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4.28.21

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## Lawsuit seeking insurance coverage for Madden theft case

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

A lawsuit filed by Franklin County Attorney Roger Bedford against a local insurance agency and agent seeks damages for the theft claim that arose out of the Crista Madden embezzlement.

The suit was filed in Franklin County Circuit Court on behalf of the Franklin County Commission by the Montgomery law firm of Strickland & Kendall, LLC. Bedford is listed as co-counsel for the plaintiffs.

The suit targets Sinclair Lawrence & Associates, a Russellville insurance company, and Debbie Thorn, a

local independent insurance agent.

According to the complaint, Sinclair Lawrence and Thorn had more than a 10-year relationship of "procuring insurance for the Plaintiff, Franklin County Commission."

The plaintiff's claim is that Thorn, and agents of Sinclair-Lawrence Insurance, made representations to the Franklin County Commission about what type of insurance, including theft insurance, was best for the county to purchase.

The complaint alleges that the defendants knew that the coverage being provided to the Franklin County Commission did not contain

See 'LAWSUIT,' page 11

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## Russellville council approves consultation service for solid waste collection

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council approved an agreement with a Moulton company to provide consulting services for the city's solid waste collection.

The council unanimously approved the agreement with the Allstar Company, owned by Willie Allen, for "certain services and expertise in implementing and providing garbage service to the businesses and citizens of the city."

The contract runs through October 21, 2024, with a monthly payment of \$800. The contract may be terminated by either part with 90 days notice prior to its expiration.

Allen is the former Solid Waste Officer for Lawrence County. He brings more than 15 years' experience in the industry, with experience in the county and municipal side of waste collection.

Allen's duties will include performing an audit twice a year to insure customers are being correctly billed and that the city is receiving payment for its services, and to assist with locating and applying for grants for the Solid Waste Department of the City of Russellville.

Allen will also assist in expanding the solid waste division of the Russellville Street Department by preparing for and instituting a commercial solid waste program and

See 'COUNCIL,' page 11

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**Eaner Jeannette Alsbrooks Grissom, 93**, of Russellville, passed away on Sunday, April 18th. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

**Jeanette Hutcheson, 86**, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Thursday, April 22nd. Interment at Mountain View Baptist Church Cemetery.

**Arley "Joe" Lewis, 65**, of Russellville, passed away on Monday, April 19th. Interment at Keeton Cemetery.

**Ronnie Leon McCaslin, 66**, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Wednesday, April 21st. Interment at Old Line Cemetery.

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# Letter to the editor...

Dear Editor:

Every community has its own special people—those folks who do so much for others, but fly under the radar, not looking for accolades or attention.

I am proud to serve the Town of Phil Campbell as a City Councilman and I am proud of our residents.

We wanted to thank one particular resident who definitely fits as a special person in Phil Campbell.

Recently, Billy Wilson brought three Boston Butts with all the fixins and fed all the Town of Phil Campbell employees, the City Council, the Water and Sewer Department and the Phil Campbell Fire Department.

We would like to say 'thank you,' Billy! You have been an icon in our community who always puts the needs of others ahead of your own.

The food was delicious and we thank you for it. But most importantly, we thank you for your support of our community and your friendship.

Phillip King,  
Phil Campbell

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

**For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!**

## 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.

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### 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.

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## NAMC aiming to recruit high school graduates for workforce

*Submitted to the FFP*

North Alabama Medical Center (NAMC) has announced a new recruiting effort that focuses on high school seniors who intend to enter the workforce directly after graduation or individuals interested in gaining valuable experience in a health-care facility.

Promising candidates will be hired in Food Services or Environmental Services departments at North Alabama Medical Center. Once hired and trained, employees participating in the Career Pathway will begin to shadow and observe in other departments throughout the hospital, in an effort to explore the possibility of pursuing positions in other departments.

"Just because someone starts in the Food Service department doesn't mean they have to stay there. I've seen this scenario time and time again," said Lila Stapler, Director of Food Services at North Alabama Medical Center. "Many people don't realize the opportunities available inside the hospital. Once they become acquainted with healthcare operations, they often become interest-

ed in other jobs and that's ok! We want to facilitate our employees in accomplishing their career goals."

Star Rhodes started working in Food Services at NAMC in July 2010.

After just eight months on the job, she transferred to Radiology where she now works as a patient transporter.

"If I hadn't started working at NAMC, I never would have realized the job potential here. I enjoyed working in Food Services but once I learned about the transporter job, I knew I'd be great at that. Being a transporter allows me much more patient interaction. I get to talk to patients and ease their minds as they go in for their tests and communicate with family members as well." North Alabama Medical Center will be working with area high schools and career centers to promote the program. On the job training is provided and full and part time positions are available.

Applicants can apply online: [www.namccares.com](http://www.namccares.com) or contact Human Resources for additional information at 256-629-1040.

**For updates on news and sports throughout the week, be sure and visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!**



# PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Alabama Code Sections 32-13-1 through 32-13-8, the following motor vehicle will be sold for cash at 10:30 a.m., on May 26, 2021, at M&N Wrecker & Service Center, 11833 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, AL, 35653. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and the right to bid.

2001 Ford Mustang  
vin 1FAFP40471F220790

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vin: JM1BK123341144562

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vin: 1FMZU77E51UB26365

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**F**ifth Thursday Food Giveaway - 2 p.m. April 29, 2021 - Russellville First United Methodist Church – downtown corner of Madison and Washington Ave. Groceries will given out while supplies last. All social distancing measures will be followed. Bring your ID and follow instructions given by staff.

**O**sborn Hill Cemetery -Decoration Day will be on May 1, 2021. The first Saturday of May has been observed as Decoration Day for well over 100 years. All old flowers will need to be removed off the graves. Please make plans for that special day to come to the cemetery. Also its time again for annual donations. If you would like to donate to the Osborn Hill Cemetery Fund, please send your donations to: Osborn Hill Cemetery Fund, c/o Mrs. Lana Duncan 2330 Colburn Mtn. Road, Tuscumbia, AL 35674.

**T**he 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.

**I**n preparation for mowing season and before June 1, 2021, please remove all old flowers from the graves in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery on Highway 724. Donations for upkeep are needed and may be mailed to: Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, 941 Highway 87, Russellville, Al., 35654.

**W**eather permitting, there will be "Preaching from the Porch" on Sunday, May 2, 2021, at 11 a.m., Homecoming Day at Cherry Hill Baptist Church, Hwy. 244, Russellville. There will be NO meal. In case of rain, there will be no services.

**Y**ou are invited to Revival Services at Charity Chapel, 2955 Frankfort Road in Tuscumbia, from April 29-May 1. Services begin at 7 p.m., nightly. Revival will feature Bro. Rayburn Haynie as Speaker. Everyone is welcome.

**K**evin Adams will perform at Mountain Valley Hee Haw in Phil Campbell on Saturday, May 1, from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Email your event information to us at [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

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# FRANKLIN COUNTY UNPAID ACCOUNTS NEWSPAPER LIST TAX YEAR: 2020

## STATE OF ALABAMA, FRANKLIN COUNTY

I, VERONICA STANCIL, FRANKLIN COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER WILL SELL TAX LIENS FOR 2020 DELINQUENT TAXES ON MAY 13, 2021 BEGINNING AT 10:00 A.M. ENDING AT 4:00 P.M. AND THEREAFTER UNTIL COMPLETED. PURSUANT TO THE CODE OF ALABAMA, SECTION 40-10-182 AND ACT 2018-577, AS AMENDED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER THE AUCTION WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE BY GOVEASE. THE WEBSITE IS: WWW.GOVEASE.COM/AUCTIONS. THIS WILL ALLOW BIDDERS TO ACCESS THE AUCTION FROM ANY DEVICE (PHONE, TABLET, OR COMPUTER) FROM THE COMFORT OF THEIR HOME OR OFFICE. ONLINE WEBINAR TRAINING SESSIONS WILL BE HOSTED ON THE GOVEASE WEBSITE AND HELP VIDEOS CAN BE WATCHED AT ANY TIME. THANK YOU!

Account#	Name		
		0000499791	CARTEE REBECCA \$164.33
Total Amt Due			
0000867930	ADAMS RANDOL \$632.18	0000499801	CARTEE REBECCA \$672.76
0000408221	ALVAREZ ROGELIO & ROSA M GARCIA \$356.62	0000510001	CARTEE REBECCA \$406.37
0000760610	BALENTINE PROPERTIES INC \$2,902.04	0000514511	CHARTER FIBERLINK \$2,482.31
0000480431	BARNES RANDY \$622.26	0000788920	CHEEK RETA \$92.59
0000456371	BEAN BYRON \$285.81	0000013210	CLEMENTS ELOISE DAVIS \$178.81
0000819170	BEAN JESSICA \$521.31	0000167280	COCHRAN BETTY JEAN \$16.41
0000488491	BEASLEY LYNDA \$171.78	0000845800	COLBURN BILLIE \$54.25
0000300450	BERRY BOBBY D \$116.17	0000878160	COLBURN BILLIE \$512.01
0000862210	BERRY DANIEL \$1,669.19	0000018860	COOK JAMES W & VIRGINIA \$45.91
0000883890	BISHOP WILLIAM \$137.09	0000536652	COOPER ROY M \$148.72
0000208010	BLACK ALTON \$609.68	0000297020	COTHRUM ALICE IRENE ROBINSON \$295.56
0000008970	BLACK ALTON C \$196.89	0000164900	COTHRUM WALTER E \$16.41
0000487521	BORDEN TIFFORD & DEBRA SPEAKMAN \$491.12	0000271640	CROWE ELIZABETH \$24.33
0000009700	BOWEN GEORGE L \$353.00	0000521402	DAVIS DENFORD \$542.72
0000776110	BROWN ALVIN \$203.29	0000018300	DAVIS DEWEY D \$201.90
0000417651	BROWN ERIC W \$134.41	0000801230	DAVIS GREGORY \$293.76
0000856290	BULLARD CHRISTOPHER \$167.77	0000844350	DAVIS JAMES \$487.98
0000844620	BULLEN MILDRED \$1,486.62	0000825080	DEATON BRUCE \$211.07
0000012000	BURCHAM THOMAS E \$300.08	0000266360	DEATON BRUCE \$1,159.41
0000793550	C P 18 (AL) \$311.92	0000168350	DEFRENCHI STAN \$526.09
0000416161	CANTRELL BENJAMIN \$354.65	0000240310	DEL PRADO MARIO V \$247.30



# FRANKLIN COUNTY UNPAID ACCOUNTS NEWSPAPER LIST TAX YEAR: 2020, CONT.

0000476041	DICKERSON JAMES WILLIAM JR \$16.41	0000271830	HERRING JANE CONOVER EST \$47.37
0000871960	DITECH FINANCIAL LLC \$243.44	0000769750	HESTER JOEL \$37.16
0000492001	DULANEY EDDIE & DONNA B \$636.04	0000197200	HESTER JOEL DEE \$177.61
0000416931	EMERSON TAMMY \$85.05	0000492861	HILL NICHOLE D \$165.58
0000479201	EPPERSON DEBORAH \$214.50	0000264350	HINES JAMES ODIE \$337.92
0000023720	ERGLE LESLIE & NATHAN \$57.69	0000041760	HINES ODIE & RUBY \$356.96
0000271850	FARNED T E \$83.64	0000470211	HODGE TRAVIS JACK JR \$689.10
0000272500	FARNED THOMAS B \$26.73	0000882590	HOLLINGSWORTH AARON \$618.72
0000492891	FARR JACOB Z & HARLON D JR \$326.14	0000841130	HUMPHRES BRIAN \$833.45
0000864760	FARRIS CALEY \$116.71	0000822790	JACKSON CHASITY \$61.13
0000846560	FISHER DANNY \$81.31	0000826090	JACKSON CHASITY \$88.65
0000762000	FISHER JOYCE A EST \$710.11	0000829320	JOSE ANTONIO \$842.41
0000025010	FLANAGAN SHERMAN E \$340.39	0000516071	JRS REALTY LLC \$229.21
0000536022	FRAZIER WARREN M & ETALS \$215.45	0000407691	JUAREZ NICOLAS ETANOUR & TERESA R LUCAS \$185.38
0000772270	FREDERICK ROYCE \$99.38	0000821500	KAUNDART JERRY \$226.24
0000392800	FROG POND CATTLE CO INC \$1,090.49	0000296200	KAUNDART JERRY L JR & CHRISTY \$160.89
0000868880	FROST PATRICK \$571.84	0000845590	KENNEDY JIMMY MAC \$1,562.82
0000543172	FULLER TRACY D \$250.74	0000772860	KENNEDY MARTIN \$298.55
0000204890	GARRISON LENORIA \$50.81	0000760520	KIMBROUGH ODELL \$45.91
0000816550	GARRISON LENORIA \$104.01	0000828080	KING ADAM \$30.17
0000260690	GILBERT JAMES O & SHANNON \$50.81	0000166180	KING JOHN S & OPAL \$620.96
0000028560	GRAHAM DAVID WALKER SR EST \$16.41	0000518321	LAWSON KEVIN J\$88.65
0000227830	GRAVITTE GEORGE WILLIAM & MARY A \$167.09	0000861670	LESLEY ADAM \$448.00
0000764480	GRISSOM BILLIE \$16.41	0000866800	LESLEY ADAM \$406.79
0000882980	GUSTAVO CHAVEZ \$229.68	0000849200	LESLEY KENNETH \$1,396.85
0000464981	HALL JENNIFER F \$1,131.52	0000344650	LEWEY GLADYS ESTATE \$181.63
0000761110	HAMILTON LEWIS C JR & ETALS \$116.71	0000488411	LUCAS DELGADO IRENE \$422.32
0000761130	HAMILTON LEWIS C JR & ETALS \$110.81	0000497161	LUNA ENRIQUE GUZMAN \$336.08
0000857610	HARDIN CHARLES \$52.27	0000784910	MALONE TERRY G EST \$523.81
0000518661	HARGETT JEFFERY \$1,058.72	0000055040	MANSELL G 1/3 INT & E D STEIN \$189.21
0000338110	HARRIS DOROTHY & EDWINA B HARRIS \$156.61	0000807590	MARTINEZ ALMA \$350.08
0000782130	HATTON DENNIS & LORETTA \$1,067.61	0000210130	MARTINEZ JORGE E & RICARDA T \$75.82
0000872870	HEATHERLY MILDRED \$1,798.22	0000876730	MARTINEZ JOSE \$559.21
0000420151	HERRING GARY WAYNE \$1,075.20		



# FRANKLIN COUNTY

## UNPAID ACCOUNTS NEWSPAPER LIST

### TAX YEAR: 2020, CONT.

0000271990	MASSEY LAURA B EST \$40.49	0000778010	PHARR KIM \$630.74
0000519762	MAYFIELD NICHOLAS W \$1,017.43	0000867160	PICKENS STEVE \$64.57
0000058690	MAYFIELD REBECCA S \$845.44	0000849780	PIERCE MORGAN \$209.15
0000058170	MCCALPIN PAUL & PATRICIA ANN EST \$686.51	0000784920	PILGRIM FRED \$677.21
0000059940	MICHAEL JAMES EDWARD & VELMA \$217.52	0000849860	PILGRIM FRED \$1,096.62
0000480101	MILLS BILLY EST \$380.84	0000226700	PILGRIM FRED & SUE \$16.41
0000425221	MITCHELL DANIEL I \$1,945.72	0000408191	PILGRIM FRED A & CAROLYN S \$2,877.93
0000415021	MITCHELL JOE DALE \$156.61	0000432721	PILGRIM FRED A & CAROLYN S \$441.21
0000272070	MIXON J B \$30.17	0000434861	PILGRIM FRED A & CAROLYN S \$1,290.82
0000384380	MONDRAGON MARTIN GARCIA \$92.35	0000477431	PILGRIM FRED OLIVE \$305.51
0000860560	MONTERROSO GUSTAVO \$1,090.22	0000776770	PILGRIM RENTALS \$576.91
0000836960	MONTGOMERY MARY \$86.03	0000776780	PILGRIM RENTALS \$4,609.18
0000215300	MOORE C STORES LTD \$1,590.07	0000487171	PILGRIMS RENTAL LLC \$242.50
0000205380	MOORE W J ESTATE \$461.76	0000487431	PILGRIMS RENTAL LLC \$665.41
0000862770	MOSLEY LISA \$3,917.50	0000528872	PILGRIMS RENTAL LLC \$7,073.88
0000465661	MOTES RODNEY D ESTATE \$284.25	0000857900	PILGRIMS RENTAL LLC \$606.41
0000829230	MS INDUSTRIES II LLC \$6,653.22	0000876490	POSEY SANDRA \$608.08
0000885050	MS INDUSTRIES II LLC \$67,344.01	0000831560	POSEY SHAWN \$512.18
0000133430	MURRAY BOB ETALS \$174.65	0000820690	POUNDERS STANLEY \$68.01
0000068830	MURRAY CHARLES L & THELMA \$494.56	0000820670	POUNDERS TERESA \$85.21
0000792310	MUY GRANDE LODGE LLC \$124.82	0000861900	PREZ DAVID GARCIA ROSA MARIE PREZ GARCIA
0000544272	NICHOLS BRANDON \$190.42	\$1,863.63	
0000796490	OCHOA CLAUDIA \$164.74	0000127080	QUINN LUTHER C & MARY ELIZABET \$306.96
0000826380	OLIVER JONATHAN \$730.31	0000851930	QUINN SHELIA \$544.91
0000815730	OLIVER SHANNON \$210.83	0000272140	REES JEAN M \$40.17
0000249420	ORICK DOUGLAS NOONAN \$637.20	0000850470	RICE WILLIE \$92.35
0000068710	ORRICK TERRY & DOROTHY \$52.27	0000848430	RICHARDSON ROBBIE \$187.51
0000466431	OSMAN GOTO & MESERET BEFEKADU \$3,521.03	0000833730	RIDGE AMANDA \$515.20
0000778290	PACE HENERY \$427.52	0000872820	RILEY JONATHAN \$19.53
0000851470	PATEL JITENDRA \$2,181.72	0000229010	ROBERSON GAIL \$193.14
0000829910	PEDEN COREY \$2,478.50	0000832560	ROBERSON GAIL \$173.69
0000454421	PEDRO PASCUAL MATEO \$107.35	0000800000	ROBERSON TYLER \$290.18
0000515881	PEPPERS DAVID HEATH \$271.90	0000358650	ROBERTS HERSHAL & LATONYA \$341.36
0000856100	PEREZ JOSUE \$464.64	0000876340	ROBERTS KAREN \$373.81



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0000793300	ROJAS EMILIO \$86.46	0000807820	VALDEZ RUIZ MISAEEL \$261.71
0000775430	RUPLEY JENNIFER \$277.64	0000178030	WALDREP REUL T & PAULA M \$414.02
0000867770	RURAL HOUSING SERVICE USDA \$356.96	0000291340	WALDREP RUEL T & PAULA M \$64.57
0000829470	RUSSELLVILLE HOLDINGS I \$2,695.54	0000291790	WALDREP RUEL THOMAS & PAULA M \$451.44
0000829610	RUSSELLVILLE HOLDINGS LLC \$204.24	0000825410	WELLS CHAD \$1,780.52
0000855070	SENKBEIL KYLE \$268.19	0000877340	WELLS CHAD \$2,087.32
0000167040	SHERRILL RONALD G & DEBBY \$276.42	0000871000	WELLS LANCE \$218.11
0000043220	SMITH BERNICE \$334.48	0000097390	WHITE J R \$44.14
0000239460	SPURGEON JANIE \$16.41	0000334940	WILLIAMS LISA & ETALS \$318.65
0000782800	STAFFORD EST DOROTHY \$331.04	0000100360	WILLIAMS MARIE H EST \$134.49
0000429861	STANLEY MARY LISA \$609.81	0000101730	WILSON WINONA \$620.85
0000300430	TACKETT MARTHA \$258.46	0000508401	WILSON WINONA & DANIEL \$111.78
0000435301	TARLETON DOROTHY W \$461.76	0000537912	WILSON WINONA S & JOE M & JOHN D \$277.84
0000872110	THIBODEAUX AMANDA \$128.09	0000102700	WINGO G C & BEULAH EST \$70.72
0000414241	TIDWELL JOHN W & LYNN \$303.40	0000239290	WINSTEAD RILEY & KIM H \$301.87
0000499991	TIDWELL JOHN W & LYNN \$50.81	0000530762	WINSTEAD RILEY & KIMBERLY H \$195.81
0000204770	TRAPP BILLY \$339.52	0000865170	WOODRUFF II JAMES NORMAN \$69.52
0000413181	TRAPP JANICE L & ETAL \$194.81	0000272390	WYER STEPHEN C \$33.61
0000481791	TRAPP PROPERTIES LLC \$3,831.73	0000272400	WYNNE J C HEIRS \$36.57
0000481801	TRAPP PROPERTIES LLC \$830.54	0000542312	YARBROUGH STEPHANIE K \$305.78
0000212770	TRAPP WILLIAM A \$1,332.12	0000776210	YOUNG DEBRA ESTATE \$818.42
0000312590	TUCKER MATTHEW & LEIGH ANNE \$81.45	0000844030	ZILLS TINA \$258.31
0000770740	VALDEZ JAMIE \$865.60		

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# 'LAWSUIT,' from page 1

tail coverage or other appropriate insurance that would cover claims for prior thefts after the coverage was no longer in effect. Tail coverage is an addition to a claims-made insurance policy that extends coverage for incidents that happened during the time the policy was in effect, but the claim is not filed until after the policy expired.

Both defendants, through their attorney, have filed answers denying the allegations in the complaint. Sinclair Lawrence & Associates and Thorn are represented by Mobile attorney Natalie Daugherty.

The complaint alleges that from April 1, 2006, through April 1, 2015, the Franklin County Commission had an insurance policy with Lafayette Insurance, issued through the defendants' office. That policy included coverage for theft.

Madden served as Franklin County Administrator until 2017. After she left that position, it was later discovered that Madden had stolen \$753,889.21 in funds from the Franklin County Commission General Fund, Franklin County Gas Tax Fund and the Franklin County Commission Solid Waste Fund.

Madden pled guilty in March 2018 to two felony ethics violations and was sentenced in June 2018 to a 20-year prison sentence.

According to the complaint, on June 8, 2018, the plaintiff learned that the county's commercial crime policy with Lafayette had previously been canceled by Thorn and Madden. The plaintiff alleges that if the policy had been in effect it would have provided coverage for "the previous multiple years" that Madden stole checks from the county.

The Franklin County Commission received a letter from Lafayette on June 4, 2018, the complaint states, that denied its claim for indemnification of the monies stolen, as the policy had been canceled.

The basis of the lawsuit is the allegation that the defendants had a duty "to procure an employee theft policy that provided previous multi-year employee theft coverage" and failure to do so was negligent on their behalf.

Bedford explained his position that the defendants should have recommended the county purchase tail coverage to protect the county's ability to file claims for thefts that took place prior to the change in insurance.

"The suit is to collect on the insurance policies that were paid for and in place when the theft occurred," Bedford said. "The probate judge and Franklin County Commission are to be commended for trying to recover as much of the stolen money for the taxpayers of Franklin County as possible."

According to records from the Franklin County Circuit Clerk's office, approximately \$227,000 has been paid in restitution in Madden's case. The majority of that comes from two \$100,000 insurance payments, one from State Farm Fire & Casualty and one from Berkley Southeast Insurance Group.

Madden petitioned the court asking to be placed in the Community Corrections program so she could start working and paying restitution, but that request was denied. Bedford filed a motion on behalf of the Franklin County Commission opposing Madden's request for Community Corrections.

When former Franklin County Commissioner (and Madden's father) Rayburn Massey addressed the commission at a work session earlier this year, he asked commissioners to support his daughter's Community Corrections motion. The commission took no action on Massey's request.

Massey asked each commissioner if they ever voted on filing an objection to Madden's Community Corrections request and all four said they did not recall ever discussing or taking any action related to her petition.

Massey questioned why Bedford filed a motion on behalf of the commission without the commission voting and directing him to do so. Bedford's response was that when the county turned the matter over to the Alabama Attorney General's office for investigation and prosecution, that served as the commission's consent to move forward.

A similar issue about when, or if, the commission authorized the lawsuit against Thorn and Sinclair-Lawrence, exists in the current case.

The *Franklin Free Press* spoke with two county commissioners who both said they had no knowledge of the lawsuit being filed until they were served with notices of deposition.

Depositions are part of a civil proceeding where witnesses or parties to the proceeding are asked to testify under oath, and a court reporter makes an official transcript of the testimony.

The *FFP* asked Probate Judge Barry Moore about whether there was any official action by the commission to approve filing the lawsuit, but Moore, as is his protocol with pending legal matters, referred questions to Bedford.

Moore did say he and other county officials want to recover as much restitution for Franklin County taxpayers as possible and the Sinclair Lawrence lawsuit was part of that effort.

Legal issues to be resolved in the civil case include whether tail coverage was actually available to Franklin County for prior theft claims, and if so, whether the defendants had a legal duty to recommend or notify the county such coverage was available.

The case is pending in Franklin County Circuit Court and will be handled by Circuit Judge Terry Dempsey. No trial date has been set, but Dempsey's most recent order directed the attorneys to confer and work out a proposed scheduling order to be submitted to the court.



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# 'COUNCIL,' from page 1

working to improve efficiency and developing cost-saving programs.

"I see a lot of opportunities for the City of Russellville with the locations and resources you have here to help the citizens of Russellville," Allen told the council.

After the agreement ends in October 2024, it will continue on a month to month basis until terminated by either party.

In other agenda items, the council:

—approved a change order for the Lawrence Street/Walnut Gate Road & Alabama Highway 24 intersection improvement project. This included an additional \$8,296 for lighting. The expense is 100 percent reimbursable.

—appointed Shirley McSpadden as temporary Human Resource Director and a pay increase to Grade 9, Step 1, retroactive to March 30.

—declared a vacancy for Human Resource Director and agreed to promote from within the Classified Service..

—hired Chris Hill (Grade 6, Step 2), Jermaine Bates (Grade 6, Step 2) and Antoine Suggs (Grade 4, Step 1) as patrol officers in the Russellville Police Department.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council is set for May 3, 2021, with work session at 6 p.m, and meeting to follow.

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1. 7 a.m.-until. 709 Waterloo Road. Lots of items. Some painting equipment included.  
 Yard Sale. Saturday, May 1. 7 a.m.-until. Third Street, A.B. Hester Subdivision, south of Frosty Inn. Clothing, some furniture, misc.

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- Shawn Jones (5)
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- Angela Kirkpatrick (81, 144)
- Brittney Williams (70)
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**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**



## Golden Tigers roll over Boaz, take on Corner in round two

Brady Petree  
 Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - One thing that has been apparent for the Russellville Golden Tigers varsity baseball squad over the course of this season, is just how well-rounded this team is.

And the Golden Tigers (34-5) showed just how well-rounded they are after a first round sweep of Boaz. The Golden Tigers advanced to round two of the 5A playoffs with an 11-0 win in game one and a 14-3 victory over the Pirates in game two to secure a matchup against Corner High School in another best-of-three series beginning on Friday.

With an offense that struck gold early on, combined with an always sound defense and quality pitching, the Golden Tigers showed just why they've earned the number one spot in the 5A coaches poll for a majority of the season.

And while the bats certainly came alive (more on the offense in a bit) in both games for the Golden Tigers, Russellville got things started with a five inning complete game shutout from Emitt Green on the mound.

"Emitt threw pretty well for us. He threw 70 percent strikes and was in the zone consistently. Our first pitch strike percentage wasn't where we would normally like it to be because we would like for it to be a little higher overall but overall Emitt did a really nice job," head coach Chris Heaps said. "I think we got a little comfortable and kind of laid back after that. Our goal in each and every game is three or less walks or hit batsmen per seven innings and Emitt did a good job with that. Our defense plays so well that we feel like if you don't give them freebies, it's going to be hard for them to beat us."

A recent trend that has benefited the Golden Tigers immensely has been the fact that the Golden Tigers have been scoring early and often in their recent games.

In game one against the Pirates, the Golden Tigers scored at 11 runs in the first three innings. Then in game two, the trend continued as the Golden Tigers scored six runs in the first inning and two in the second inning.

"It's really nice to go up and put up a crooked number early. Earlier in the season when we did that, we just kind of sat on that number and didn't take it and run with it. But we've done a nice job here recently taking leads early and adding on to it," Heaps said. "We had seventeen baserunners in game one and if we get that many guys on base and don't commit any errors, which we didn't, and Emitt pitches the way he did, we feel really good about what we can do."

While the offense was cruising to 25 runs across two games for the Golden Tigers, there was no shortage of offensive firepower to be found up and down the lineup for coach Heaps and his staff.

In game one, shortstop Eli Gipson went 2-3 with

# A historically good start

After scoring over 400 runs during the regular season, the Phil Campbell Bobcats kicked off their playoff campaign in style, putting up 52 runs in two games against Susan Moore. Now they will look to ride that momentum through the playoffs in hopes of capturing a state title.



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

**The Bobcats' 52 runs scored in their round one victories over Susan Moore was second all-time in AHSAA playoff history.**

Brady Petree  
 Franklin Free Press

After averaging nearly 12 runs a game in a remarkable regular season, Phil Campbell's prolific offensive attack kicked things up a notch in Friday's first-round Class 3A playoff series against Susan Moore.

The Bobcats scored 16 runs in the first two innings of the series opener and wound up matching their season-high for runs in a game with a 22-0 rout—but that proved to be merely a warm-up act for game two.

Leading the second game 7-0 after three innings, Phil Campbell sent 16 men to the plate in the top of the fourth and scored 11 runs. The Bobcats out-did themselves in the top of the fifth, sending 18 batters to the plate and tallying 12 more runs on their way to a 30-0 win.

And despite head coach Jonathan Raper's extensive coaching career, it's safe to say that the Bobcats two wins over Susan Moore have been the most overwhelming in his coaching tenure. And to hear him put it, the Bobcats were firing on all cylinders from one through nine in the order and even down the bench too.

"We just hit the ball extremely well and they (Susan Moore) probably helped us out a little there at the beginning but our guys just kept it going the rest of the game," Raper said. "It was a just a good win in all aspects. We subbed in some

of our younger guys later on in the game and those guys hit the ball well too. So it was just a good day for us all around."

According to the official AHSAA baseball website, Phil Campbell (32-3) became the 16th team in state history to reach the 30-run mark in a game, and just the second team ever to do so in the playoffs. Previously, the only team to score 30 or more runs in a postseason game had been Westbrook Christian, which beat Verbena 31-0 in a Class 2A playoff game in 2018.

With their 52-run explosion on Friday, the Bobcats have now scored 437 runs on the season. According to the AHSAA site, that ranks them 12th in state history for the most runs scored in a single season. Up next on that list are Hartselle in 2013 (440 runs), Childersburg in 2007 (442 runs), Leroy in 2010 (444 runs), G.W. Long in 1999 (454 runs) and Hackleburg in 2007 (454 runs).

Phil Campbell will be in prime position to pass those teams next week in the second round against either Carbon Hill or Geraldine. A deep playoff run would give the Bobcats a chance to join 2011 Cullman (502 runs), 2007 Hillcrest-Tuscaloosa (520 runs) and 2013 Brooks (state-record 533 runs) as the only teams in AHSAA history to score 500 runs in a single season.

The fireworks started early in Friday's first game. Mason Swinney, Ridge Raper and Luke Barnwell each had an RBI single in the bottom of the first as



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## RHS girls tennis has historic run through state tournament

Brady Petree  
Franklin Free Press

While school was in session last Monday, the Lady Golden Tigers tennis team was pulling off a historical run through the 4A-5A state tournament.

Avery Miller and senior Roxana Velez-Serna brought home the program's first ever state title after winning the 4A-5A court two doubles in Mobile.

For head coach Charlotte Dollar, who has been teaching and coaching at Russellville since 1999, seeing Miller and Serna bring home the title understandably brought a sense of joy.

"We were just over the moon excited. With this being Roxana's final year, that just made the wins even better," Dollar said.

And while Miller and Serna took home the highest honors for the Lady Golden Tigers, the entire team came away with a solid performance overall in the state tournament.

The Lady Golden Tigers finished third overall in class 4A-5A in the state tournament.

Team members include Peyton Parrish, Addie Strickland, Leah Rushing, Madeline Cooper, Sofia Tiffin, Natalie Busler, Avery Miller and Roxana Velez-Serna.

While the Lady Golden Tigers would have needed a few bounces to go their way in order to take home the overall title, Dollar was extremely pleased with her squads performance.

"I was excited and expected some great things because we had such a great showing at sectionals," Dollar said. "But you never know when you head down there what you're going to run into. Because there are exceptional tennis players down there.

And while the strong performance at the state tournament might have caught the casual onlooker off guard, it certainly didn't catch Dollar by surprise.

Dollar says she had an inkling early in the season that this year's team

See 'TENNIS,' page 19



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**'GOLDEN TIGERS,' from page 13**

three RBIs and two runs scored while Jackson Lindsey would go 2-3 with one RBI. Reed Hill went 0-2 in game one but managed to drive in two runs while Cole Barnett and Casen Heaps both had one hit apiece.

And while there were meaningful at-bats from virtually every Golden Tiger, it was junior backstop Canyon Pace who led the way on the day, going 6-6 with a home run in both games to go along with seven RBIs on the day.

"I think the biggest thing for Canyon is, he was swinging at strikes. He has a little tendency to chase some pitches out of the zone and be a little over-aggressive but I think he's starting to settle in and see the ball a little bit better," Heaps said. "We have a saying that 'you're only as good as the pitch you swing at' and when you swing at good pitches you'll yield results and Canyon got results from swinging at good pitches. He had seven RBIs in one night. Can't ask for a much better night than that."

In game two, Pace would continue his offensive onslaught with his aforementioned second home run of the day and three more RBIs.

In their 14-3 win in game two, 11 Golden Tigers would register a hit while seven of those 11 would knock in at least one run. Nick Smith and Lindsey would each come away with a pair of doubles to their credit while Gordon White (two hits), Brayden Heaps, Reed Hill Shayden Romans, Andrew Hatton, Banks Langston and Logan White would all notch at least one hit in the game. Casen Heaps smashed a 2-1 pitch to straightaway centerfield in the top of the 4th inning for the Golden Tigers third home run of the day, giving the centerfielder two RBIs in game two.

Now that the Golden Tigers made quick work of Boaz, they now turn their attention towards Corner High School in hopes of advancing to round three.

One of the arms the Golden Tigers will see it that of Colin Daniel who is a Samford commit.

"Corner has played a pretty good schedule and I know playing at Corner will be quite a challenge as we go up against a good arm," Heaps said. "But I think we're built for a two out of three series and we feel really good if something happens and we have to play three game series, we feel good about our guys and we know what they are capable of doing."

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# 'START,' from page 13

Phil Campbell built an early 6-0 lead. The inning reached its crescendo with two big swings—a two-run double by Swinney and Austen Baker's eighth home run of the season, a two-run shot that made it 10-0.

The Bobcats added six more runs in the second, getting RBI singles from Trey Leindecker, Levi Crittenden and Swinney, plus a sac fly from Raper. Leindecker and Kyle Pace each delivered a two-run double in a six-run fourth inning that stretched the lead to 22-0.

Swinney finished 4-for-5 with five RBIs and two runs scored, extending his hit streak to 14 games and recording his team-leading 19th multi-hit game of the season. He was perhaps even better on the mound, striking out 12 batters and walking none in a five-inning two-hitter. Despite extremely long breaks in between his stints on the mound [six-run innings take a while], Swinney (7-0) remained razor-sharp throughout the game, throwing 48 of his 64 pitches for strikes.

The hard-throwing junior righthander recorded his third complete game, second shutout and fourth game with double-digit strikeouts this season.

Leindecker, a senior, finished game one 3-for-4 with four RBIs and three runs scored. Raper went 3-for-3 with two RBIs and three runs scored, recording his 15th multi-hit game of the year. Baker was 2-for-3 with his 11th career home run, two RBIs and three runs scored.

Barnwell went 2-for-4 with an RBI and two runs scored, and Bryant Hyde was 1-for-3 with an RBI and three runs. Crittenden went 1-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored. John Miller Lawson drove in one run and scored another. Sage Raper scored two runs, and Brett Saint scored one.

The Bobcats resumed mashing as soon as game two began, getting an RBI double from Baker and an RBI triple from Lawson in a four-run first inning. They took advantage of four errors by Susan Moore (8-10) to add three more runs in the top of the third before totaling 23 runs over the final two innings.

Bryant Anthony got things started in the 11-run fourth with a three-run triple, and Swinney hit an inside-the-park two-run homer. Ridge Raper, Hyde and Leindecker each had an RBI double, and Crittenden added an RBI single.

Finally, in the 12-run fifth, Phil Campbell took advantage of two hit batters, three walks and eight base hits, including RBI singles from Barnwell, Hunter

Baker and Cam Habada, a two-run double from Kyle Pace, and an RBI single and a two-run single from Anthony.

"We went to Decatur that Monday night and knocked the cover off of the ball. We just got hit after hit. And on nights like those, you've just got to smile and enjoy it when everything finds a gap and everything just goes your way. But then we go to West Point and didn't hit the ball badly, it was just that everything was hit right at them," Raper said. "And we remind our guys that some days are like that where you hit the ball really well, it's just right at them. But once we leave the field on Friday night, we come back on Monday and we get to work on who we match up against next and we can't get caught up on any one game. We've got to enjoy the good days and not dwell on the bad days. Just pick up and move on."

Anthony finished game two 4-for-4 with two walks and six RBIs, recording his 13th multi-hit game of the year. Hyde was 3-for-4 with a triple, a double, two RBIs and four runs scored. Swinney went 3-for-4 with his seventh home run of the season, two RBIs and two runs scored. He has 20 multi-hit games on the year and has hit safely in 15 straight.

Ridge Raper was 2-for-3 with a triple and two runs scored, recording multiple hits for the 10th time in the last 12 games. Leindecker was 1-for-3 with two RBIs and three runs scored, and Lawson was 1-for-2 with a triple and two runs scored.

Austen Baker went 1-for-4 with a double and two runs, and Kendrick Baker was 2-for-2 with two runs. Hunter Baker went 1-for-1 with an RBI and four runs scored. Barnwell had a hit, an RBI and a run, and Habada was 1-for-2 with two RBIs and two runs. Crittenden was 1-for-3 with two walks, an RBI and a run, and Sage Raper drove in a run with a sac fly.

Kyle Pace went 1-for-1 with a double, three RBIs and two runs scored. Cole Pace drove in a run and scored two.

Barnwell (7-1) was the beneficiary of all that offense, striking out seven and walking just one in a five-inning one-hitter. He needed just 67 pitches (49 of which were strikes) to toss his fourth complete game and third shutout of the season. Barnwell threw first-pitch strikes to 16 of the 18 batters he faced.

The Bobcats will square off against Geraldine High School on Friday in a best-of-three series in round two of the 3A playoffs.




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# 'TENNIS,' from page 14

might just have a special run in them.  
 "Every year I schedule a couple of schools that I think could beat us because I want us to see that we have room for improvement and we can work on things," Dollar said. "Then when we started beating some of the people that I had kind of expected to beat us, I started to think we might have something special here."

And not only will Dollar have a strong core of young players returning next season on the hunt for a state championship, but due to the recent success of the program, she might have a deeper pool of talent to dip into next season.

According to Dollar, she has already received a string of inquiries from students about joining the program next season. A

"I've already had a lot of people come up to me in the hallways asking me when tennis tryouts were," Dollar said. "So I think it just makes people want to be a part of a program that's being successful and are hoping to work their way in hoping for a chance to get a state championship."

And with that aforementioned returning core and a new wave of talent likely to come through once tryouts begin, the Lady Golden Tigers should head into next season with even higher expectations than this season.

"We only have one senior on the varsity team this year and that's Roxana. We should have six starters and two alternates returning for us next season and of those top six, three of those were freshmen," Dollar said. "And we also have two or three other ninth-graders that are on the junior varsity squad that are really committed to working hard this summer and they're going to be knocking on the door for next year's varsity squad so we're really excited about what we have moving forward."

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## Canyon Pace Junior, Catcher Russellville

Pace had quite the day for the Golden Tigers in the first round playoff matchup against Boaz. The junior backstop for Russellville went 6-6 in two games as the Golden Tigers won by finals of 11-0 and 14-3 to advance to round two of the 5A playoffs. Pace hit a home run in game one to go along with four RBIs and followed up his performance with another home run in game two in addition to three more RBIs. At the end of the day, Pace came away with two home runs, seven RBIs and two runs.



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