-4651 for free DVD and brochure. DIGITAL HEARING aids - Now offering a 45-day risk free offer! Free batteries for life! Call to start your free trial! 1-866-960-5928. SAWMILLS FROM only \$4397.00. Make & save money with your own bandmill - cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! Free info/DVD: www.Norwood Sawmills.com. 1-800-578-1363 ext. 300N.

MEDICAL

OXYGEN - ANYTIME. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The all-new Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! Free info kit: 1-844-264-9500.

drive4stevens.com. approved! Free info kit: 1-844-264-9500.

SERVICES

GOT KNEE pain? Back pain? Shoulder pain? Pain-relieving brace at little or no cost to you. Medicare patients call health hotline now! 1-800-672-9326.

INSTRUCTION

MEDICAL BILLING and Coding career training at Sullivan and Cogliano Training Centers. Call 1-888-535-9909 or click learn.sctrain.edu. Financial Aid available to those who qualify. Sctrain.edu/disclosures.

HELP WANTED-DRIVERS

DRIVER TRAINEES needed! Learn to drive for Stevens Transport! No experience needed! New drivers can earn \$900+ per week! Paid CDL training! Stevens covers all costs! 1-888-528-8864.

SOCIAL SECURITY Disability benefits. You may qualify for disability if you have a health condition that prevents you from working for a year or more. 1-844-245-3299 (M-F).

AUCTIONS

DONATE YOUR car to charity. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 1-844-810-1257.

Have 10K in debt? National Debt Relief is rated A-Plus with the BBB. You could be debt free in 24-48 months. Call 1-855-399-5019 now for a free debt evaluation. HIGH-SPEED Internet is available where you live today! Plans as low as \$39.99 per month. Ask about discounts for DirecTV customers! 1-800-480-1482. PBSinternet@gmail.com. DIGITAL HEARING aids - Now offering a 45-day risk free offer! Free batteries for life! Call to start your free trial! 1-866-960-5928. NFL SUNDAY Ticket free w/choice package - includes 200 channels. \$60/mo for 12 months. No upfront costs or equipment to buy. Ask about next day installation! 1-800-988-5676.

INSTRUCTION

MEDICAL BILLING and Coding career training at Sullivan and Cogliano Training Centers. Call 1-888-535-9909 or click learn.sctrain.edu. Financial Aid available to those who qualify.

Multiple entities meet, discuss rural internet options

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Representatives from the Russellville Electric Board, Tombigbee Rural Electric Cooperative, the Colbert County Commission, the Franklin County Commission, the City of Russellville, the State of Mississippi Public Service Commission and the Franklin County Broadband Task Force met for two hours last Thursday evening at the Russellville City Hall to discuss a strategy to bring high-speed broadband internet to Franklin County. What was equally important to Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D-Red Bay), though, was who was not in attendance, as the meeting went forward with no representative of Franklin Electric Cooperative, the primary utility provider for rural Franklin County.

"The fact that we do not have a representative here tonight from Franklin Electric is an embarrassment," Morrow said. "We've got to get serious about this issue. They are not just in business to distribute electricity. They're in business to serve the needs of our residents."

"What has Franklin Electric done to promote broadband high-speed internet to our citizens? There is a collaborative arrangement with Tombigbee Electric Cooperative with Haleyville, Winfield, Guin and Hamilton. These folks have high-speed internet that is incredible by all standards, and our people won't even show up to a meeting. It's truly an embarrassment."

The meeting, organized by Morrow and hosted by Russellville Electric, saw Brandon Presley, the Mississippi Public Service commissioner, in attendance. Discussions about forming a cooperative coalition that involves Franklin County and Tishomingo County, MS, have taken place. That strategy of strength in numbers would bring more potential broadband internet customers together to make such an undertaking more financially feasible for some entity to move forward.

Which agencies in Franklin County will comprise or form that entity remains the unanswered question. Tombigbee Electric formed a corporation, freedomFIBER, that is building a network of broadband internet in the cities of Hamilton and Winfield as part of a conditional \$40,000,000 investment. FreedomFIBER plans to expand into the remainder of Marion County and Lamar County and the cities of Haleyville and Fayette next year.

Last Thursday's meeting allowed representatives from the various agencies the opportunity to ask questions and once again learn more about what is happening with Tombigbee Communications, LLC, which operates under the freedomFIBER name.

Presley described the lack of reliable broadband internet in rural areas as a 'national crisis.' "This is an infrastructure crisis for our rural areas," Presley said. "To say lack of internet service is not a problem is burying your head in the sand. We are forcing rural people to give up their rural lifestyle to participate in modern lifestyles in America. It's not a luxury—it's a necessity for modern life. It's a utility."

All officials in attendance agreed with that premise—that reliable high-speed broadband internet should be considered a utility, and the strategy to deliver that utility to rural America should follow what was done in the 1930s and 1940s in America

with electricity—the answer lies with rural cooperatives.

"Cooperatives will be our solution to the last mile. There is legislature in Tennessee that did that, and we are looking at legislation in Mississippi to do the same," Presley said. "I hope we can form a state line coalition. If there are more hands joining, this makes better economic sense."

Tombigbee president/CEO Steve Foshee, whose freedomFIBER subscriber response is ahead of projections, said solving the problem in Franklin County must be a team effort, involving multiple players.

"We have put our money where our mouth is," Foshee said. "You've got to have a team. This is a big deal, with a lot of money and a lot of technical issues involved. But we are building a utility in every sense of the word. We're going to pass our goal in the next month, and we are really just gearing up."

FreedomFIBER offers 100 megabit-per-second pure fiber optic network to subscriber homes for \$49.95 a month. One gigabyte per second speed is offered at a rate of \$79.95 a month, although most personal computers aren't built to handle that type of speed, Foshee said.

"Tombigbee's goal is that everyone who wants access, no matter how rural they are, gets it at a speed of at least 100 megabytes," Foshee said.

At the end of last Thursday's meeting, Morrow asked Katernia Cole-Coffey, chairman of the Franklin County Broadband Task Force, to reach out to Franklin Electric Cooperative before the task force's next meeting.

"I ask you to take on the specific task of asking

Phil Campbell Elementary hosts Living Wax Museum

Lucas Shepherd
Franklin Free Press

A plethora of historical figures came alive at Phil Campbell Elementary School one recent evening as the school's sixth grade hosted its annual Living Wax Museum.

The community was encouraged to take a walk through history as the students brought famous figures from the past and present to life and shared stories about their lives. This was the fourth year the school has held the event.

Nina Jackson, sixth-grade Social Studies teacher, helps coordinate the event. She sees the project as a creative way for students to learn about important people who helped shape the path of our country. As part of their role as a historical figure, students give a short presentation about their person's life and the impact he or she had on society.

"It develops confidence in the students as they research the project and then deliver a speech," Jackson said. "This strengthens their connection to our past with the present. We choose positive people who are considered role models. Some of the students were nervous or scared at first, but then it's so rewarding to see their confidence grow."

All students were dressed in appropriate time-period costumes, and they stood in front of an informative backdrop motionless like a wax figure. Visitors (and there were hundreds of them) took a stroll through history as each student brought these historical figures to life.

PCES sixth-grader Paisley Holaway portrayed author J.K. Rowling. Holaway said the project was challenging, but she gained confidence by sharing what she had learned with others.

"Learning so much about my character was fun, and I saw how important hard work is and that I have the ability to conquer nerves," Holaway said.

Cyndie Pounders portrayed Jane Addams, known as the mother of social work in America.

"I enjoyed giving the speech about an important person and learning how to research and showing people who she was," Pounders said.

The historical figures portrayed by the students ranged from President Donald Trump to Hillary Clinton, Walt Disney to Taylor Swift, and Babe Ruth to Dale Earnhardt, Sr.

Jackson Clark chose Elvis Presley as his historical figure. In researching the life of Presley, he learned that hard work is a virtue, even for a musical



PHOTO BY LUCAS SHEPHERD

Hundreds of visitors attended Phil Campbell Elementary School's annual Living Wax Museum. The community was encouraged to take a walk through history as the students (like those above) brought famous figures from the past and present to life and shared stories.

artist.

"Hard work is the key to success. It was fun learning about the person and preparing to make a speech," Clark said.

Jackson and the PCES faculty wanted to express their appreciation to the parents and families of the students for helping their sixth-graders complete the assignment.

"Without their help, tonight would not have been possible," Jackson said.

Movin' on up



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

1st Franklin Financial celebrated the grand opening of its new location with a ribbon cutting last month. The long-time downtown Russellville business relocated to the former Five Star Pizza building at 510 North Jackson Avenue. Pictured above cutting the ribbon is branch manager Justin Taylor.

'OPTIONS,' from page 10

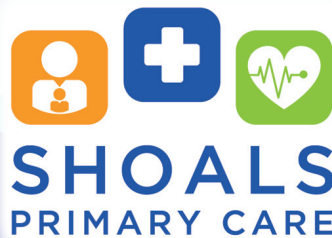
Franklin Electric Cooperative why we don't have the leadership Marion County had," Morrow said. "Is it fair that Hamilton, Winfield and Guin have one-gigabyte internet and Russellville and Franklin County are left out, all because they don't have progressive leadership?"

"Ask them specifically, do they intend to participate or are they content to let us go into the future with no high-speed internet? Will our rural electric cooperative be on board, yes or no, and if not, why not?"

Dr. Paul Morris
is now accepting Reservations
and Walk-ins at
Shoals Primary Care
in Russellville
on Wednesdays
from 8am-5pm

Reservations and Walk-ins accepted

MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED • MEDICARE PATIENTS WELCOME



603 Gandy St.
Russellville
256-460-5447

shoalsprimarycarellc.com

Dr. Morris is still serving the Shoals
at our Sheffield Location on Fridays - 342 Cox. Blvd.



Dr. Paul Morris
Cardiologist

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

**Would like to thank the following businesses
for their support in 2017. Their continued support
of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
promotes and builds Franklin County.**

1st Franklin Financial*
43 Grill
Aderholt Masonry
Alabama Army National Guard*
Alabama Central Credit Union
Alabama Gun & Pawn
Ambulance Billing Services
American Health & Fitness
American Legion Post 64
American Realty Company, LLC
American Red Cross
Angie's Florist
Ann Epperson McDermitt
ARC of Franklin Co./Sarah Dinsmore
Center
Army National Reserves*
Askew Outdoor Services, LLC*
Atkins Marble
B. S. Hillman Counseling Services, LLC
Backwoods Bargains*
Balentine Properties
Bank Independent
Bear Creek Development Authority
Best Western
Better Business Bureau (Shoals office)*
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Shoals
Big Star of Red Bay and Russellville
Blue Star Ready Mix
Bojangles
Book Lovers Study Club
Bowen Family Dentistry
Campbell Vision Center
CB&S Bank
CB&S Financial Services
Cedar Creek Wings (GWRRA of
Alabama Chapter S)*
Cedar Ridge Campground*
Civitan Club of Red Bay
Clark Pulley Industries
Coca-Cola Bottling Co.
Coldwater Inn*
Community Spirit Bank
Cotton Flat Cruisers
Cottontails Children's Boutique*
Country Cottage
Country Place Senior Living
Cultura Garden Club
Cypress Electric, Inc.*
Darrell Harp Enterprises

Davis Realty & Assoc., Inc.
Dependable Sporting Center
Dismals Canyon
Dr. Alan Sherrill
Dr. Harry Kuberg
Dr. Steven Hammack
Eddie's Collision Repair, Inc.
Encore Rehabilitation
Eyecare Professionals
FastWay Carwash
First Metro Bank
Foster & Foster CPA
Foster Grandparent Program (Russell-
ville City)
Fourth Street Grill & Steakhouse
Franklin Animal Hospital
Franklin County Arts & Humanities
Council
Franklin County Cattlemen's Associa-
tion
Franklin County Commission
Franklin County Cooperative Extension
System
Franklin County Development Authority
Franklin County DHR
Franklin County Rescue Squad
Franklin County Schools
Franklin County Times
Franklin Electric Cooperative
Franklin Structures, LLC
Frosty Inn
G & G Steel
Garrett Welding Services
Gates Corporation
Gault Signs
Generations of Red Bay
Glasgow Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.*
Graph-X Apparel
Green's Dependable Hardware
Greenwoods Inn
H&R Block
Hamilton Career Center
Happy Days Beverage and Tobacco*
Heads Up Hair Salon
Hester & James
Hester Printing
Hodges, Town of
Hoyt Lane & Son Plumbing Services,
Inc.

Images 2 Inc.
Innovative Hearth Products
J's Cozy Inn Bed and Breakfast*
J. T. Ray Company
Joe M. Tucker, CPA
Joey Rushing- D.A.
Kindred Healthcare Operating, Inc.
Kreg Kennedy
Legacy Planning LLC
Leisure Creations
Lewis Electric
Listerhill Credit Union
MaxxSouth Broadband*
McDonald's
McDowell, Beason & Hamilton
Medical Clinic of Red Bay
Mission Medical, Inc.*
Montgomery Industries
Morgan Chiropractic
N and R International
Northwest Shoals Community College
Papa John's Pizza
Petro Chemical Energy
Phil Campbell Rescue Squad
Phil Campbell, Town of
Piggly Wiggly - Red Bay
Pilati Investments - Franklin Free Press
& WGOL
Pilgrim's
Pinkard Funeral Homes
Price Less IGA
Red Bay Hospital
Red Bay News
Red Bay, City of
Red Bay Pharmacy*
Redmont Pharmacy
Rock Bridge Canyon Equestrian Park
Roger Bedford & Associates, P. C.
Roger Kennedy
Russellville Animal Clinic
Russellville City Schools
Russellville First Baptist Church
Russellville Hospital
Russellville Housing Authority
Russellville Water & Sewer Dept
Russellville, City of
Saint Gobain
Sam's Floral
SAS (Southern Accounting Systems, Inc.)

Scotty Kennedy Photography
Security Finance
Sewell Realty
Shoals U.S. Army Recruiting Center*
Shoals Family Pharmacy Group
Shoals Sav-A-Life, Inc.
Shoals Youth Advocate Programs*
Sinclair-Lawrence
So Cute Boutique*
Spruce Pine Historical Society
Spry Memorial Chapel, LLC
State Farm - Lanny Norris
State Farm - Lee Nickels*
Stephenson Services
Strickland & Barksdale, CPAs
Sun Loan & Tax Service
Sunshine Homes
Sunshine Mills
Sustainable Safety Solutions, LLC*
Swamp John's
Tartan Plow*
TD's Fine Furniture
Terrace Manor
The Catalyst (Center for Business &
Entrepreneurship)*
There's A Way
Thompson Drapery
Tiffin Motor Homes
Tony James Insurance
Tower Loan of Russellville
Tractor Supply Co.*
United Way of the Shoals
Valley Credit Union
Valley State Bank
Village Square Apartments
Vina, Town of
VIVA Health*
Vulcan Materials
Wallace Construction
Wood-Thompson Insurance
Yogi's Foodco

*New businesses for 2017

www.franklincountychamber.org

For more information call (256-332-1760)
or email us at, info@franklincountychamber.org.

**Show your support and appreciation by
SHOPPING LOCAL!**



Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

FFP

FRANKLINFREEPRESS.NET



PRSRST STD US POSTAGE
PAID Franklin Free Press
113 Washington Ave. NW
Russellville, AL 35663

FranklinFreePress.net

SPORTS

12.27.17

SEC bowl season finally kicking off

Bowl season has been underway for more than a week, but SEC teams join the party starting tonight when Missouri takes on Texas in the Texas Bowl. There are nine bowl games on the docket featuring SEC teams—ten if either Alabama or Georgia makes it to the College Football Playoff national championship game.

Will they? Let's make some picks.

Wednesday, December 27

Texas Bowl: Texas (6-6) vs. Missouri (7-5)

Missouri was one of the hottest teams in the nation at season's end, winning its last six games following a 1-5 start and scoring 45-plus points in all six. Drew Lock leads the nation with 43 touchdown passes, and it will be interesting to see if he can keep it rolling against a Texas defense that made major strides this season and held some pretty high-octane offenses (Oklahoma State, West Virginia) in check.

The Pick: Missouri 31 Texas 28

Friday, December 29

Belk Bowl: Texas A&M (7-5) vs. Wake Forest (7-5)

Wake has a talented dual-threat quarterback in John Wolford who has accounted for more than 3,300 yards and 35 total touchdowns this season. They also have some noteworthy wins over the likes of Louisville and N.C. State. A&M, meanwhile, is in the midst of a coaching transition, which always complicates things.

The Pick: Wake Forest 34 Texas A&M 24

Music City Bowl: Kentucky (7-5) vs. Northwestern (9-3)

Northwestern closed the season on a seven-game run and has two difference-makers on offense in QB Clayton Thorson and RB Justin Jackson, who had a monster bowl game last year. Kentucky struggled to scrape together seven wins and got out-classed by good teams all year.

The Pick: Northwestern 35 Kentucky 24

Saturday, December 30

Taxslayer Bowl: Louisville (8-4) vs. Mississippi State (8-4)

It's simple—Louisville has its quarterback (Lamar Jackson) and its head coach (Bobby Petrino) in place; State, which lost Nick Fitzgerald to an injury and Dan Mullen to Florida, does not.

The Pick: Louisville 31 Miss. State 24

Monday, January 1

Outback Bowl: Michigan (8-4) vs. South Carolina (8-4)

South Carolina enjoyed a fine second season under Will Muschamp, briefly entering the CFP Top 25 and finishing second in the SEC East, but the Gamecocks struggled to score all season against elite defenses. They're overly reliant on quarterback Jake Bentley

See 'SEC,' Page 16

Lady 'Dogs bring home tourney title

Staff reports

Freshman post player Emma Dempsey scored 14 points to lead four Belgreen players in double-figures last Tuesday as the Lady Bulldogs edged Class 5A Corner 61-57 in overtime to win the Winston County Christmas Tournament.

Belgreen led 40-32 at the end of the third quarter, but Corner rallied to out-score the Lady Bulldogs 21-13 in the fourth and send the game into overtime tied 53-53. Senior guard Jasmine Martin scored five points in the extra period, helping Belgreen out-score Corner 8-4 and take home the tournament title.

Martin finished with 13 points, knocking down a

See 'TITLE,' Page 17



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Gracie Dempsey and Belgreen beat Decatur Heritage and Corner to win the Winston County Christmas Tournament last week.

RHS girls head to Hatton on high note after Haleyville win

Mike Self

Franklin Free Press

FLORENCE—Russellville's girls closed out the pre-Christmas portion of their schedule in impressive fashion last Thursday, riding a strong second half to a 46-41 win over Haleyville in their final game at the *TimesDaily* Classic at Mars Hill Bible School.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Madison Hargett (3) and Madison Murray (1) will lead Russellville against Clements at the Hatton Christmas Tournament on Thursday.

The Lady Golden Tigers, looking to snap a five-game losing streak, struggled to make shots in the first half and trailed 22-18 at the break. They heated up in the third quarter, knocking down five three-pointers and out-scoring Haleyville 17-14 to trail by just one going into the fourth.

"At halftime, we talked about continuing to do what we did in the first half, and hopefully we'd get a few shots to go down," said head coach Corey Thomaston, whose team had made just one three before the break. "I thought we executed well in the first half—especially in the first quarter—and got some really good looks. We just didn't make them. So we said, let's stay true to who we are and what we're doing and keep executing, and see if we can get some shots to fall."

Sophomore guard Madison Murray, the team's leading scorer on the season, provided the second-half spark, nailing three threes in the third quarter. Murray, who had scored a career-high 25 points in the tournament opener against Wilson, finished with 19 on Thursday. She hit a total of nine threes in the tournament and averaged 18.7 points in three games, raising her season average to 14.0 per game.

"Madison Murray shot the ball well this week," Thomaston said. "She had a good tournament. We tried to find her as much as we could today and get her some good looks. She got us going in the third quarter."

"We're still looking to find that second scorer on a consistent basis."

See 'HATTON,' Page 19



Let your home chip in.

**As low as 5.50% APR*
Home Equity Line of Credit**

Lee Nickels, Agent
State Farm Agent
13760 Highway 43 Ste 6
Russellville, AL 35653
Bus: 256-332-0052

NMLS #139716, NMLS Mortgage Loan
Originator ID #1391899

You work hard to pay for your home, so let it return the favor. A Home Equity Line of Credit from State Farm Bank® can help you use your home's value for things like home improvements, medical expenses, major purchases and more. **CALL ME TODAY.**



*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) as of 6/13/16. Subject to credit approval and other requirements. Interest rate and maximum combined loan to value (CLTV) may vary based on customer's credit score, loan amount and repayment term. Advertised rates are subject to change at the Bank's discretion.
The APR may vary and will not exceed 21%. The annual fee of \$65 is waived the first year.

1706472

State Farm Bank, F.S.B., Bloomington, IL
NMLS ID 139716



MEMBER
FDIC

Vina girls set to face tough first-round test at Waterloo

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

A year ago, Vina's girls finished off a strong first half of the season by winning the tournament title at the Waterloo Christmas Invitational. If the Lady Red Devils are to pull off the same feat this season and defend their crown, one thing's for certain.

It won't come easy.

Vina, which extended its win streak to four and improved to 14-3 overall with last Thursday's 78-27 rout of Shoals Christian, will open the Waterloo tournament with a game against Mississippi powerhouse Kossuth High School. A Class 3A school ranked in the Top 10, Kossuth is unbeaten on the season heading into Thursday's 11 a.m. meeting with the Lady Red Devils at Waterloo High.

"The last I saw, they were 13-0, and they weren't supposed to play another game before they played us," Vina coach Richie Hester said. "It'll be good for us. The competition at this tournament is gonna be a lot stronger this year."

After opening with Kossuth on Thursday morning, the Lady Red Devils will then face Cherokee at 5 p.m. [Vina beat Cherokee 80-22 on December 14 behind 24 points from junior forward Emma Humphres and 19 from sophomore guard Kaitlyn King.] On Friday, the Lady Devils are set to face host Waterloo (a team they beat 80-32 back in mid-November) at 12:30 p.m. before squaring off with high-scoring guard Emma James and Colbert Heights at 3:30 p.m.

The team with the best record at the end of the two-day tournament will be the champion.

Vina has bounced back nicely since dropping a home game to area rival Belgreen on December 8, winning four straight games by an average margin of 42.5 points. The Lady Devils have hit 26 threes in their last two games, including an even dozen in the rout of Shoals last Thursday.

See 'VINA,' Page 15

Miranda Decker, M.D.

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Comprehensive Adult Health Care

Dr. Decker is specialized in management of both acute & chronic medical conditions.

- Immunizations
- Preventative Health Care

Russellville Internal Medicine, P.C.

535 Gandy Street NE
Russellville, AL 35653

For appointments:
256-332-1120
Mon-Thur 8-5



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Abby Hester (averaging a team-best 19.2 points per game) and Vina will face Mississippi power Kossuth High on Thursday at 11 a.m.

'VINA' from page 14

Senior point guard Abby Hester posted a triple-double for Vina, finishing with 19 points, 14 assists and 10 steals. She knocked down three threes and scored 13 points in the second quarter alone, helping the Lady Devils out-score Shoals 34-4 to take a 57-12 lead into the half.

Hester finished with five threes on the night and made both of her free throw attempts. Heading into the showdown with Kossuth, she has made 38 threes on the season while shooting 83 percent (121-for-146) from the foul line and averaging a career-high 19.2 points per game.

King also scored 19 points in the rout of Shoals Christian, 14 of which came in the first quarter and helped Vina jump out to an early 23-8 lead. King finished the

night with three threes, giving her a team-leading 47 makes from beyond the arc on the season. She is averaging a career-high 15.3 points per game and has scored 864 points since the start of her eighth-grade year, giving her a good chance to join Hester (1,394 career points) and Humphres (1,049 career points) in the 1,000-point club by season's end.

Humphres posted a double-double in the rout of Shoals, scoring 14 points and pulling down 10 rebounds. She also hit three threes, giving her 39 on the season. She averages 10.9 points per game.

Eighth-grader Rayleigh Guin also had a double-double against Shoals, finishing with 14 points and 10 steals. Along with Hester, King and Humphres, Guin (10.0 points per game) gives Vina four double-digit scorers on the season. Kaleigh Vandiver (5.2 points per game), Sarah Johnson (4.8) and Sara Scott (4.7) also play key roles for the Lady Devils.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Emma Humphres (25) and the Lady Red Devils have won four straight games to get to 14-3 on the season going into this week's action.

2017 Waterloo Christmas Tournament

Day One - Thursday, December 28

11 AM - Vina girls vs. Kossuth (MS)

12:30 PM - Colbert Heights girls vs. Cherokee

2 PM - Kossuth (MS) boys vs. Waterloo

3:30 PM - Colbert Heights boys vs. Cherokee

5 PM - Cherokee girls vs. Vina

6:30 PM - Waterloo girls vs. Colbert Heights

8 PM - Waterloo boys vs. Colbert Heights


EyeCare Professionals





Dr. Wayne Stevens

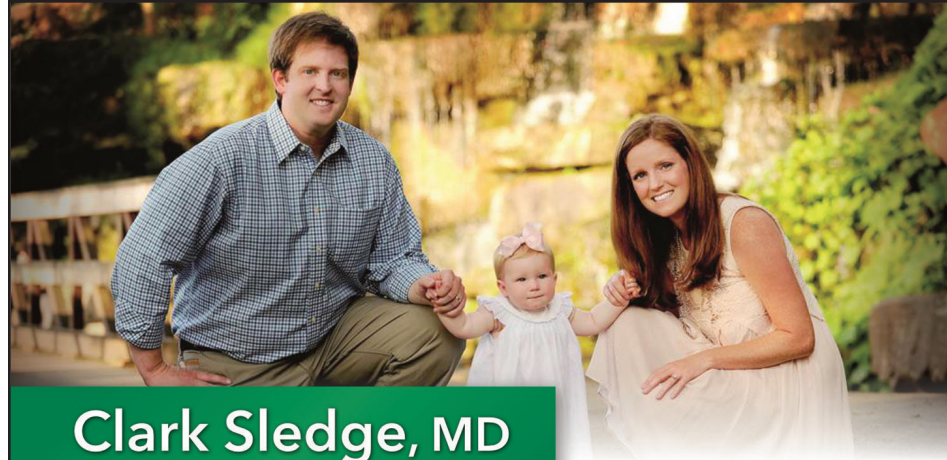
Dr. Martha Morrow

Dr. David Britton

"Where healthy eyes are our focus"

eyecareprofessionalspc.com

15255 Hwy 43 • Russellville • 256.332.5440



Clark Sledge, MD

OB/GYN

MedExpress

Schedule an Appointment:

MedExpress - Littleville: 256-331-9700

Sheffield Main Office (campus of Helen Keller Hospital): 256-349-5182

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

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



WAKE UP WARM & COMFY

COUPON

\$29⁹⁵ Complete Winter Checkup

Limited time offer.

Schedule Yours Today!

Good through 12/31/2017

0% FINANCING AVAILABLE!
Payments as low as \$79 a month

GLASGOW Heating & Air

256.332.7256

glasgowhvac.com



AL CERT.#07095





PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Abby Davis (3) and Phil Campbell will face West Point Wednesday in the first round of a Christmas tournament at Lauderdale County. West Point handed the Lady Bobcats (10-2) one of their two losses thus far.

Shopping around for car insurance? Don't.

Let your local independent agent shop for you, and find the coverage you need.



Wood-Thompson Insurance

130 N Jackson Ave. Russellville
256-332-1381

Mon-Tues-Thur-Fri 8am-5pm
Wed 8am-noon • Sat 9am-noon

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

Road gets rougher for PC girls in Rogersville

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Phil Campbell's girls haven't been tested often during their blistering 10-2 start to the season, out-scoring their opponents by an average of more than 25 points per game, but that's sure to change this week in Rogersville.

The Lady Bobcats, winners of seven straight games (all by at least 19 points), will face Class 5A West Point on Wednesday at 6 p.m. in a first-round game at the Keith Davis Memorial Tournament at Lauderdale County High School. West Point was the last team to deal the Lady 'Cats a loss, beating them 80-66 in a Thanksgiving tournament at West Point High School on November 22.

Phil Campbell shot the ball well in that defeat, knocking down a season-high nine three-pointers (including four each from sophomore guard Kallie Allen and freshman guard Caitlyn Mills), but the Lady Bobcats also surrendered a season-high in points allowed. That was due at least in part to the absence of guards Darby and Dakota Elliott, two of head coach Craig Thomas's top perimeter defenders.

"I'm not saying we would have won the game," Thomas said recently. "West Point shoots the ball so well. But not having the Elliott girls made a difference. It probably would have been closer, and we probably wouldn't have given up eighty points."

If the Lady Bobcats are able to exact revenge and get by West Point, they'll face either Lauderdale County (No. 1 in Class 3A), Phillips (No. 2 in Class 1A) or Class 5A Alexandria in their next game. Lauderdale County and Phillips are scheduled to play a first-round game, with the winner moving on to face Alexandria and the winner of that game earning a date with the Phil Campbell/West Point winner.

Even if the Lady Bobcats fall to West Point and drop into the consolation bracket, they figure to get their money's worth in terms of competition this week. Lawrence County (TN), West Limestone, Giles County (TN) and Belmont (MS) are also in Phil Campbell's section of the bracket, with Class 4A No. 1 Deshler, Class 2A contender Tanner and Class 6A powerhouse Athens looming in the other half of the loaded bracket.

The Lady Bobcats are 10-0 this season versus teams in Class 4A and below. Aside from West Point, their other loss came in the same Thanksgiving tournament to Class 6A Florence, 67-57.

Junior post player Abby Davis leads Phil Campbell in scoring at 13.6 points per game. Allen averages 12.6 points per game and leads the team with 17 threes made. Darby Elliott, a senior, averages 9.4 points per game, followed by Dakota Elliott, a junior, at 8.7 points per game. Senior guard Chloe Roberson shoots a team-best 72 percent (21-for-29) from the foul line and scores 8.1 points per game, giving the Lady Bobcats five players averaging at least eight per game.

'SEC', from page 13

and the passing game, and that lack of balance may bite them again against Michigan's D.

The Pick: Michigan 20 South Carolina 17

Citrus Bowl: Notre Dame (9-3) vs. LSU (9-3)

These two teams were headed in opposite directions at season's end. Notre Dame's fast start fizzled with lopsided losses late to Miami and Stanford, while LSU closed with six wins in seven games following that September loss to Troy.

The Pick: LSU 27 Notre Dame 24
Peach Bowl: Auburn (10-3) vs. Central Florida (12-0)

Two key questions: Will Auburn be sufficiently motivated after barely missing out on a playoff berth, and will Kerryon Johnson play? If the answer to both questions is yes, Auburn should win a high-scoring affair. If the answer to either is no,

then UCF might just cap off its unbeaten season with a quality win.

The Pick: Auburn 37 Central Florida 31

Rose Bowl: Georgia (12-1) vs. Oklahoma (12-1)

The best defense against Baker Mayfield is a clock-controlling ground game on offense, and Georgia has a really good one. The Bulldogs run for 250 yards and keep Mayfield on the sidelines enough to leave Pasadena with a win.

The Pick: Georgia 31 Oklahoma 27

Sugar Bowl: Alabama (11-1) vs. Clemson (12-1)

Alabama is the favorite in Vegas—and seemingly nowhere else, as people are falling all over themselves to pick Clemson. People like me.

The Pick: Clemson 27 Alabama 24



FULLER

HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING • PLUMBING

Since 1991 • AL HVAC CERT 91114

3 WORDS TO REMEMBER:
SAVINGS Utility savings help pay for your new heating & cooling system!
REBATE Put up to \$1,500 in your pocket!
WARRANTY 12-Year parts & labor warranty!

256.774.9019 Call for details on this limited time offer

NO MONEY DOWN FINANCING:
 Average payments as low as **\$75.00 per month**



'TITLE' from page 13

pair of threes and going 3-for-5 from the foul line. Junior guard Gabbie Moore made three treys and also finished with 13 points. Sophomore post player Ansley Tate added 11 points, shooting 3-for-4 from the foul line.

The Lady Bulldogs trailed 25-23 at the break before out-scoring Corner 17-7 in the third quarter behind a pair of threes from Moore and one from Martin.

Gracie Dempsey and Katie Dempsey each finished with four points for Belgreen, and Emma Willingham added two. The Lady Bulldogs hit five threes as a team and went 12-for-20 from the line.

Belgreen got six points from Camie Terrell and five apiece from Emma Dempsey and Gabbie Moore in the second quarter, out-scoring the Lady Eagles 24-13 to take a 32-22 lead into the locker room.

Decatur Heritage held the Lady Bulldogs to just two field goals in the third quarter and out-scored them 17-4, taking a 39-36 lead into the fourth. Belgreen responded by holding the Lady Eagles to just two baskets in the fourth, closing the game on a 16-7 run to secure a spot in the finals.

Sophomore Katie Dempsey finished with 12 points to lead Belgreen. Moore, Emma Dempsey and Gracie Dempsey each added nine points, and Terrell finished with six. Jasmine Martin scored four, Ansley Tate had two and Emma Willingham added one. Moore and Gracie Dempsey each hit one three-pointer, and the Lady Bulldogs won despite shooting just 8-for-18 from the foul line.

Belgreen (8-3 through last Thursday) will try and add a second Christmas tournament title to its collection this week at the Tharptown Invitational. The Lady Bulldogs are scheduled to tip off the three-day tournament on Wednesday at 1 p.m. against Oakman.

Tournament host Tharptown will play the final first-round game on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. against Brilliant. Other first-round games will be Mars Hill vs. Lynn at 2:30 p.m. and Rogers vs. Carbon Hill at 4 p.m.

Semifinal games are scheduled for 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 28, with the championship game set for 7 p.m. on Friday, December 29.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW
 Emma Dempsey and the Lady Bulldogs will face Oakman in the first round of the Tharptown Invitational on Wednesday.

2017 Tharptown Invitational
First-Round Games on Wednesday, Dec. 27
 1 PM - Belgreen vs. Oakman
 2:30 PM - Mars Hill vs. Lynn
 4 PM - Rogers vs. Carbon Hill
 5:30 PM - Tharptown vs. Brilliant
 *Semifinals will be held at 4 and 5:30 PM on Thursday, Dec. 28, with the finals set for 7 PM on Friday, Dec. 29.

In previous action at the Winston County Tournament:
Belgreen 52 Decatur Heritage 46
 The Lady Bulldogs let a 10-point halftime lead slip away before rallying with a big fourth quarter to beat Decatur Heritage in last Monday's semifinal game.
 Trailing by a point at the end of one quarter,

Jeff Elledge Credit Cars, Inc
 2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals
 elledge.jeff@gmail.com
 256.383.7979
 256.710.3711



Happy New Year from My Family to Yours!

Wishing You the Best in 2018

Welcoming Patients!

Jeffrey D. Manord, M.D.
 GENERAL & VASCULAR SURGERY

Dr. Manord is welcoming new patients to his office located adjacent to Russellville Hospital!

**15225 Hwy. 43 • Suite D
 Russellville, AL**

To schedule an appointment call
256-332-1500



Think you know college football? Then maybe you can beat Brady



Sponsored by
State Farm Insurance Agent
Lanny Norris

"Beat Brady" is back for bowl season! 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. All entries must be received by 6 p.m. on December 28! Only one entry per person, please. The winner of the "Beat Brady" bowl contest will receive \$50 cash! Everyone is eligible to participate!

National Champion of Savings™



Discounts up to 40%



Lanny Norris Agency | 256-332-0540
LannyNorris.com

Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Bowl Season	Brady's Pick	Your Pick
Stanford vs. TCU	TCU	
USC vs. Ohio State	Ohio State	
Louisville vs. Mississippi St.	Louisville	
Washington vs. Penn State	Penn State	
Wisconsin vs. Miami	Wisconsin	
Michigan vs. South Carolina	Michigan	
Auburn vs. Central Florida	Auburn	
Notre Dame vs. LSU	LSU	
Georgia vs. Oklahoma	Georgia	
Alabama vs. Clemson	Clemson	
Tiebreaker Score:	Alabama ____	Clemson ____
Your Name:		
Phone number:		

AL#11050
AL#53089

SHANE PROCTOR

HEATING - COOLING - REFRIGERATION

Se Habla Espanol
256-522-3898

256.415.3758

- LICENSED
- BONDED
- INSURED

10 YEAR PARTS &
10 YEAR LABOR WARRANTY

0% INTEREST
For 60 Months on a

NEW



Heating & Air Conditioning
Amana
AMERICA'S BRAND FOR COMFORT

HVAC UNIT

'HATTON' from page 13

Freshman guard Treyvia Pruitt (9.7 points per game) is Russellville's second-leading scorer on the season; she finished with nine points last Thursday and made some clutch free throws in the final minute to help seal the win. Senior guard Madison Hargett (5.7 points per game this season after not playing as a junior) is another candidate to provide some much-needed scoring punch. Hargett went 4-for-4 from the line last Thursday and hit a big three in the third quarter, finishing with a season-high 11 points.

"We need her to accept that role and hit some three-point shots and score some points for us," Thomaston said. "She's definitely capable of doing that. It's just a matter of overcoming some doubt and getting that confidence back after a year off. If she can fill that role, that will take some pressure off Trey, who's having to run a lot of point."

Russellville's top post scorer is sophomore Autumn Logan, who battled foul trouble on Thursday and was scoreless through three quarters. She left the game late in the third after picking up her fourth foul, but Thomaston elected to roll the dice and start her in the fourth quarter rather than trying to buy more time with her on the bench.

The move paid immediate dividends, as Logan converted a layup off a nice drive and dish from reserve guard Krista Sikes and then went 3-for-4 from the foul line, scoring the first five points of the fourth to give the Lady Golden Tigers (3-12) a 40-36 lead.

2017 Hatton Christmas Tournament

First-Round Games on Thursday, Dec. 28

11 AM - Hatton vs. Decatur Heritage

12:30 PM - Clements vs. Russellville

2 PM - Randolph vs. Danville

3:30 PM - East Lawrence vs. Falkville

***Semifinals will be held at 5 and 6:30 PM on Thursday, Dec. 28, with the championship game set for 6:30 PM on Friday, Dec. 29.**

"Coach [Jermaine] Groce told me during the quarter break, 'She's got four.' But I said, 'We've gotta have her in,'" Thomaston said of Logan, who is Russellville's third-leading scorer on the season at 5.8 points per game. "I felt like the game was gonna be won in the first two to three minutes of the fourth quarter. I knew she was gonna foul out at some point—that was inevitable. But she made some big plays for us before she did."

Logan did ultimately pick up her fifth foul, but by that time Russellville's girls had surged in front. A steal and basket by Murray with three minutes left made it 42-39, but Haleyville's Kaleigh White knocked down a jumper to cut the lead back to one. The Lady Lions then fouled Pruitt, who calmly stepped to the line with 45 seconds remaining and made two free throws to push the lead back to three.

Haleyville turned the ball over on its ensuing trip, and then Pruitt went 1-for-2 at the line to make it a two-possession game. The Lady Lions came up empty again, and Murray made a free throw in the final seconds to provide the final margin.

The Lady Golden Tigers locked down defensively in the second half, holding Haleyville to just 19 points—including only five in the fourth quarter.

"Defensively, we did a much better job of checking out in the second half and holding them to one shot," Thomaston said. "A lot of their offense in the first half came on free throws and rebounds after they had missed their initial shot. We controlled the boards a lot better in the second half."

The Lady Golden Tigers also held a big edge at the foul line, finishing 14-for-23 compared to just 5-for-21 by the Lady Lions. In snapping its five-game skid, Russellville avenged a 50-47 loss at Haleyville from three weeks earlier. The Lady Golden Tigers also gained some much-needed momentum going into the second half of their schedule.

"We played two really good teams here in Wilson and Mars Hill, and we beat a good Haleyville team," Thomaston said. "I thought it was a good tournament with some good competition, even though the two powerhouses [Class 4A No. 1 Deshler and Class 3A No. 1 Lauderdale County] weren't in it. It was good for us to get a win going into Christmas. That's what we needed."

Russellville's girls will return to action Thursday at the Hatton Christmas Classic, where they will face Clements in a first-round game at 12:30 p.m. With a win, the Lady Golden Tigers would advance to face the Hatton/Decatur Heritage winner later on Thursday at 5 p.m. A loss to Clements would put Russellville in the consolation bracket playing the Hatton/Decatur Heritage loser at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 29.

"Hatton will be a good tournament, too," Thomaston said. "We open with Clements, and they'll be tough. We'll have to play well in that one. Hopefully we'll win and earn the right to play again later that day."

"We just want to keep building momentum as we get ready to go into January."



Madison Murray Sophomore Guard, Russellville

Murray put on an impressive display at the *TimesDaily* Classic last week, averaging 18.7 points in three games. She opened the tourney by scoring a career-high 25 points last Monday in a loss to Wilson, making four threes and going 7-for-8 from the foul line. After putting up 12 points in last Tuesday's loss to Mars Hill, Murray hit four more threes and scored 19 points on Thursday to lead Russellville to a 46-41 win over Haleyville.

On the year, Murray leads the Lady Golden Tigers in scoring at 14.0 points per game.



Hwy 43 • Russellville, across from Wal-Mart • 398-8448

The Largest and Freshest Salad Bar in Franklin County!



Give yourself the gift of peace of mind this holiday season knowing Mom is happy, cared for, and safe. Assisted living at The Cottages offers:


- 2-Hour Checks
- 3 Home style Meals
- Customized Care Plan
- Medication Assistance
- Activities
- Private Suite
- Personal Laundry
- Scheduled Transportation

Ask about our holiday move-in special!
Save \$1000!

Call today to see how we can help your family!

256.277.4081

www.cottageassistedliving.com

 **The Cottages** 900 N. Jackson Ave, Russellville, AL 35653

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Advertise with us! Call 256.668.2708 or 256.332.0255

franklinfreepress.net

WINDOW TINTING

Window Tinting
Ask about our new
NANO CERAMIC Window Film
DESIGNERS Graphics
Up to 97% Infrared Heat Protection
FORMULA ONE PERFORMANCE AUTOMOTIVE FILM
256.383.5217
1501 Broadway Sheffield

MOWING

Salvador's LAWN SERVICE
(256) 810-2351
Free Estimates Licensed
MOWING • TRIMMING
MULCHING • CLEANING LEAVING
HEDGING & SHRUBS • EDGING

LANDSCAPING

K&S TREE SERVICE
253 Laurelwood Dr. Russellville, Alabama
Trimming Topping • Removal
Bucket Work Stump Grinding
KARL RAGAN 256.332.9064

FINANCIAL

Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
IRAs - Investments
Mike Jones, Financial Advisor - AAMS
256-332-7924
www.edwardjones.com
128 N. Jackson Ave. Russellville
mike.jones@edwardjones.com

HOUSING

256-332-1561
73 Flippen St
"The standard for fixed-income living in Russellville."
UNITS NOW AVAILABLE
Russellville Housing Authority Incorporated

MASSAGE

REWARD YOURSELF OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE
256.332.4220
Angel Harris
Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495
Reiki Practitioner II
Creative Image Salon
Gift Cards Available
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOEY RUSHING
Franklin County District Attorney
256.332.8870 • 256.710.4713
(daytime) (after hours)
ALABAMA GREAT SEAL

SEPTIC SERVICE

SUPERIOR SEPTIC TANKS
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
Septic Tank Sales
Tank & Grease Trap Pumping
FOR PROMPT SERVICE
256-381-7148
LICENSED BONDED INSURED

CHURCH

Come Worship with Us!
First Presbyterian Church
Sunday: 11:00 - 12:00
Adult Sunday School: 10:00 - 11:00
Everyone is invited to join us for this special time of worship.
201 N. Green Street, Russellville

PUBLIC SERVICE

BUCKLE UP! It Could Save Your Life!
franklinsheriff.org
(256) 332-8811
Compliments of **Shannon Oliver**
SHERIFF
FRANKLIN COUNTY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 44 • Russellville, AL
Cassie Medley, Executive Director
256.332.1760 • 256.332.1740 fax
info@franklincountychamber.org
franklincountychamber.org

HEALTHCARE

GET NOTICED!
IN THE BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY
256.332.0214

LISTEN EACH WEEK FOR...

FOOTBALL FRIDAYS
only on
WGOL 100.7 FM
Real Country
920AM
PREGAME@6:30
GAME@7:00