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# High-speed internet construction could begin in late 2021

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

In a month that saw some potentially devastating news for the future of internet service in rural Franklin County, Vina residents received some good news about the time frame of fiber optic internet in their town.

Vina Mayor Michael Moomaw met with Tombigbee Communications CEO Steve Foshee last week to receive an update on plans to light up the portion of rural Franklin County that is serviced by Alabama Power. That service area includes Vina.

Tombigbee Communications owns and operates Freedom Fiber, which

offers high-speed fiber optic service to customers in Marion, Fayette, Lamar, Winston and Walker Counties.

Last year, Freedom Fiber announced receipt of a \$29.5 million loan-grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's ReConnect Pilot Program, to assist four projects across northwest Alabama designed to bring high-speed broadband internet to rural areas.

Tombigbee Communications announced plans to construct a fiber network in Franklin, Lamar, Fayette, Winston and Walker Counties that, as a whole, will light up 2,152 households, 20 farms, 15 businesses, 10

See 'INTERNET,' page 9

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# Kennemur using platform to educate, inspire others

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

After finishing as first alternate at the 2020 Miss Wheelchair Alabama American Pageant, Russellville resident Nicole Kennemur said it wasn't about where she finished in the annual pageant. Instead, it was about sharing her message calling for improved accessibility in medical buildings.

Kennemur's voice, and her platform, will be heard louder and more frequently in the coming year, as she

was recently crowned Miss Wheelchair Alabama America for 2021.

"This is not so much a competition as it's about the chance to educate and bring awareness to people," Kennemur said of the pageant. "I'm always working on that, and as part of being Miss Wheelchair Alabama 2021, there will be more opportunities to share this and other important messages on behalf of people with disabilities."

Kennemur was crowned at the pageant. See 'KENNEMUR,' page 8

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**Robert Eugene Allen, 73**, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Thursday, January 28th. Interment at Bethlehem Cemetery.

**Pauline "Polly" Burcham, 90**, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Friday, January 29th. Interment at Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

**Ruth Mae Martin-Cason, 94**, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Friday, January 29th. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

**Shirley Cummings, 75**, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Friday, January 29th. Interment at East Franklin Cemetery.

**Robert Edwin Landers, 72**, of Phil Campbell, passed away Thursday, January 28th. A private graveside service with family will be held.

**Rosa Lee Sumerel Snider, 80**, of Russellville, passed away on Friday, January 29th. Interment at Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

**Billy Gene Wells, 89**, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Monday, January 25th. Interment at Phil Campbell Cemetery.

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Send your creative submissions to  
[franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

## **FCBOE approves several personnel moves in January meeting**

*John Pilati*  
*Franklin Free Press*

The Franklin County Board of Education approved 23 personnel moves at its January 21, 2020, meeting.

The board approved the resignations of Kaitlyn Galowitch, full-time substitute Child Nutrition Program assistant at Tharptown School, and Beth Hatton, special education aide at Tharptown Elementary.

Other personnel moves approved by the board included:

—Transfer: Susan McRight, from guidance counselor at TES to guidance counselor at Red Bay High School.

—Employment: Brenda Hill, full-time substitute teacher at East Franklin, Chase Cleveland, network administrator, Franklin County Schools, Darby Lindsay, elementary teacher at Red Bay, Brittney Rene Williams Tharpe, full-time substitute Child Nutrition Program assistant at Tharptown and Amy Smith, guidance counselor at TES.

—Substitutes: Josh Kennedy, custodian, and Jennifer Bishop, substitute teacher certified.

—Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 TRACKS: Miranda Latasha Hall, Kathy Borden, Mitchell Nethery and Katherina Bailey, Substitute Aides at East Franklin. Jacqueline Egle, teacher sub at East Franklin, Destiny Mansell and Brett Cotham, high school aides at East Franklin. Kelsie Cooper, aide at Red Bay. Drenda Holland and Holly Renfrow, teachers at Vina and Belgreen. Jessica Hamilton, site coordinator/substitute at Belgreen. Jessica Guzman, aide at Tharptown and Donna Pace, substitute aide at East Franklin.

In other agenda items, the board:

—approved a mileage rate reimbursement to individuals traveling in privately owned vehicles on official business from 57.5 cents per mile to .56 per mile effective January 1, 2021.

—awarded the Child Nutrition Program equipment bid for a walk-in freezer at Phil Campbell School to Hotel & Restaurant Supply for \$32,234.00.

—approved compensation to Sherry Leigh Smith, yearbook sponsor at East Franklin, in the amount of \$900 for yearbook supplement. EFJH will reimburse the Franklin County Board of Education \$900 plus applicable benefits.

The next regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of Education is set for February 23, 2021, with work session at 5 p.m., and meeting to follow.

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITY**

The Franklin County Commission will accept applications for the following position(s):

**Corrections Officer/Dispatcher**

**in the Franklin County Commission Office until 5:00 PM on Friday, February 5, 2021.**

An application and job description may be picked up, faxed or emailed upon request from the Franklin County Commission Office, located at 405 N. Jackson Avenue, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM or applications are available at [www.franklincountyal.org](http://www.franklincountyal.org) under the Careers tab.

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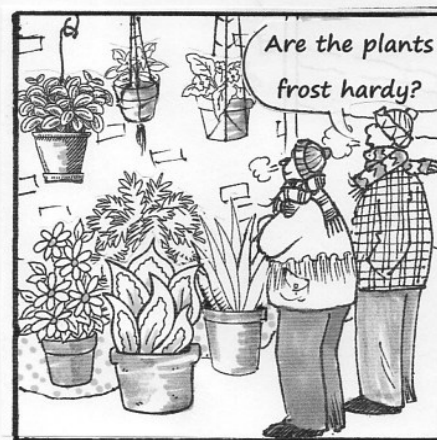
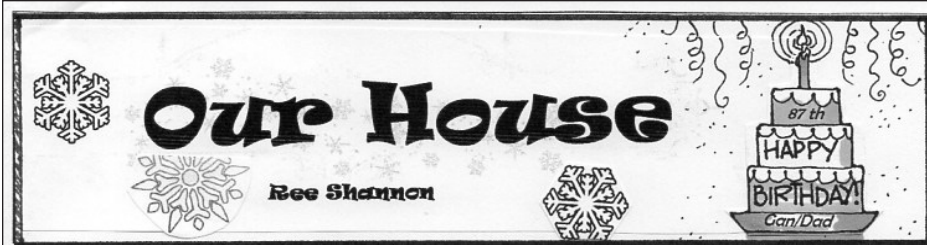


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### Publisher

John Pilati

### Executive Editor

Brady Petree

E-mail: franklinfreepress@yahoo.com

### Sales Representatives

John Pilati

### Content Contributors

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

### Graphic Design

Jason Hill

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### Letters to the editor

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

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## My take on this... pictures bring back forgotten memories

For those of you with cell phones, you will know what I mean about memories popping up of a picture you posted on facebook a year or so ago. That happened to me this week and all of a sudden, I remember a church get-together at our preacher's wife's house for Christmas. It was as if I relived that very moment when we ate, laughed, talked, and played "dirty-Santa." I always stayed after to help clean up and vacuum, so my memories lasted a little longer than those of my friends. Being reminded of that, I realize how special those extra minutes were.



Gail Motes

That special lady, who was our hostess has now passed away, along with many other of my friends who were there. The preacher has since moved, so that was the last time we were in that home. If I'd not seen that picture, it could have easily become a forgotten memory in time I cherish the past! Our past are the lessons that helped mold us to the person we are today.

I've had pictures set out in a basket to share with my family at get-togethers. Even though I said, "Look, but don't take," it happened anyway. So, the memories I shared with my family have been removed from mine. It could "have-been" a story told many times. Well it "was" told everytime we took our old box of family pictures out to look at. One less picture is one less memory to carry on.

I also like old pictures for the hairstyles, the clothes that were worn and the old cars they drove. I also have a love of the old black and white pictures. A lot of history comes from these old folks

too! To get those stories started: just get out a picture. You will think you have gone back in time.

My mother, brother, and I were looking at old family pictures and came up with some Christmas mornings when my brother was in a shirt and underwear. He was at a stage in his life where it was embarrassing and wanted them torn up and thrown away. Mother solved it by taking her scissors and cutting away the underwear. There are pictures without legs and his stomach removed. In other words, there are some "ridiculous-looking" pictures, but pictures, "none-the-less."

For those of you who cover your faces with your hands, please, keep in mind, those pictures are not made for you, but for your children and grandchildren. If they never get a chance to see you, please keep in mind how much it would mean to see something other than the front of your hands. The same goes to the ones who turn their heads or backs to the camera. Have you not been looking through pictures and heard someone say, "I wish they hadn't had their faces covered?"

Stories of the past mean a lot to me. When a member of your family is no longer with you, that picture is all you have left to see. Believe me! That's when a picture means the world to you!

I hope you reflect on the importance of a picture. Stop hiding the words that will be said when a grandchild will get to say, "Look, I look like my grandma. I have her smile and eyes!" or a child says, "Grandpa's nose is big!" You know - those important things. LOL

Remember to pray, smile, and laugh often -  
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# Voter cards the first step in two-step state process to update voter rolls

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

All registered voters in Alabama will receive postcards this month notifying them of the State of Alabama's efforts to update voter records.

Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill's office is sending the postcards as part of a two-step voter file maintenance process required by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

That law provides for a four-year process with two steps to identify voters who may have moved.

The first mailer was sent to every registered voter in Alabama. Voters are encouraged to verify their names and addresses on the card are correct. If correct, there is no further action required of the voter.

If the person whose name appears on the card no longer lives at the address listed, the card should be marked "return to sender" and placed in the U.S. Mail.

If voters have any questions about the notice process, they are encouraged to call the Franklin County Board of Registrars at 256-332-8848.

Following the completion of this process later this spring, second mailers will be sent to voters whose mailers were returned in an effort to maintain accurate and up-to-date voter rolls.

Send your guest columns, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

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# What's Happening


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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 curbside only on Saturday, February 6th from 8-10 a.m., at the Masonic Lodge on Coffee Avenue.


 The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin County Development Authority are accepting nominations for the 2021 Partnership Banquet, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 25th. Nomination forms are available on the Chamber's website ([www.franklincounty-chamber.org](http://www.franklincounty-chamber.org)) or at the Chamber office (located at 103 Jackson Avenue North, Russellville). Deadline for nominations is February 5th. For more information or details, please contact the Franklin County Chamber at 256.332.1760 or [director@franklincounty-chamber.org](mailto:director@franklincounty-chamber.org).


 The NACOLG SenioRx Medication Assistance Program supplies free and low-cost medications for anyone in Alabama with a disability or a chronic illness, regardless of age, that requires daily medication. Medicare recipients may also be eligible. For more information, contact NACOLG SenioRx today. There is no charge for this service. Call 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463) or 256-389-0529 and ask for Paula Pardue. This program is in partnership with the state of Alabama and Alabama Department of Senior Services.

 Everyone is welcome to worship services at Duncan Creek Baptist Church, 3925 Duncan Creek Road, Russellville. Service times are Sunday School at 10 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m. and Bible Study at 5 p.m. Pastor is Bro. Joe Thorn.

 New Life Ministries invites you to join them for Sunday School at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings and for worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. On the first Sunday of each month, there will be a fellowship lunch after morning services. You and your family are invited to come worship and fellowship with the Lord of Hosts and his children. New Life Ministries is located on Hwy. 24 west toward Red Bay, behind Tompkins Feed.

 TOPS 0155 Russellville is now meeting at the Russellville Hospital Education Room at 4:30 p.m. every Monday. Everyone is welcome to drop in for a free meeting visit. Call 256-446-5962 or 256-412-2855 for more info.

 The Newburg Masonic Lodge #388 meets the first Thursday of every month. The Russellville Masonic Lodge #371 meets the first and third Tuesday of every month. The Franklin County Shrine Club meets the second Tuesday of each month. The Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 256 meets every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Russellville Masonic Lodge. Spruce Pine Masonic Lodge #608 meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Phil Campbell Masonic Lodge #880 meets the first and third Thursday of each month. Burleson Lodge #143 meets the second and fourth Monday of each month. Belgreen Lodge #428 meets the first and third Monday of each month. All meetings start at 7 p.m.

 Russellville Al-Anon is meeting at Russellville First Baptist Church at 6 p.m., each Thursday. We are wearing masks and social distancing.

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# 'Cleaning up:' Tyra's volunteer campaign making a visible difference in town

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

On a cold, overcast 36 degree Monday morning, Adam Tyra set out for a day of garbage pickup in what some folks describe as his 'uniform'—a pair of shorts and t-shirt.

36 degrees. 0 degrees. 99 degrees. It's all the same. The 31-year-old Tyra doesn't ever get cold, with one exception.

"The only time I get cold is when I'm in the woods hunting. I'm big and well insulated," Tyra said. "But I've got a contest going to get down to 250 pounds with some people and I'm going to win some money if I do."

Until last week, Tyra's days were usually spent people watching at the intersection of U.S. Highway 43 and Lawrence Street. But a recent call from Russellville Mayor David Grissom changed that. And Russellville is better as a result.

"I was a little concerned about Adam's safety when we saw him sitting out in the median on 43," Grissom said. "So I asked (Russellville Police Department) Chief (Chris) Hargett to contact him and see if he'd meet with me."

Grissom asked Tyra if he'd be interested in working for the City of Russellville part-time helping to alleviate the city's litter problem.

Tyra was interested, but not in becoming an employee. Instead, he volunteered to do the work. The Russellville Street Department provides his safety vest, trash bags and trash trigger, and Tyra does the rest.

Since he began last week, Tyra has cleaned up North Jackson Avenue, Madison Street and is now working on Lawrence. He's at Russellville City Hall ready to work every morning and Tyra said he's enjoying helping his community.

"I'm friends with a lot of the cops, firemen, the mayor and council. They're all good buddies of mine," Tyra said. "I love them with all my heart. This is a way to give back to the city for all they've done for me."

Tyra said he's been surprised at how much litter clutters the roadsides in Russellville. He hopes his efforts encourage people not to toss garbage in their hometown.

"I hope people see me and don't litter no more. Maybe they'll think I don't want to do that since I saw him picking up that garbage," he said.

Grissom has been impressed with Tyra's work ethic and how fast he works.

"This is a wonderful community service Adam is doing for Russellville. We want him to know he's appreciated, and he loves it when folks stop and tell him thanks for what he's doing," Grissom said.

The burly Tyra said he was glad to volunteer when the mayor came calling. While he stands as a giant of a man, to folks who know him, Tyra is one of the nicest people they'll ever meet.

"I feel good doing something helping our city. I hope it shows I have a big heart. I'm a big person, but I try to get along with everyone," Tyra said.

"I've had some people stop and thank me for what I'm doing. That makes my heart happy and shows how much respect I have for this community. I try to do what I can for people. And I treat everyone with respect until they don't treat me right."

As for his years of sitting at local intersections, Tyra explained it helps him relax.

"I just sit there and listen to music on You Tube and relax. Everyone goes by and waves. I like when motorcycles come by and wave at me, and business people blow their horn and wave. I just enjoy it," Tyra said.

In addition to being a good citizen, Tyra is also a bit of an unofficial snake charmer. During warmer months, he's the first phone call for some residents when they see a snake on their property.



PHOTO BY BRADY PETREE

Tyra volunteered to take on Russellville's littering problem and has already cleaned up North Jackson Avenue, Madison Street and is currently working on Lawrence.

"Last year, I had two calls from friends with copperheads in their yards. There was a timber rattler in another yard. I'm not afraid of them," Tyra said. "I think snakes are pretty and I get excited when I see them. I don't want to kill them like some people do."

"One time I found a rattler in a yard with 15 babies. I got them out of the yard and relocated them. I turned them all loose and they all lived but one baby," Tyra said.

**Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoon panels, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).**

**And don't forget to check us out online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!**

## 'KENNEMUR,' from page 1

Pageant held January 16<sup>th</sup> at the A.W. Todd Centre in Russellville. It was her second year to take part in the event.

More than 54 million Americans are living with a disability. The pageant requires participants to communicate ideas and concepts and project a positive vision for all disabled people in Alabama.

With Kennemur's ever-present smile, she's a perfect ambassador to represent Alabama in the Miss Wheelchair America Pageant this August in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

There was a time, though, when Kennemur wasn't smiling much. The Bear Creek native suffered a spinal cord injury during surgery as a teenager. She had multiple tumors on her spine, and doctors had to cut some of her spinal cord to remove them. At the age of 14, Kennemur became paralyzed from the waist down.

In the first years after the injury, Kennemur said she appreciated the efforts of her therapist, nurses and doctors, but she didn't have anyone to reach out to who actually was living with a disability like she was. As Miss Wheelchair Alabama, that's something she wants to change for others.

"One thing I really want to do is work with women and girls who are newly injured to help influence them and see they still have a wonderful life ahead of them, no matter what," Kennemur said. "It will be easier to share that message now and I'll have more contacts and opportunities to do that as queen."

After earning her Bachelor's Degree in Education, Kennemur worked as a third-grade teacher for Haleyville City Schools for three years. She left that job to become a drug and alcohol counselor at Hamilton's Marion County Treatment Center.

"I've had family members battle the disease of addiction, but God opened up the door and it was totally a God-send, because I was ready to get out of education," Kennemur told the *Franklin Free Press* in 2020. "I wanted to be in some field where I could help people, and from the first day here I knew I was in the right place."

Kennemur, 42, has lived in Russellville for 11 years. Family members in Russellville include her sister, Misty Kennemur Ikerd.

The Miss Wheelchair Alabama America Pageant began in the 1970s when Alabama became the first state to hold a pageant. In August, winners of more than 25 state pageants will advance to Grand Rapids for the nationals.

Miss Wheelchair Alabama America is a non-profit organization that promotes advocacy and awareness, while celebrating the achievements of women wheelers across the state.

The organization is raising funds to help pay for Kennemur's travel expenses to Grand Rapids. An online auction on the organization's Facebook page (Ms. Wheelchair Alabama America Inc.) will help raise some of the cost.

Donations may also be made through the Miss Wheelchair Alabama website, [www.mwa-alabama.org](http://www.mwa-alabama.org). And groups wanting to schedule Kennemur for speaking engagements may also contact her through the same website.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kennemur is using her platform to bring awareness to challenges that people with disabilities encounter and now will have an even larger platform to do so as she was recently crowned Miss Wheelchair Alabama America for 2021. In August, she will travel to Grand Rapids, Michigan to participate in the Miss Wheelchair America Pageant.

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## 'INTERNET,' from page 1

critical facilities, five educational facilities and one healthcare facility, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The area to be served in Franklin County is the portion of the county serviced by Alabama Power.

Foshee told Moomaw he expects engineers to start doing surveys in the Vina and Franklin County area later this year and that construction could start by year's end, but no later than early 2022.

The news came one week after Freedom Fiber was outbid by Charter for construction grants in much of rural Franklin County. Freedom Fiber had an agreement in place with the Franklin County Water Service Authority and Franklin Electric Cooperative to provide high-speed internet in Franklin Electric's service area if the company was awarded the grants in the recent Federal Communications Commission RDOF Auction.

Moomaw, who reached out to former Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow to arrange the meeting with Foshee, was delighted to hear that high-speed internet will soon be on the way to his town.

"I wasn't even looking for a time frame like that," Moomaw said. "In the back of my mind, I thought if we got a 'maybe in two years' answer that would be good. Hearing it will start much sooner was a blessing. When he told us that, I said I'll take that all day and twice on Sunday."

Moomaw expressed his appreciation to Morrow for his efforts in working with Foshee and Tombigbee to help draw them to Franklin County.

"I know Johnny Mack is good friends with Steve, so we had an ace in the hole with him. I asked (Morrow) if he could set up a meeting and Steve agreed to meet Thursday," Moomaw said.

"We talked almost two-and-a-half hours about all kinds of things, and I was delighted to hear the time frame for Freedom Fiber to start work on their service area in Franklin County."

Alabama Power serves the southern part of Franklin County, from Spruce

Pine south, and the Hodges-Vina area, with County Road 16 serving as the break between Alabama Power and Franklin Electric.

During his tenure as a state representative, Morrow formed the Franklin County Broadband Task Force, and repeatedly called for action toward building the required infrastructure for high-speed broadband during his time in Montgomery.

Freedom Fiber offers high-speed internet residential service with 100 Mbps (up and down) for \$49.95/month and 1Gbps (up and down) for \$79.95/month.

As they discussed the importance of rural communities being connected with high-speed internet, Moomaw recalled the impact of something Foshee told him.

"Steve shared something with me I'd never thought about. He encouraged every small town mayor to go into a classroom of high school seniors and ask them if I could provide you with one gig internet, would you stay in your hometown," Moomaw said.

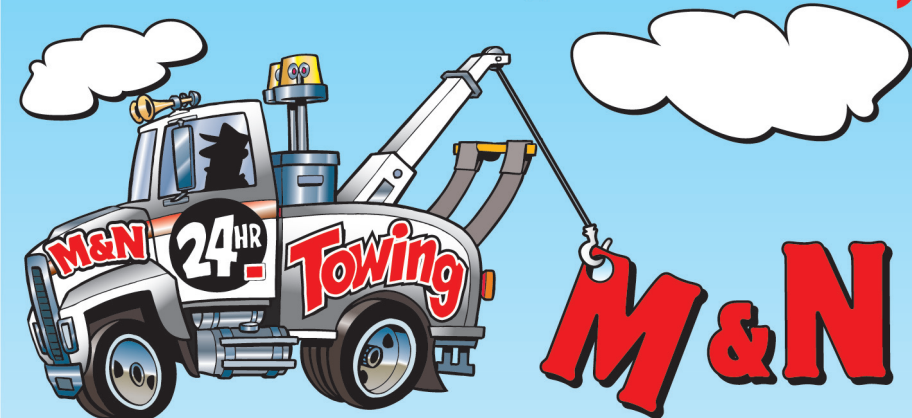
"We have a high school student who works at Vina City Hall, and I asked her that question and she said 'yes.' This is something that will help us compete for jobs and industry. Rep. (Jamie) Kiel and Sen. (Larry) Stutts were instrumental in getting a \$348,000 water grant to improve water pressure toward our industrial park, so that was a big positive. With that and Freedom Fiber coming in, this will bring a completeness to our infrastructure," Moomaw added.

Reliable high-speed internet should bolster the Vina Industrial Park's calling card to prospective businesses looking to relocate to Franklin County. With a complete infrastructure and close proximity to Interstate 22, the park could be attractive to tier providers for the automotive industry.

"This is going to make us more competitive with these other industrial parks and that's something we're excited about," Moomaw said.

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## Bulldogs secure two wins over county rivals

Staff Reports

With area tournament play right around the corner, the Belgreen Bulldogs have wasted no time in prepping to make yet another run for a deep play-off push. As the Bulldogs look to take home another area title once tournament play begins this week, they were able to knock off a pair of county foes last week.

### Belgreen 76 Phil Campbell 62

Will and Collin Bonner both scored over 20 points on the night and Scout Bragwell knocked down six three-pointers as the Bulldogs paced their county-rival to a 76-62 victory last Tuesday night.

The Bulldogs jumped out to an 18-11 lead in the first period thanks to ten points from Collin while getting two points from Will and three points from Scout Bragwell. Bryant Hyde kicked off the scoring for the Bobcats with five points in the first period while Mason Swinney chipped in with four points and Canaan Clay added two points.

Just before halftime, the Bobcats were able to chip away at the Bulldogs lead, outscoring Belgreen by a 20-18 clip in the second period. Swinney continued to chip in on the offensive side with seven points in the second period while knocking down a three-pointer. Kyle Pace and Clay both added five points in the period while Bryant Hyde knocked down a three-pointer.

Scout Bragwell had nine points while hitting three three-pointers in the second period for Belgreen. Will Bonner added six points on the night while Collin added three points before half-

See 'BULLDOGS,' page 13

# Signed and committed

Having spent a majority of their years playing football together, it was only fitting that Russellville seniors Dakota Andres and Will Calhoun continue their journey on the gridiron together. And after putting pen to paper to commit to Huntington College, they will finally get their chance to do so.

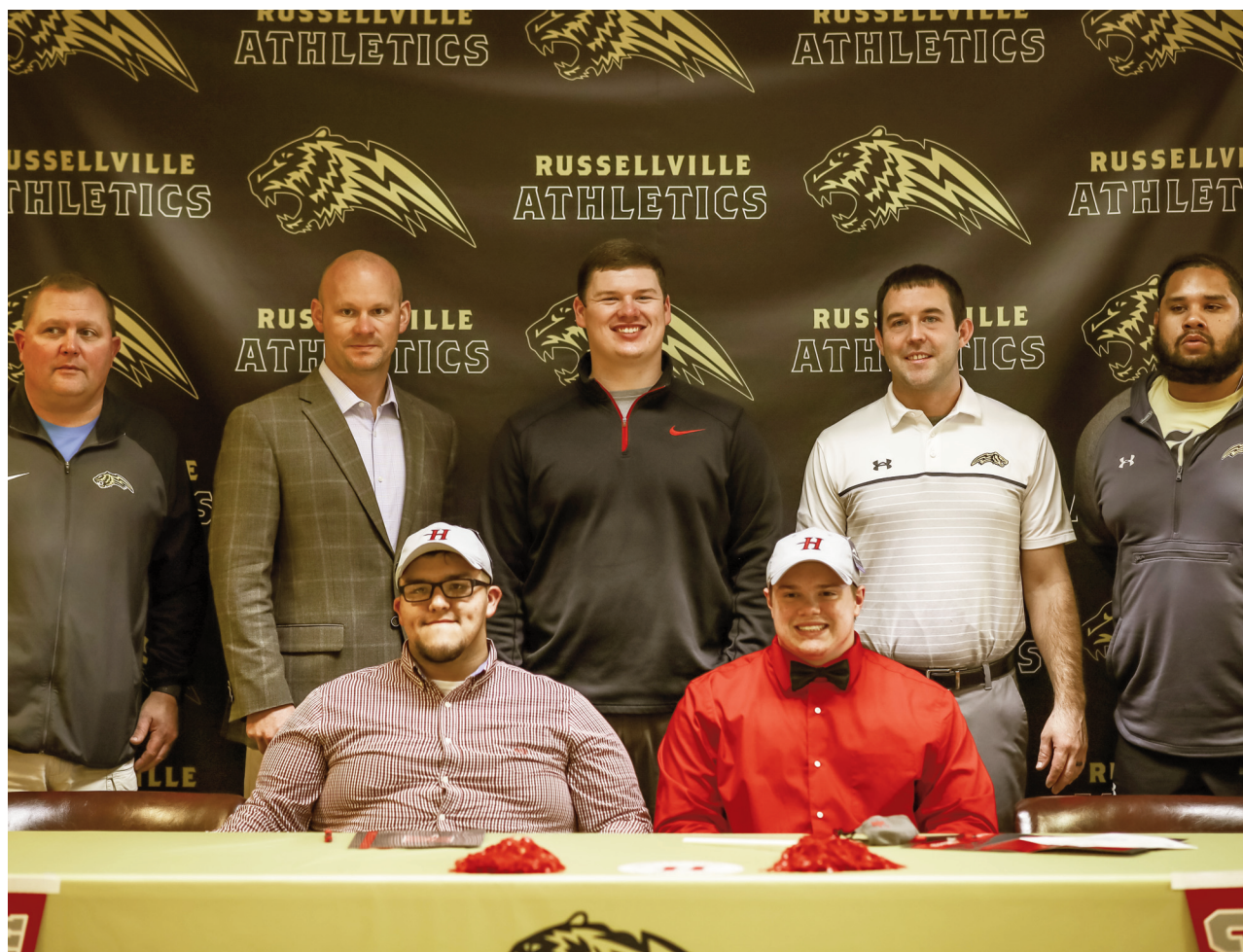


PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

Both Andres (seated on left) and Calhoun (seated on right) play on the offensive line and will look to continue building off of their success as members of the Golden Tigers as they make their way into the college ranks.

Brady Petree  
 Franklin Free Press

As he addressed the gathering of people on the top floor of the Russellville fieldhouse last Tuesday afternoon during the scholarship signing for Golden Tiger seniors Dakota Andres and Will Calhoun, head football coach John Ritter spoke to what led to this day of achievement for the pair of seniors. Not only did Andres and Calhoun excel on the field over the years, but their dedication in the classroom also played a large part in the two of them being able to extend their athletic and academic careers to the next level according to Ritter.

"To say that we as a staff are proud of these guys would be a massive understatement. They've put in a tremendous amount of work not only in the weight room and the practice field, but also in the classroom as well because to go to Huntington you've got to be pretty smart," Ritter said. "Dakota and Will are both just complete players and we're just very proud of what they've accomplished as individuals and also what they did to help their team reach its goals along the way."

Both Andres and Calhoun have been a part of football in the Russellville system in some capacity for many years. Dating back to their years as

See 'SIGNED,' page 14

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# Phil Campbell girls notch two wins in preparation for area tournament run

## Staff Reports

Leading the way in girls basketball in Franklin County, the Phil Campbell Lady Bobcats notched two wins last week as they prepare to run things back and go for another area title. The Lady Bobcats will host the 2A area 15 tournament beginning this weekend.

### Phil Campbell 64 Haleyville 32

The Lady Bobcats doubled up the score against Haleyville en route to a 64-32 victory over the 4A Lions last Tuesday night.

Caitlynn Mills scored nine points in the first period to pace the offensive output for the Lady Bobcats as they widely outscored the Lions by a 23-9 margin in the period. Kenner Scott knocked down her first three-pointer of the night in the first period while Katie Thomas added five points in the first period and Madison Branch chipped in with four points as well.

A great defensive showing in the second period from the Lady Bobcats saw Phil Campbell hold Haleyville to just four points total in the quarter. The Lady Bobcats were able to extend their lead to 33-13 by halftime. Mills knocked down a three-pointer in the period, scoring five points while Scott and Branch each chipped in with two points.

After halftime, Phil Campbell absolutely poured it on Haleyville offensively, scoring 23 points in the third period while holding Haleyville to just 11 points to extend their lead to 58-24 before the final period. Scott got a majority of her scoring on the night in the third period with ten points including knocking down two more three-pointers. Faith Cook added five points in the third period as well.

While Haleyville outscored the Lady Bobcats 8-6 in the fourth quarter, it was too little too late for the Lions. Olivia Taylor, Cook and Mills each scored two points in the final period to finish out the night for Phil Campbell.

Mills led the Lady Bobcats in scoring with 16 points with Scott right behind her with 14 points of her own. Branch finished the night with nine points while Thomas added eight points of her own and Cook added seven points for the Lady Bobcats.

### Phil Campbell 51 Danville 32

Closing out their week, the Lady Bobcats were able to snatch another win with a 57-32 route of Danville.

Phil Campbell outscored Danville by a narrow 11-9 margin through the first period Kenner Scott knocked down four points for the Lady Bobcats as Caitlynn Mills knocked down a three-pointer in the first period and Olivia Taylor also chipped in with three points.

The second period saw the Lady Bobcats widen their lead over Danville after an 11-4 margin thanks in part to five points (five for six from the free throw line) from \_\_\_ Thomas and four points from Mills. Madison Branch also got her first two points of the night in the second period for Phil Campbell.

The Lady Bobcats went into halftime with a 22-13 lead over Danville.

The second half saw more of an offensive output from the Lady Bobcats after an 18-6 pacing in their favor in the third period. Mills would knock down a three-pointer en route to scoring seven points in the period while Scott added six points to her total on the night. Olivia Taylor knocked down one shot to add two points for Phil Campbell.

Phil Campbell was able to close things out thanks to a solid fourth period in which the Lady Bobcats outscored Danville 17-13. Taylor would add to her points total on the night, adding four points of her own while Katie Thomas added four points to the Lady Bobcats total. Mills contributed three more points while Scott and Branch each added two points in the fourth period to finish off Danville for the win.

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## 'BULLDOGS,' from page 11

time.

After the half, the Bulldogs were able to slightly add to their lead thanks to a 16-15 quarter in their favor as Bragwell continued to be extremely efficient from behind the arc, knocking down another three-pointer in the third period while Austin James knocked down a three-pointer as well. Collin Bonner added six points in the period while Will added four points.

The Bulldogs were able to distance themselves from the Bobcats in the fourth period after a 24-16 scoring output. Will Bonner led the way in the fourth quarter, scoring 14 points to finish his night with 26 points while going 15 for 17 from the free throw line. Collin Bonner finished with 22 points on the night while the sharpshooting Bragwell finished with 18 points. James would knock down two threes on the night to finish with six points while Isac Willingham and Canaan Stough each chipped in two points apiece for the Bulldogs.

Swinney and Hyde led the way in scoring for the Bobcats with 17 each while Clay added 14 points to the Bobcats' total on the night. Pace added seven points while Quentin Hyde and Luke Garrison each scored three points.

### Belgreen 73 Red Bay 50

There hasn't been a more riveting series between county schools than the one between Belgreen and Res Bay this season. After the Tigers took the first game at home, the Bulldogs ultimately got revenge in the Franklin County title game, evening the series at 1-1 for the season.

For their final matchup of the 2020-21 season, the Bulldogs came away with the win and took the season series against their in-county rival.

Will Bonner got nine of his points on the night in the first period as the Bulldogs jumped out to an 18-11 lead through the initial period. Adrian Reaves knocked down two three-pointers in the first period while Scout Bragwell knocked down a three-pointer of his own.

Hunter Burks kept the Tigers in the game with his five points in the period, leading the way for Red Bay. Jalen Vinson also chipped in with four points in the period as well.

Belgreen maintained a healthy lead throughout the second period as the Bulldogs outscored the Tigers 16-13. Will Bonner continued to pace the scoring for the Bulldogs with seven points in the period, giving him 16 total for the

first half. The Tigers got five points from senior forward Braden Ray and four points from Landon Glover just before halftime as the Bulldogs led by a score of 34-24.

Coming out of the half, more of the same from the Bulldogs as Will Bonner continued to wreak havoc on the Tigers defense, adding seven points in the third quarter including knocking down a three-pointer. Collin Bonner got his first points of the night in the third period, chipping in with six points. Reaves knocked down his third and final three-pointer of the night in the third period, finishing his scoring night with nine points. Lane Shewbart led the way in scoring coming out of halftime for the Tigers with nine of his 13 points on the night coming in the third period.

The fourth period saw Belgreen extend their lead tremendously and put the game on ice after a 20-11 scoring pace from the Bulldogs. Five different Bulldogs put up scoring totals in the final period with Will Bonner adding six points to his total with Scout Bragwell right behind him five points in the period. Collin Bonner added four points in the fourth period with Alex Betts (three points) and Isac Willingham (two points) also chipped in for the Bulldogs in the period. A stifling Bulldog defensive effort held the Bulldogs to just 11 points in the final quarter with four Tigers being held to two points apiece in the period and one with three points to close things out and seal the win for Belgreen.

Will Bonner led all scorers with 29 points while Scout Bragwell added 11 points for the Bulldogs as well. Collin Bonner finished his night with ten points while Isac Willingham and Canaan Stogh each added four points apiece. Betts finished with three points for the Bulldogs.

Shewbart scored 13 points to lead the Tigers in scoring on the night while Ray finished his night with ten points. Gage Bays scored eight points while Landon Glover and Jalen Vinson added six points apiece. Hunter Burks finished with five points for the game and Carson Corum chipped in with two points.

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## 'SIGNED,' from page 11

mini-midgets, the senior offensive linemen's football career culminated with a trip to the 5A state quarterfinals this season while also taking home the region title, Russellville first since 2015.

As Andres puts it, the fact that

"Just being able to move on to the next level and represent my city and be the very best I can be means the world to me. I really just hope that I can make everyone around me proud of me," Andres said.

For Calhoun, who's varsity career start would coincide with the beginning of Ritter's tenure as the Russellville head coach and switched between five different positions before finding his groove as an offensive lineman, signing day has lingered in his mind for quite awhile. And now that the day has finally arrived, he says that the day represents a dream come true.

"It just feels good that all the hardwork has finally paid off. I think most high school athletes have this day in the back of their mind whether they get the chance to or not is another story but I'm really proud of myself and I'm proud of Dakota as well. It's just a great opportunity and I'm really excited," Calhoun said.

The 5'11 Calhoun and the 5'10 Andres are heading to Huntington College together now that their days as members of the Golden Tiger squad have come to an end. While most players who have grown up playing on the same teams for an extended number of years often don't have the opportunity to continue playing together beyond high school, both Andres and Calhoun realize the significance of attending the same college.

"I've been playing with Will since we were in mini-midgets and we've just been playing together for so long, he's like a brother to me out there so knowing that I have someone there that has my back and that I can count on for anything is just a great feeling," Andres said.

"To get to go is an amazing opportunity in and of itself. But to get to go with someone who is like your brother that you've played with for so many years is just a dream come true," Calhoun said.

Of course with spending as much time playing football at Russellville as both Andres and Calhoun did over the years, there are a plethora of memories that the two could choose from if you ask them to pick their favorite one. Undoubtedly, a lot of those fond memories come courtesy of their historic senior season and it is quite easy for both Will and Dakota to choose their favorite memory from their final season as Golden Tigers.

For Andres, the most exhilarating matchup during the regular season (not necessarily due to its 41-3 score), was their region win over Ardmore that sticks out in his mind.

See 'SIGNED,' page 15



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

Having played together since their mini-midget days, Andres and Calhoun will get the opportunity to continue their football careers together after signing their letter of intent with Huntington College last Tuesday.

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# 'SIGNED,' from page 14

"When we played against Ardmore, they had said something beforehand that riled everyone up and we ended up beating them real bad and I think it silenced them and really brought us even closer as a team and helped us get to where we needed to be," Andres said.

As for Calhoun, while every game from his senior season will hold a special place for him, the region-clinching victory over East Limestone will always stand apart in his mind.

"Every game from your senior year is really special. But for me it's when we played at home against East Limestone for the region championship. When I think back on my senior season, I think about that game and the atmosphere. It was just a great feeling to win the region title at home and that will always be special to me," Calhoun said.

At Huntington College, Andres plans to pursue a degree in education while Calhoun plans on majoring in criminal justice.

While the group of seniors for the Golden Tigers leaving this year will without a doubt be one of the more talented groups to come through the program. And to be a part of such a notable group, both Andres and Calhoun are hopeful that their legacy with Russellville has a major impact on the younger players coming up through the system while laying a solid foundation for winning for many years to come for the program.

"I hope it inspires the younger guys coming up to work harder and really do their best. It's just amazing to see this many guys that we've played with and to have three guys on the offensive line go on to college is pretty special and I hope those younger guys see that and want to be the best they can be," Calhoun said.

After years of blood, sweat and tears that were poured onto the field during their years at Russellville, the time has finally come for the two seniors to get the benefits of all of their hard work. And in the words of Andres, this day has been in the works for quite some time and it is nice to have everything finally pay off.

"Coach Ritter always says that you reap what you sow. If you're going to put in the hard work, you will eventually reap the rewards and us going on to the next level is just a testament to all the hard work that myself and Will has put in over the years. Just having that hard work finally pay off is amazing," Andres said.



## Eli Gipson Junior, Guard Russellville

Gipson's profile with the Golden Tigers has been on the rise this season as he has emerged as one of the premier scorers in Franklin County. That scoring ability was on full display against area-rival Lawrence County as the junior guard totaled 25 points that helped Russellville seal their 81-75 win over the Red Devils.



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 \*Child must be 5 years of age on or before 9/2/2021\*

**#TheTraditionBeginsHere**

*It shall be the policy of the Russellville City School System to provide nondiscriminatory basis educational opportunities for children. No person shall be denied the benefits of any education program or activity on the basis of race, disability, creed, national, origin, age, or sex. Pursuant to the requirements the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, all homeless children, migrants, and English language learners must have equal access to the same free appropriate public education provided other children and youth. All programs offered by schools within the school system shall be open to all students in compliance with statutory and judicial requirements. The enrollment of homeless, immigrant, migrant, foster care, and limited English proficient children shall not be denied due to any of the following barriers; lack of birth certificate; lack of school records or transcripts; lack of immunization records; lack of proof of residency; lack of transportation; unaccompanied; no guardian.*

West Elementary School

# Inscripción de Kinder

## 2021-2022

Del lunes 1, al viernes 19 de febrero  
8:00 a.m. a 2:30 p.m.  
Russellville Board of Education  
1945 Waterloo Rd., Russellville, Alabama

**Documentos Requeridos**  
 Acta de Nacimiento del niño(a)  
 Tarjeta de vacunas de Alabama (No Expirada)  
 Tarjeta de Seguro Social (Opcional)  
 Contrato de Renta o Escrituras de su casa  
 Recibo de Luz/agua (para verificar su dirección)  
 \*El niño/niña debe tener 5 años cumplidos a más tardar en 9/2/2021 o antes\*

**#LaTradiciónIniciaAquí**

La política del Sistema Escolar de la Ciudad de Russellville proporciona oportunidades educativas no discriminatorias para los niños. A nadie se le negarán los beneficios de programas o actividad educativa por motivos de raza, discapacidad, credo, nacionalidad, origen, edad o género. De conformidad con los requisitos de la Ley de Asistencia para Personas sin Hogar de McKinney-Vento, todos los niños sin hogar, los migrantes y los estudiantes que aprenden inglés deben tener el mismo acceso a la misma educación pública gratuita y apropiada que se brinda a otros niños y jóvenes. Todos los programas ofrecidos por las escuelas dentro del sistema escolar estarán abiertos a todos los estudiantes de conformidad con los requisitos legales y judiciales. La inscripción de niños sin hogar, inmigrantes, migrantes, en hogares temporales, y/o con dominio limitado del inglés, no será negada debido a cualquiera de las siguientes barreras: falta de acta de nacimiento; falta de expedientes escolares o transcripciones; falta de registros de vacunación; falta de prueba de vivienda; falta de transporte; no acompañado; sin encargado.

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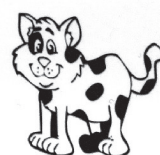
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