



- Gifts for All Occasions
- Screen Printing
- Engraving, Vinyl
- Sublimation

256.398.8928 • 944 Ronnie McDowell Ave

**BEST OF THE BEST**

*Mike's Beverages*  
Wine • Liquor • Beer • Tobacco & Vapes  
"Voted Best of the Best Package Store by Franklin County voters!" Thank You!

13501 Hwy 43 • Russellville • 256.332.5200

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

FranklinFreePress.net

9.1.21

**Wall Saver Recliner**

Easy Financing Options for up to 12 months same as cash on all furnishings

**Sale Price \$249!**

Reg. \$499



Hours: 10-5 M thru Fr, 10-2 on Saturday

**Jackson-Royal Furniture**  
Franklin Center • Russellville  
256-460-0924 • 256-332-6721

## Former Littleville mayor appointed to fill council seat vacancy

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

At its August 26 meeting, the Littleville Town Council voted by a split ballot to appoint former mayor Scotty Howard to the council seat vacated in June by Harold Malone.

Council member Bobby Childers made the motion and it was seconded by Jack Mitchell. Childers, Mitchell and council member Chase White voted in favor and Littleville Mayor Ron Morrow and council member Jenna Daniel voted no. The measure passed by a 3-2 margin.

Morrow defeated Howard in his 2020 bid for reelection as Littleville Mayor.

When Malone resigned at the council's June meeting, he immediately made a motion to appoint

Howard to fill his council seat. The measure carried by the same 3-2 margin.

But Morrow, after consultation with city attorney Nathan Johnson, told the council that Alabama law requires any Class 8 municipality to fill a council vacancy at its next regular meeting or any subsequent meeting of the council. Since Howard's appointment came at the same meeting, that action was in violation of Alabama law. Johnson advised the council of the law, which applies to Littleville since its population is less than 5,999 residents, thus classifying it as a Class 8 municipality.

Three Littleville residents contacted the city clerk to convey their interest in the vacant council position. They included Howard, Eddie Wilson and Phillip Pace.

See 'LITTLEVILLE,' page 5

**ALABAMA GUN & PAWN**



Fishing Tackle - HUGE Supply!  
New Shipment of Ammo!

15347 Hwy 43 • 256-332-1108

## Franklin County Schools on virtual instruction through September 6

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Since the first day of classes on August 10, Franklin County Schools have seen a steady increase of positive COVID-19 cases each day.

When the number of students, faculty and staff with positive cases reached 119 on Thursday, Franklin County Schools Superintendent of Education Greg Hamilton made a decision he didn't want to make.

Franklin County Schools began virtual instruction on Monday, August 30 and instruction will remain virtual through Monday, September 6.

In-person instruction will resume on

Tuesday, September 7, Hamilton said.

Franklin County Schools began one day earlier than Russellville City Schools, which saw its board unanimously implement a mask policy that amended the RCS dress code to require face masks be worn until further notice.

The Franklin County Board of Education did not vote on a mask mandate and at the board's most recent meeting did not include any consideration of requiring masks to be worn.

But Hamilton said he's looking ahead, and would not speculate as

See 'VIRTUAL,' page 3

**Bill's Pressure CLEANING**



**Bill & Eric Fuller**  
256-668-3240  
FREE ESTIMATES

**TRAPP TREASURES**  
Discount Varieties




Half off retail or more on New Merchandise!  
Clothing \$7 or less!  
Rugs, Bedding, Patio Furniture, Lighting, Bath, Home Décor and More

**Open Labor Day**

Franklin Shopping Center  
14001 Hwy. 43 Suite 15B  
Next to Jackson's Furniture  
256-889-0111  
Open Thurs.-Fri. 10-7 and Sat. 9-5

**Taking care of your family's dental needs**




Brett M. Bowen, DDS

**Bowen Family Dentistry**

243 Underwood Road • Russellville 256.332.4000

**RUSSELLVILLE DENTAL CARE**

Everyone Deserves To Smile!



Dr. Steve Hammack & Staff **Se Habla Español**

**NEW LOCATION!**

510 Engle Dr SE  
(256) 332.6073

Our team is ready to serve you!

**SINGING RIVER DENTISTRY**



531 St. Clair St., Russellville  
Call 256.332.6888 to schedule your appointment today!



**Hablamos Espanol**

**FAMILY Pharmacy GROUP**

BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama

**Family Pharmacy of Littleville**



Accepting Tricare and BCBS  
1369 George Wallace Hwy  
256.332.4021  
familypharmacygroup.com

SingingRiverDentistry.com

# ALABAMA GUN & PAWN INC.

**LOWER  
NEW  
PRICES**



**HUGE 5-Pallet  
Shipment of Steel  
Cased Ammunition  
Just Arrived!**



**WOLF**  
PERFORMANCE AMMUNITION

**Large Supply!  
No LIMIT!**

**New Shipment  
of Ammo!**



**9MM:**

50 Rd. Box ..\$24.95  
1,000 Rd. Case .. \$499.99



**7.62 x 39mm:**

20 Rd. Box ..\$9.99  
1,000 Rd. Case .. \$379.99



**\*300 AAC Blackout**

20 Rd. Box ... \$18.99, 500 Rd. Case ... \$449.99

**\*223**

20 Rd. Box ... \$9.99, 1,000 Rd. Case ... \$499.99

**15347 Hwy 43 • 256-332-1108**

LOCAL • PERSONAL • CARING



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

**Grant & Beverly Atkins**  
403 East Lawrence Street  
Russellville, Alabama

"In Memory of our loved ones..."  
brought to you by Atkins Marble and Granite Works  
and Franklin Memory Gardens

**Sue Nell Davis, 90**, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Monday, August 23rd. Interment at Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

**Jonathan Bradley Kent, 49**, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Friday, August 27th. Interment at Mt. View Cemetery.

**John Walter "J.W." Long Jr., 99**, of Russellville, passed away on Thursday, August 26th. Interment at Ridge Cemetery.

**Jacky Ray Warhurst, 75**, of Russellville, passed away on Sunday, August 22nd. A private service with family was held.

Don't forget to visit us on the web at [www.franklinfreepress.net/](http://www.franklinfreepress.net/)!

Jeff Elledge's  
**CREDIT CARS**

**NO CREDIT - WE FINANCE**

00 Ford F150  
\$1000 Down  
96 Ford F250  
\$1500 Down  
04 Chevy Tahoe  
\$1800 Down  
10 Ford Fusion  
\$1800 Down

05 Chevy Impala  
\$1200 Down  
04 Jeep Gr Cherokee  
\$1200 Down  
08 Jeep Gr Cherokee  
\$1500 Down  
06 Ford Exploror  
\$800 Down

[elledge.jeff@gmail.com](mailto:elledge.jeff@gmail.com)

2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals  
256.383.7979 • 256.710.3711

# 'VIRTUAL,' from page 1

to whether a mask mandate would have prevented the need to go to virtual instruction.

"I'm not second guessing any policy or decision. We're just dealing with the facts and the fact is our positive cases have spiked since the day we started school. They're up to 119 as of Thursday (August 26)," Hamilton said.

"We've never had over 17 positives at any school since the onset of this pandemic. And that counts students and employees," he added.

Extracurricular activities will continue during the period of virtual learning and Hamilton said there would be no restrictions placed on the number of fans who may attend athletic events. Teams may continue to practice and play with no restrictions.

Hamilton said he hopes the 10-day break from in-person instruction will reverse the trend of positive cases on the rise each day.

"We're hoping a short pause will break this up. We'll reevaluate as a school system after students return on September 7," Hamilton said.

Hamilton said he did not begin virtual learning on Friday, August 27 because he wanted to provide teachers an opportunity to prepare for remote instruction.

Since classes began August 10, custodial staffs at each school have cleaned daily with the Total 360 Electrostatic sprayer as well as disinfectants to help mitigation efforts. Those cleanings will continue once school resumes.

Any mask mandate would have to be approved by the Franklin County Board of Education, which is not scheduled to meet again prior to September 7.

Hamilton sent a letter Thursday to all parents and students notifying them of his decision, and outlining the procedure for Child Nutrition Program meal distribution during the virtual learning period.

For students who are regular car riders, meal pick up will be from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., on Wednesday, September 1.

For students who are regular bus riders, meals will be delivered by bus on Wednesday, September 1, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Mike's Beverages**  
**Lowest Vape Prices in Town!**




MIKESBEVERAGES  
Follow us! Instagram




**Kangvape 5000 Puffs \$15.99**

**NEW Cloud 5000 ... Puffs \$15.99**  
**POP 400s Puffs ..... \$5.99**  
**Rare Mega 5000 Puffs .... \$15.99**  
**Kangvape 1900 Puffs ..... \$8.99**  
**V Fun LED Vape ..... \$11.99**

**13501 Hwy 43 • Russellville**  
**256.332.5200**

Visit us on the web at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!

**NOW OPEN** **FRANKLIN DISCOUNT DRUGS**  
**In Phil Campbell! 205-993-4554**

**Free Local Delivery!**  
**Convenient Drive-Thru!**  
**Most Insurance Accepted!**



**Mon.-Fri. 9-6**  
**3145 Hwy 237**  
**Phil Campbell**

**Next to Phil Campbell High School**      **Owner/Pharmacist Wes Mayfield**

**Welcoming New Patients**



**We would be honored to care for you and those you love.**

*Physicians (L-R):*  
**Jack M. McLendon, MD, FACP | Jeremy Thompson, MD, FAAFP**  
**Joshua D. Vacik, MD, FACP | Courtney Bowen, MD | Brian C. Richards, DO**  
**Brad McAnalley, MD, FACP | Robert Dickson, DO**

**CALL (256) 383-4447 ext. 124**

*Like us... Share us... Call us...*



**1120 S. Jackson Hwy Sheffield, AL**      **www.MedShoals.com**      **351 Alabama Hwy 64 Killen, AL**

# FCCDC approves school, non-profit grants

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Community Development Commission met August 27<sup>th</sup> and approved a number of grants to local schools and non-profit agencies.

The commission, which includes Brad Bolton, Jeremy Campbell, Chris Wallace and Red Bay Mayor Charlene Fancher, meets quarterly to review grant applications. The next meeting of the commission will be October 29, 2021, at 8:30 a.m., at the Red Bay City Hall.

Any grant request for that meeting must be received by a member of the commission on or before April 16<sup>th</sup> at noon.

With the most recent grants, more than \$2.266 million has been returned to Franklin County since the inception of the funding. The funds come from in lieu of tax payments from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The Franklin County Legislative delegation, Sen. Larry Stutts, Rep. Jamie Kiel and Rep. Proncey Robertson, each make an appointment to the commission to represent them.

Grants awarded at the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting include:

- \$5,000 transfer to Future Economic Development Fund.
- \$2,500 to Red Bay Junior High football for purchase of helmets and shoulder pads.
- \$800 to Big Brothers Big Sisters Russellville High School Coordinator

**SEE 'GRANTS,' page 7**

**For updates on news and sports throughout the week, be sure and 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.

### Publisher

John Pilati

### Executive Editor

Brady Petree

E-mail: [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto: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

### Correction Policy

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

### Letters to the editor

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

### Copyright Information

Published by Pilati Investments, Inc. Copyright 2018  
All materials and content are copyrighted by the Publisher  
This publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any method, without the express written permission of the Publisher.

# Russellville council approves liquor license for Doe's Eat Place

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

At a special called meeting held Monday at noon, the Russellville City Council approved the issuance of a license for the sale of restaurant retail liquor, beer and wine to the corporate owner of Doe's Eat Place.

Councilman Dexter Hamilton made the motion that was seconded by Darren Woodruff.

The vote was 4-0 in favor. Two council members, David Palmer and Jamie Harris, were absent from the meeting.

Doe's Eat Place will reopen in September under new ownership. The restaurant will be operated by the same company that recently opened 306 Barbecue on Highway 43 in Russellville.

Representatives from Doe's who attended Monday's meeting said they are projecting an opening date during the first two weeks of September.

The city's resolution approving the alcohol license will now be sent to the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for its final review. The ABC must also permit the license before it takes effect.

The previous owners of Doe's Eat Place, located at 114 North Jackson Avenue, also operated with a retail liquor license at the location.

Woodruff said he excited to see the restaurant open and hopes to see it as a spring board for downtown revitalization.

"I welcome Doe's to Russellville and I'm looking forward to your opening in our city. We know it will be done right and we can't wait," Woodruff said.

In other news, Russellville Mayor David Grissom updated the council on the status of a grant application for funds through the Federal Transportation Alternative (TAP) Program.

Grissom received word Monday that a grant of \$559,870 was approved for sidewalk improvements on East Limestone and Montgomery Streets and North Jackson Avenue.

This will be the next step in rehabilitating and renovating the city's Downtown Historic District.

## My take on this... remembering my friend, Wayne Payne

On April 11th of this year, I lost a very special friend to COVID. I had good intentions to write a tribute to him in April but it has taken a lot longer than I thought it would be able to write it.

My heart has finally healed enough that I can write without tears falling. It's been a long and tough four and a half months but nothing I feel can compare to my friends that have lost their daddy and his granddaughter that has lost the most important man in her life.

My buddy, Wayne Payne, had been dealing with pulmonary fibrosis for years and had to use his oxygen all the time.

Then he was diagnosed with COVID. It wasn't good but his determination became stronger and his will to overcome was his important task at hand.



Gail Motes

He got well enough to go to rehab to help build up some strength. I talked to him and he was doing a little better, but his voice was becoming weaker and that bothered me but we weren't about to lose hope.

I've always been told, "as long as there is life, there is hope."

He spent his 85th birthday in rehab.

Just three days after his birthday and a total of 177 days in the hospital and rehab combined, my friend's battle was over.

It's hard losing a special friend, so I immediately turned to some memories.

The first time I ever met him was like I'd known him for years. He had one of those outgoing personalities where he never met strangers. A stranger was just a friend he had yet to meet. Meeting my friend was one of the finest moments in my life.

**SEE 'TAKE,' page 7**

**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)!**

# NOW HIRING

**\$2,000 sign-on bonus for all new employees through August 31, 2021.**

Benefits include: Medical, Dental, Vision, Vacation, Holidays, 401K and Night Shift Incentive and Opportunities for Advancement!

**Join the Pilgrim's team by applying in person at our NEW Muscle Shoals office, 204 Woodward Ave., from 11-7 Monday-Friday and 8-2 Saturday, or our plant at 2045 Hwy. 244 in Russellville, or online at [www.pilgrimsusa.com](http://www.pilgrimsusa.com).**

Pilgrim's is an Equal Opportunity Employer, M/F/V/D.

**Your Opportunity for a Better Future Begins at Pilgrim's!**



## 'LITTLEVILLE,' from page 1

At Thursday's meeting, a citizen addressed the council saying there were several residents in attendance who wanted to speak to the council about the vacancy, but no public discussion was held before the vote was taken.

In order to be eligible for the appointment, a person must be a qualified elector of the municipality and shall present proof of identification..., including a valid Alabama driver's license or some other form of identification that confirms a permanent address in the city. Code of Alabama 11-44G-1(b).

Howard said he was excited about the opportunity to serve the city, and he will be guided simply by what's best for the town.

"I'll just be one vote. Like I told them, if I feel it's something good for the town, I'll vote yes. If it's something I believe is not best for our town, I'll vote no," Howard said.

"I'm excited to get back to trying to work with everybody and do my best for the city," he added.

In other agenda items, the council:

—approved a \$1,500 payment to the Littleville Volunteer Fire Department. The department's fireworks stand was broken into around the July 4th holiday and the department lost \$1,500 as a result. The council voted 4-0 (with Daniel abstaining) to approve the expense.

"Most of the time when there's an accident, they're the first ones there and the last ones to leave," Morrow said.

—agreed to advertise for a vacant position in the Littleville Water Department. Applicants must be water certified, OSHA certified, and heavy equipment certification and CDL is a plus.

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

Check us out online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!

Where Everybody Knows Your Name...



**FREE Local Delivery**  
**FREE Curbside Assistance**  
**Mail Order Delivery\***



\*Within the state of Alabama

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

**RUSSELLVILLE DRUGS**  
FREE Local Delivery!



## Bowling Family Medical Clinic

- We are a primary care and walk-in clinic
- We accept all insurance, including Medicaid
- Convenient location at 1369-A, Hwy 43 in Littleville

**Se Habla Español!**

**256-333-4118**

**Mon. - Thurs, 8 - 6  
Fri., 8 - 12, Sun., 1-5**



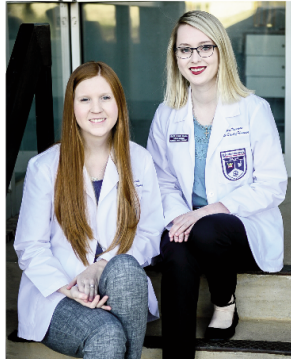
SAMFORD UNIVERSITY  
MCWHORTER SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

# FREE WELLNESS SCREENING

2 LOCATIONS:  
RUSSELLVILLE DRUGS  
AUGUST 28 & SEPTEMBER 4  
8 AM TO 11:30AM

FAMILY PHARMACY OF RUSSELLVILLE  
SEPTEMBER 11 & 18  
8 AM TO 1:30PM

Blood pressure, blood sugar, pulse, and informative shingles  
vaccination counseling!  
No appointment necessary!





Morgan Hovater  
and  
MaKayla Franks  
PharmD Candidates 2022


## What's Happening


256.332.0255


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


 Volunteers are needed with Kindred Hospice. Come and serve your community in a way that meets your goals and time availability. Contact: Kay Holt, LBSW,VC or Kimberly Mansfield, VC @ Kindred Hospice 256-764-0873.


 The Why Knot Diner in downtown Russellville will host a Car Show on Sunday, Sept. 12, from 12 p.m.-6 p.m. They have scheduled for Jackson Avenue between Lawrence and Montgomery Streets to be closed during the event. There is a \$10 entry fee for those who want their vehicle to be judged. (Best All Around Car, Truck/SUV, Bike will get trophies) and Race Car & RatRod will receive plaques. We will also have door prizes for those who enter their vehicles. But anyone who doesn't want to pay the entry fee can still bring their vehicles and show them off right along with the rest. Contact Dustin at 256-668-2585 for more info and follow @Why Knot Diner on FB to see posts and updates.

 McLomoe and Turner reunion will be on September 11th at 11 a.m. at Spruce Pine Community Center. Bring covered dishes. Call (256)-324-5288 for more information.

 Community Action of Northwest Alabama has COVID-19 funding available through its Utility Program. If you have missed work or lost income due to COVID-19, the program may be available for you. You can apply online at [www.caanw.org](http://www.caanw.org), or in person at the Community Action office, located in the Russellville Wellness Shopping Center on Hwy. 43 South. The office is open Monday thru Friday from 8-4:30 p.m. Community Action also has a rental assistance program that may help you with rent if you meet the qualifications. Call 256-332-7534 for more information.

 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.

 Divorced? Separated? We can help. Divorce Care is a weekly seminar/support group that will help you heal from the hurt. It's a warm, caring environment led by people who understand what you are going through. Learn practical information and gain hope for your future. Come join us at First Baptist Church, Colbert Heights, every Wednesday night from March 15 through June 7 from 6-8 p.m. Church is located at 6000 Woodmont Drive, Tuscumbia, AL 35674. For more information, call 256-383-8016 or go online to [www.firstcolbertheights.com](http://www.firstcolbertheights.com).

 A Foster Parent Training Course will be offered by the Franklin County Department of Human Resources starting Sunday, Sept. 12. The Sunday classes will be from 2-5 p.m., and will end on Sunday, November 14. Foster parent licensing requirements include being 19 years or older, passing a criminal background check for all household members 19 or older, clearance of state central registry on child abuse and neglect for all household members 14 or older, family stability, regular source of income, if married the marriage must be at least one year in duration. For more information, contact Leilani Johnson at DHR at 256-331-5940.

## George Evans, MD

Offering general medical care services for the entire family



SHOALS  
PRIMARY CARE



256.383.4473 Ext. 2021

340 Cox Blvd • Sheffield, AL

Have an event we can help publicize? Call us at 256-332-0255.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net). Send your letters to the editor and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

We love to hear from you! Please send your guest columns, cartoon panels, letters to the editor, recipes and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

## Bradford, State Farm agents team up to support UNA sales program

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

State Farm agents from across north Alabama teamed up to assist future sales professionals attending the University of North Alabama recently.

Russellville State Farm agent Rhett Bradford was among the 10 agents who presented a \$10,000 grant to support UNA's Steele Center for Professional Selling. Funds will be used to provide training for students who are interested in a career in professional sales.

The grant was presented on August 13<sup>th</sup> at the Steele Center on UNA's campus. Mr. Robert H. Steele, the major benefactor of the center, was in attendance along with UNA officials. Steele is a 1978 UNA graduate and founder of four businesses. He played football at UNA and went on to play for the Dallas Cowboys.

Bradford said the grant will serve as an investment in future sales professionals, and possibly, future State Farm agents.

"At State Farm, we understand the importance of a good foundation when going into this profession and if we can help students now, it will translate to success later for the students, their families and the communities they will serve," Bradford said.

The mission of the Steele Center for Professional Selling is to increase the prominence, credibility and reputation of the sales profession by educating the next generation of sales professionals in an inclusive manner, in turn providing a return on investments for the students and their families as well as corporate partners who support the center.

Along with Bradford, State Farm agents from Florence, Tuscumbia, Cullman, Huntsville, Muscle Shoals, Decatur and Moulton participated in and supported the grant program.

**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)!**

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### Heavy Equipment Operator in the Solid Waste Department

**in the Franklin County Commission Office until 5:00 PM on Friday, September 3, 2021.**

**An application and job description(s) 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.franklin-countyal.org](http://www.franklin-countyal.org) under the Careers tab.**

**Franklin County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the employment or the provision of services.**

## 'GRANTS,' from page 4

classroom items.

—\$1,000 to Russellville City School Education Foundation for scholarship.

—\$1,500 to Tharptown High School Basketball for purchase of a magnetic dry erase board.

—\$1,500 to Vina High School for repairs to the gymnasium floor.

—\$1,500 to Vina High School football for helmet reconditioning.

—\$1,000 to Tharptown High School volleyball for purchase of equipment.

—\$800 to Phil Campbell Elementary School for purchase of materials for Neuhaus Basic Language Skills Program.

—\$800 to Belgreen High School for special education classroom purchase of sensory processing resources.

—\$800 to Belgreen High School for fifth grade classroom purchase of movie screen, color copier and bookshelf.

—\$2,500 to Red Bay High School baseball for purchase of a batting cage turtle.

—\$800 to Belgreen High School Reading Intervention Program for purchase of classroom furniture and supplies.

—\$800 to Tharptown Elementary School first grade for purchase of document cam and two iPads.

—\$1,875 to Red Bay News for Newspapers in Education Classrooms at Red Bay and Vina.

—\$6,700 to Liberty Learning Foundation Super Citizen Program for eight elementary schools.

—\$5,600 to Red Bay Elementary School kindergarten and first grade technology project for seven classrooms.

## 'TAKE,' from page 4

He was a man of strength and determination who loved life.

He was full of compassion for everyone.

He was a Church of Christ preacher who cared about people and their souls. The world is full of "want to be Christians" but Wayne Payne was a real Christian man.

He treated the wealthy and less fortunate both with dignity and love.

He never tried to be anything but Wayne Payne.

I admired him for the preacher he was and the "realness" of the man. He was the real deal!

I doubt he ever knew what an influential person he was to so many — myself included.

There was so much love and appreciation for him and he had a lot of love and appreciation for his family and friends.

My heart has been so broken, but it can't compare to the loss and loneliness of his three daughters, grands and his sister.

What makes this even worse is they lost their mother a few years ago. I know what that feels like and I hate so much that they will have to know.

I am so proud that I got to visit him and his daughter Terri n Rouston, Louisiana this past year. I think it was anyway.

That isn't important. The fact that I got to spend a couple nights and hang-out with my dear friend meant so much to me. Those days were special, but having those final memories to look back on now are priceless.

I will continue to pray for my friends.

Your bond with your daddy and papa will always be full of love and closeness. Your faith and trust in God will get you through the days ahead and the years to come.

Rest in peace Wayne Payne. You mean the world to me!

I will always thank God for our memories and be forever thankful for a friend like you.

I'd also like to add that I appreciate your service in the Navy. With Labor Day upon us, it's just one more thing to be proud of you for.

May God bless each of you!

Until later...

**Have an event we can help publicize? Call us at 256-332-0255.**

**For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net). Send your letters to the editor and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).**

# Franklin Electric alley traffic converts to one-way with opening of new drive-thru window

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

With last month's opening of Franklin Electric Cooperative's new building in downtown Russellville, came some changes in the way motorists must access the drive-thru payment window.

The former Franklin Electric building had the drive-thru payment window located on the north side, accessible from Franklin Street.

The new building was constructed with the drive-thru payment window located on the east side, facing the public alley that runs behind it. As a result, the alley was changed from two-way traffic to one way, with access only from Lawrence Street.

After hearing requests from adjacent property owners, Russellville City Councilman Jamie Harris, Russellville Police Chief Chris Hargett and Russellville Street Department Manager Shannon Wilson decided the one way access traveling north (off Lawrence) was the safest measure to avoid potential collisions between motorists leaving the drive-thru and those turning in the north end of the alley.

Franklin Electric also had a concrete curb installed that runs alongside the drive-thru window route, designed to help prevent potential accidents as cars exit the payment window.

It may sound confusing, but it's really not. Just keep this simple rule in mind. If you need to use the FEC drive-thru payment window, you must turn into the alley from Lawrence Street. You'll exit onto Franklin Street.

Signage was posted in early July in advance of Franklin Electric's reopening. One way signs and a sign directing motorists to FEC's drive-thru window are located on the south end of the alley. Do not enter signs were installed on the alley's north end.

Hargett said his department will monitor the public roadway to make sure motorists are following the new signage.



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

The new drive-thru window for the Franklin Electric Cooperative building is now located on the east side of the building, forcing traffic to come in one way off of Lawrence Street and exiting onto Franklin Street.



**Gifts • Home Decor**  
**Personalized Items**  
**Jewelry • Baby Items**

AndersynJack.com

**15% OFF**  
Any purchase with this ad.  
*Expires 8/31/21*

**256.398.8928 • 944 Ronnie McDowell Ave**  
M-Th: 9-4, Fr: 9-5, Sat: 9-3

**43 Wash N Spin**



Laundromat/Lavanderia

**31 Vincent Dr.**  
**Just off Hwy 43**  
**across from**  
**Russellville**  
**Fire Department**

**Open 7**  
**days a week**  
**6:00 a.m. -**  
**10-:30 p.m.**



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)!



# Zoning commission recommends variance for future Dollar General location

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Zoning and Planning Commission's recommendation to approve a zoning variance means the proposed construction of a Dollar General store on Waterloo Road takes a giant step forward.

The variance was requested by Gene Aycock, a Muscle Shoals developer who builds Dollar General stores in northwest Alabama. The request was for a rezoning classification from R3 residential to B1 neighborhood business.

Aycock reached an agreement with the congregation of North Russellville Baptist Church to purchase approximately one acre of land on the northern edge of the church property.

Thursday's meeting was for the purpose of receiving public opposition and/or support regarding the proposed variance.

Aycock's plans call for the Broadway Group (the developer and designer) to construct a 10,640 square foot building facing Waterloo Road. Aycock said the Dollar General "Plan C Plus" model includes the sale of fruits and vegetables, and the store will be 'a little bigger than most.' The store will feature LED lighting and a very modernistic style, Aycock said.

"It's the biggest one we can get over there," Aycock said. "It's not a Dollar General Market store, but it's the next step below that."

The commission voted 5-1 in favor of recommending approval of the variance to the Russellville City Council. The council will have to approve it at a later meeting in order for the variance to take effect.

The lone opposition came from Zoning and Planning Commission member Terry Bolton, who expressed concern about the impact the store would have on existing businesses including Northside Market and Yogi's Citgo.

"We've already got two Dollar Generals in Russellville and I'm not seeing how this will help the tax base in Russellville," Bolton said. "Northside has been locally owned since it was built. There are traffic issues if this project goes through. We've got buses coming over that hill.

"We will not have Northside Grocery. It will shut down and this will hurt Yogi's too," Bolton added.

Several members of North Russellville Baptist attended the meeting. A church spokesman said the vote of the congregation was unanimous in support of selling the land.

One issue that arose Thursday was the possibility of Dollar General officials wanting to sell beer and wine at the new Waterloo Road location.

Aycock said there were no plans for alcohol to be sold at the new location due to its proximity to the church.

"You can't sell it next to a church and they don't really want to carry it anyway," Aycock said.

Additionally, there is a clause in the sales agreement for the property that Dollar General officials will not seek to sell alcohol at this location.

Several years ago, the new owner of Northside Grocery petitioned the city council for an off-premises beer and wine license. The council denied the request, in large part due to opposition from North Russellville church mem-

bers.

Russellville District Two City Councilman Darren Woodruff attended the meeting and gave the proposed construction his blessing.

"As the councilman for District Two, I fully support this project. Based on what the agreement is regarding sale of beer or alcohol, I will oppose any future efforts toward allowing the sale of beer or wine at this location, though," Woodruff said.

Russellville Police Chief Chris Hargett said the most recent traffic study showed approximately 5,000 cars travel on Waterloo Road each day.

"I'm sure that number including school traffic. The site distance is okay and it's a pretty wide open spot so I don't think there will be any visibility problems," Hargett said.

Russellville Mayor David Grissom said a Dollar General located on Waterloo Road would be a big benefit to the city.

"They're one of the top tax contributors in the city and based on this proposed location, I fell like it would do nothing but help our city sales tax base," Grissom said.

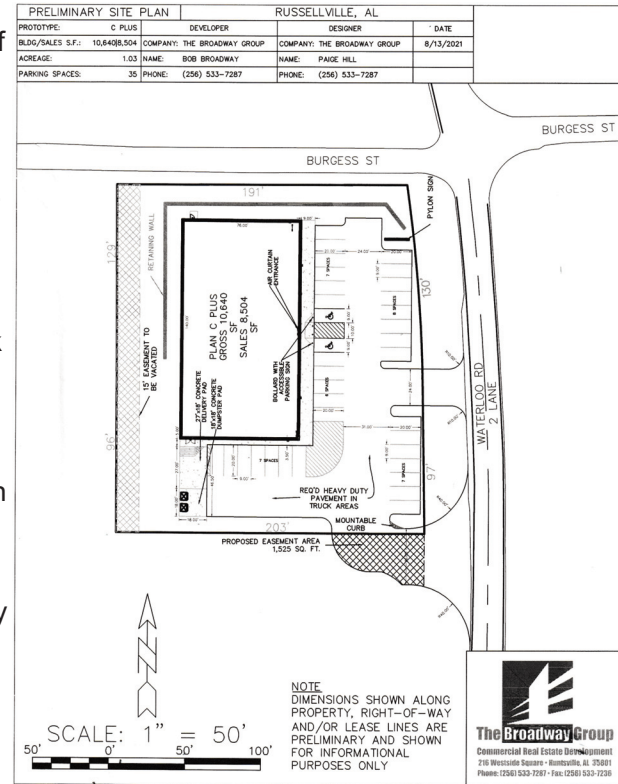
Commission member Milford Brown said he supported the variance after learning of the unanimous support the proposal had among the church membership.

"The members of North Russellville Baptist know what's best for their property, so I'm satisfied if they're in support of it," Brown said.

Several church members said if there was ever a petition to sell beer and/or wine at the store, they would strongly oppose any such consideration.

Once the project begins, church members will use the lower parking lot on the south side of the property for parking during church services.

Aycock said he expected store hours to be similar to other Dollar Generals. He mentioned 8 a.m.-10 p.m., most days, but possibly a later opening time on Sunday.



COURTESY PHOTO  
The plans for the proposed Dollar General on Waterloo Road call for a 10,640 square foot building to be constructed facing Waterloo Road.

## 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 September 22, 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.

2014 Ford Escape  
vin 1FMCU9GXEU60548

2017 Mitsubishi Lancer  
vin JA32U2FU4HU004509

2007 Toyota Yaris  
vin JTDBT923171021908

## Miranda Decker, M.D.

### INTERNAL MEDICINE

### Comprehensive Adult Health Care

### Russellville Internal Medicine, P.C.

535 Gandy Street NE  
Russellville, AL 35653

256-332-1120



Mon-Thur  
8-5



# Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

**YARD SALES**

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Friday/Saturday, September 3/4. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Top of Spruce Pine Mountain. Highway 26. Look for signs. Lots of clothes from baby to plus size. King canopy bed, dresser, some antique furniture, glass-

ware, movies, boxes of material great for quilts or crafting. Household wares, pictures. Some coins and old comic books, and lots of watermelons! Too much to mention!  
  
Four-Family Yard Sale. Friday/Saturday September 3/4. Friday

10 a.m. Saturday, 7 a.m. Corner of Jackson Avenue and Cherry Street. Kitchen dishes, cookware, rocking chair, end tables, lamps, pictures, household décor, women's, men's and children's clothes and shoes, twin size mattress, daybed with trundle bed, dining room chairs, light fixture, ceiling fan.

Contractor looking for workers for Diana's Workforce. \$11/hour manual labor and packing posts. Must be able to lift 65-85 pounds and work weekends. Please call (256)-324-0222 for more information.

**FOR SALE**

Cemetery plot for sale at Franklin Memory Gardens. Please call 256-668-7004.

Electric head tilt bed with metal frame and twin long mattress. \$100 firm. (216)-956-5658.

Authentic Michael Kors purse and matching wallet, \$120. Call 256-

398-0781. Metal platform for use as Queen bed frame. Brand new. \$110. Call 256-398-0781.

Mainstay suede futon. Great condition. \$100. Call 256-398-0781.

Trailer and house on 3.75 acres of land. 905 Railsplitter Road in Phil Campbell. Call (574)-214-6074 for more information! (1)

Multiple items for sale! Motorized Scooter chair \$500. Walker \$5. Potty Chair \$5. Lift Chair \$250. Potty Chair \$15. Toilet Safety Rail \$10. Hide-A-Bed Couch \$50. Corner China Cabinet Solid Wood \$250.

Brown/Gold Rocker Recliner \$50. Vinyl Rocker Recliner \$50. Table With Extension and Benches \$130. Day Bed with Trundle \$150. All are OBO! Call (256)-668-5315 or (256)-810-0280 for more information! (2)

Two Women's 26-inch Bicycles For Sale. \$50 each or both for \$75. Small Filing Cabinet For Sale. \$20. Stationary Exercise Bicycle. \$10. Call 256-324-2407.

I have two presidential dollar collections uncirculated. A few old wheat pennies. Call (256)-332-4037 for more information.

Rocks for sale. Creek

rock, field rock, good for patios, housing and landscaping projects. Call (256)-332-4037.

Yorkie puppy for sale. Six months old male with papers and all shots and worming up to date. \$800 includes carrying case. Please call 256-332-1636 or 256-412-4951.

Hot Wheels twin size race car bed. Mattress not included. \$150.00. (256)-810-7275.f

Car for sale! 2000 Ford Explorer XLT. 225,000 miles. Runs good. \$1,500 OBO. (256)-332-4347,

Refrigerator for sale. Works well and is in good condition. \$200 OBO. (256)-332-4347.

256-324-2407.

**FOR RENT**

One bedroom with yard and patio. For information call 256-332-5081 or 256-627-1996.

Duplex One Bedroom Apartment For Rent. Yard, covered patio, jacuzzi tub. Call 256-332-5081 or 256-627-1916.

Duplex Two Bedroom Apartment For Rent. Yard, covered patio. Call 256-332-5081 or 256-627-1916.

Franklin Free Press Classified Rates  
Yard Sale Rates: FREE, Deadline Monday at Noon; Real Estate-Homes, acreage, lots for sale or rent. \$25 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 40 words per ad; Vehicles, Boats, RVs, Motorcycles for sale. \$15 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Pets For Sale only \$10 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25

words per ad; Free of Charge: Lost & Found, Giveaways, and Items Under \$100 (Private Parties Only). 15-word limit; Commercial Classified Rates: \$25 for Businesses, 15 words or less for six weeks. Ads exceeding word limit add \$10 per additional 15 words. The number in parentheses represents the number of times the ad has appeared. Call us at 256-332-0255 to place, cancel or renew your ad. Payment is required in advance of publication for ads.

ALASCAN

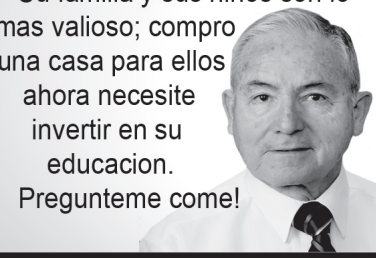
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SPONSOR AN Exchange student! Enjoy another culture from the comfort of your own home. Make a difference in your community. Change a student's life! 1-678-745-8081.

Your family, your children and grandchildren are your most precious possession. You bought a home for them. Now you need to invest in their education. Ask me how!

Su familia y sus niños son lo más valioso; compra una casa para ellos ahora necesite invertir en su educación. Pregunteme cómo!

**Enrique Aguilar Engel & Voelkers**  
256-740-2356



**WRECKER DRIVER NEEDED**

**Must apply in person at M&N Wrecker, 11833 Hwy. 43, Russellville. NO PHONE CALLS. Must have valid driver's license and be able to pass drug test and background check.**

**It's Your Choice,**

**M&N**

**At the scene of an accident or breakdown, tell law enforcement you want M & N Towing! We offer local pick up for service & maintenance!**

**TOWING & SERVICE CENTER**  
11833 Hwy 43 South • Russellville, AL 35653  
256.332.7279

**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 September 15, 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.

1996 Dodge Ram 1500  
vin: 3B7HC13Y6TG133332

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

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

## Franklin County High school football preview: week three

Brady Petree  
 Franklin Free Press

For the first time in the 2021 season, every school with a football program in Franklin County is slated to play a game at the same time.

After Vina had a bye week to start their season, followed by a bye week for the Red Bay Tigers, teams in Franklin County will be jam-packed with high school football matchups this Friday night and we've got you covered for all you need to know about those games.

### Russellville vs. Mae Jemison

The Golden Tigers kick off their region play against a Mae Jemison program that has certainly seen better days.

Last season, the Golden Tigers routed the Jaguars by a 41-0 tally and also took the all-time series at 2-1.

Mae Jemison so far on the season sits at 0-2 with losses coming at the hands of Hazel Green and Hartselle, the latter of which the Golden Tigers will see in week six when they travel to play the Tigers.

Russellville of course sits at 2-0, with wins over 6A Decatur and 4A Deshler in the process.

The Golden Tigers will look to get off on the right foot in region play against Mae Jemison as six out of the next seven games for the Golden Tigers will come against region foes with a matchup at Brewer High School waiting in the wings next week.

### Red Bay at Lexington

Coming off of a bye week, the Tigers will look to notch their first win of the season against a region opponent on the road at Lexington.

See 'PREVIEW,' page 14

# Pushing through adversity

With multiple players, including a few starters, as well as their head coach out against longtime rival Deshler, the Golden Tigers found ways to win in every aspect of the game to take the all-time series.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

The Golden Tigers tallied four touchdowns on offense, two touchdowns via special teams and a field goal en route to their 45-37 win over Deshler.

Brady Petree  
 Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - It was a bit of an unusual set of circumstances for the Golden Tigers on Friday night.

The team found out early on Friday morning that they would be without multiple players, including five starters, as well as head coach John Ritter for the game that night.

The whirlwind of events happened almost suddenly and to make matters more complicated, the Golden Tigers weren't squaring off against just any opponent on Friday night.

Deshler was coming to town with all-time series bragging rights on the line as the series between the two schools was knotted up at 45-45-1.

So without their head coach and multiple

starters, one might have figured that the Golden Tigers wouldn't be up to the task of taking on a big time rival.

After all, that's a lot of things to overcome in such a short timeframe.

But the Golden Tigers aren't like most high school squads.

Not were they able to hang around with Deshler, but the Golden Tigers were able to take home the victory and the series lead, albeit for one year.

The Russellville and Deshler series has long been a "must-see" high school sporting event and this year figured to be no different, especially since last year's bout was cancelled due to COVID-19.

See 'ADVERSITY,' page 13

## Pest Solutions



### Pest & Mosquito Control

## 256-332-4008

Don't forget to visit us on the web at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!



WE MAKE IT EASY  
FOR **YOU** TO STAY HOME!

**CHOOSE** RED BAY HOSPITAL'S OUTPATIENT SERVICES

ECHOCARDIOGRAMS • CAROTID DOPPLER STUDIES

ULTRASOUND • X-RAY • CT • MRI

LAB • IV INFUSIONS

PHYSICAL THERAPY

MAMMOGRAPHY



**(256) 356-9532**  
[HELENKELLER.COM/RED-BAY-HOSPITAL](http://HELENKELLER.COM/RED-BAY-HOSPITAL)

# MISSION MEDICAL

*Se Habla Espanol*



Now Offering **Weight Loss Counseling**  
and **Botox/Filler injections**,  
provided by Dr. Jeffrey Chenyi.

**Experience and Trust you can  
rely on for your family's  
health!**

*Call for an  
appointment*

Mon-Fri  
8-5

(256) 398-7212 • 14001 Hwy 43  
Franklin Shopping Center • Russellville, AL

“Eye Care & Eye Wear for  
Your Unique Lifestyle”

256-332-5440  
15255 Hwy 43  
Russellville



 **EyeCare Professionals**

[www.eyecareprofessionalspc.com](http://www.eyecareprofessionalspc.com) • M-F 8-5

Send your guest columns, 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,  
visit [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!

## 'ADVERSITY,' from page 11

While he wasn't able to watch from his usual spot on the sidelines, Ritter was able to follow along via the NFHS network as well as tuning in to the Russellville football broadcast on WGOL radio.

And despite not being able to be there in person, Ritter could sense the intensity of the game as well as the amount of adversity that his squad was forced to overcome on such short notice.

"It was kind of like one of those prized fights. We knew that we were going to struggle early because our quarterback was out. I could have been standing on the sidelines and it wouldn't have mattered," Ritter said. "The gameplan that we went into the week with on Monday wasn't the gameplan that we used on Friday night. Coach Voss and the other offensive coaches did a phenomenal job making adjustments and doing some things that weren't in the original gameplan but they did a great job with that."

Without Gabe Amick, who was also out for the game against Deshler, Conner Warhurst was forced to step back into the pocket and take on quarterbacking duties.

For Warhurst, quarterbacking isn't all that new of a task. After all, just one season ago, he was splitting time with Amick under center before making the switch to running back and primarily defense.

**Making adjustments**

"I thought our kids did a great job adjusting. Conner came into a very tough situation and made some great plays and got the ball to the right people in the right situations when he needed to," Ritter said. "And across the board our guys did a great job and we just kind of hung in there and made some plays."

Down 14-16 right before the half, freshman kicker Emmanuel Martinez knocked a 34-yard kick through the uprights to give the Golden Tigers the lead, and possibly a little motivation.

That was just the beginning of the special teams impact on the night for Russellville.

Two blocked punts, including one that was blocked by Emmitt Green and returned for a touchdown by Malachi Duncan, set the tone for the game as the Golden Tigers were able to capitalize on some Deshler mistakes, which ended up being the difference-maker in the game.

"Manny is a guy that we knew we had to have out there. He's actually a

very good running back but he wants to just kick and as long as he produces, that's fine by us," Ritter said. "To hit that field goal right before the half was a huge mental boost for our coaches and kids. (Nathan) Brockway has done a phenomenal job as a first-year punter for us despite being kind of an unconventional guy at that position."

Adding onto an already impressive special teams resume for Russellville, Taylor Crumpton returned a kickoff 65 yards for a touchdown to once again give the Golden Tigers the lead.

Entering the third quarter down by six, the Golden Tigers needed to get something going on offense.

With a different quarterback at the helm in Warhurst, things got going quickly down the stretch.

T.J. King scored not one, but two touchdowns in the final quarter (to give him three on the day), while Arrieon "Boots" McCulloch punched one into the endzone to put the game away with a little over four minutes left in the game.

In a game that saw eight different lead changes and 82 combined points, the game lived up to the hype.

And as the Golden Tigers came off the field with a 2-0 record and a win

# Pest Solutions



## Pest & Mosquito Control

### 256-332-4008

See 'ADVERSITY' page 15

**Pick up your FREE copy of the Franklin Free Press at CJ's!!!**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 4a - 7p**



**GROCERY**  
**FISHING SUPPLIES**  
**DELI**  
**256-332-1324**

-  Full Service Deli w/ Breakfast & Lunch Plates
-  Ethanol-Free Gas
-  Hunting/Fishing Licenses
-  Fishing Supplies/ Live Bait

**14545 AL 187 @  
Intersection of AL 24**



**Dr. Kelly's**   
**Urgent Care**

Walk-In visits available.  
We are available to screen and test for COVID-19.

**Mon.-Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-3, Sun. 1-5**  
**13150 Hwy. 43, Suite 10, Russellville**  
**256-331-2092.**

Serving your family for more than 30 years.  
Family Practice, Pediatrics, Newborn Care.

# Turn your home...

# into an outdoor paradise!



**We Do Custom Hardscaping!**

## 256.332.8181

## HWY 43 • Littleville

### Village at Oliver Place Apartments & Townhomes Water included starting at:

### 2 BR \$455 • 3 BR: \$525

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



## 'PREVIEW,' from page 11

All-time, the Golden Bears lead the series with a record of 13-10. However, the Tigers have won the previous four meetings dating back to 2011, with their most recent win against Lexington coming in 2020 by a 40-13 final.

The Golden Bears in 2021 currently sit at 1-1 on the season with a loss to Lauderdale County by a 6-0 final and a win over Tanner, 53-20.

Red Bay on the other hand comes into the week three matchup sitting at 0-1 after a season-opening loss to the Hamilton Aggies by a 40-24 final.

### Phil Campbell at Elkmont

If you're Kevin Barnwell and the Phil Campbell Bobcats, you have to feel pretty good about the way you're kicking off your region schedule.

The Bobcats will travel to Elkmont to take on a Red Devil team that sits at 0-2 on the year while being outscored 81-20 across just two games.

Phil Campbell sits at .500 with a record of 1-1 after an opening win over Phillips and then falling to Lamar County 7-0. Despite being at .500, the Bobcats have a plus-20 point differential on the season.

This is one of the shorter all-time matchups in Franklin County as last year was the first meeting between the two schools with Phil Campbell taking the opening bout by a whopping 62-22 final.

### Tharptown vs. Colbert County

Three weeks into the season Tharptown is the only team in 2A region 8 with a winning record at 2-0. It might be a small sample size, having only actually played one game, but the Wildcats are looking to extend that winning record but they'll have their hands full with a loaded Colbert County squad as they also kick off region play for the 2021 season.

Colbert County owns the all-time series at 3-0 dating back to 2018. However the most notable numbers in the series are the scoring summaries.

In three matchups, the Wildcats have yet to score at all while the Indians have racked up 176 points in those three contests.

Last year's meeting resulted in a 53-0 victory for Colbert County.

Tharptown has wins over Shoals Christian and Phillips (forfeited) to their credit this season while Colbert County has a 41-0 win over R.A. Hubbard and a 16-7 loss to Brooks on their record.

### Vina at Shoals Christian

This matchup has been largely in favor of the Flames on the all-time scale with Shoals Christian taking 15 games while the Red Devils have taken four.

Despite the all-time series, the Red Devils and Flames have split the last two decisions with a win for Vina in 2019 (44-12) and a win for Shoals Christian (22-8) in 2020.

Vina is 0-1 on the season after last week's loss to Marion County while Shoals Christian is at 1-1 on the year after an opening loss to Tharptown and a forfeiture against the Alabama School for the Deaf.



## A good neighbor has your back.

**Rhett Bradford, Agent**  
201 Washington Avenue NW  
Russellville, AL 35653  
Bus: 256-332-0540  
www.insuredbyrhett.com  
Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00  
After Hours & Saturdays  
By Appointment

Life's a combination of good days and bad. I have your back for both. And who has my back? The company more people have trusted for 90 years. **CALL ME TODAY.**



State Farm  
Bloomington, IL

1606040

Send your guest columns, 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, visit [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!

# 'ADVERSITY,' from page 13

over adversity to their credit, the perseverance is something that will stick with their head coach for years to come.

"I've got the best staff in all of football and Friday night was a testament to that statement. Those guys never flinched, they never batted an eye, and they just did what they did to survive," Ritter said. "When you have five starters out and the head coach out, a lot of guys would typically lay down and make excuses, but not our guys. It was great to see them perform the way they did given the circumstances but it wasn't a shock because we've got good people coaching these kids and we've got great kids playing for this program."

And while players will come and go and things will continue to change year after year, one thing is apparent: the Russellville and Deshler rivalry will undoubtedly continue for years and decades to come.

"Russellville and Deshler very rarely make things pretty for either side and to face the adversity that our kids faced pretty much all week where there was something dif

**Legacy**  
**CHEVRON PRESENTS**  
**ATHLETE of the WEEK**

Open **24** Hours

## T.J. King Junior, Wide Receiver Russellville

For the second-straight week, King has made his presence felt for the Golde Tigers. This week it was on the ground. The junior receiver took snaps in the wildcat formation as well as running some end rounds for the depleted Golden Tigers.

With runs of 34, 29 and 8 yards, King scored three touchdowns en route to the 45-37 Russellville victory.



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

# The Largest and Freshest Salad Bar in Franklin County!

**Bailey finished all of her picks and still had time to take a nap. Don't sleep on your chance to BEAT BAILEY!!**

Sponsored by Bedford, Rogers, Bowling & McReynolds, P.C..

**BEAT BAILEY IS BACK!** Submit your picks to us each week in one of two ways: Fill out the entry form on this page and mail it to us at 113 Washington Ave. NW, Russellville, AL 35653, or email your picks to us along with your name and number at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. **Picks sent in by mail for Week 1 must be postmarked by Friday, September 3rd, and picks submitted by email for Week 1 must be received by Saturday, September 3rd at 10 a.m.** Each week, the contestant who correctly picks the most games will win a free T-shirt and the chance to pick in the grand-prize final-week contest. If multiple contestants correctly pick the same number of games in a given week, the tiebreaker score will be used to determine a winner. Contestants are only eligible to win the weekly contest once. No multiple winners allowed. ONE entry per telephone number. Thanks for playing, and good luck!

**Bedford, Rogers, Bowling & McReynolds, P.C.**

303 N. Jackson, Russellville  
256.332.2880

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

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

## Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

Week 1: September 4th	Bailey's Pick	Your Pick
Alabama vs. Miami	Alabama	_____
Georgia vs. Clemson	Georgia	_____
Penn St. vs. Oklahoma	Oklahoma	_____
Indiana vs. Iowa	Indiana	_____
Louisiana vs. Texas	Texas	_____
LSU vs. UCLA	LSU	_____
Notre Dame vs. Florida St.	Notre Dame	_____
West Virginia vs. Maryland	Maryland	_____
Stanford vs. Kansas St.	Stanford	_____
BYU vs. Arizona	BYU	_____
Tiebreaker Score:	Texas Tech _____	Houston _____
Your Name:	_____	
Phone number:	_____	

No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers



# RUSSELLVILLE DENTAL CARE

256.332.6073

510 Engle Dr, • Russellville



*Dr. Brandon Jewell  
is now accepting  
new patients &  
emergencies!*

*Open Monday-Friday  
Saturday by  
appointment.*

**We accept: Medicaid, BCBS, Delta Dental, Ameritas, Assurant, Sunlife, Cigna, Guardian, Southland, Viva, Humana and Pricipal.**



# FOOTBALL

FRANKLIN FREE PRESS



*Russellville  
Golden Tigers*

*Page 18*



*Tharptown  
Wildcats*

*Page 26*



*Red Bay  
Tigers*

*Page 23*



*Phil Campbell  
Bobcats*

*Page 21*



*Vina  
Red Devils*

*Page 27*





# Russellville Golden Tigers

**Head Coach: John Ritter**  
 (fourth season at Russellville)

Record at RHS: 29-8 (17-3 in region play)  
 Career record: 63-31 in nine seasons  
 Playoff appearances: Seven (4-7 record)  
 Previous head coaching stops:  
 Red Bay (2012-13)  
 West Morgan (2015-17)

**Positional Preview:**

**Quarterback:**

A year ago, Gabe Amick and Conner Warhurst split time under center for the Golden Tigers.

And while that still may hold true for some instances this season, Amick figures to be QB1 for a majority of the snaps this season.

Last season during the regular season, Amick passed for 628 yards to go along with six touchdowns and two interceptions.

With so many playmaking options at skill positions for Russellville, Amick will certainly see more opportunities to throw the ball downfield.

And having two more-than-capable quarterbacks is a luxury, especially for a Russellville squad with so many playmakers at their disposal provides Russellville with a plethora of options on the offensive side of the ball.

“Gabe is the better thrower and Conner is the better runner. Amick is a winner and he started the last seven games for us last year and he brings a definite threat with his arm,” Ritter said.

**Running Backs:**

To no one’s surprise, a recognizable duo will return in the backfield for another season with the Golden Tigers this year.

Arrieon “Boots” McCulloch and the aforementioned Conner Warhurst will shoulder a majority of

the carries.

Warhurst last season was forced from the quarterback role to the running back role after an injury to McCulloch early last season. By the end of the year, Warhurst had rushed for 637 yards on 90 carries and 15 touchdowns in his junior campaign.

Despite missing a handful of games in 2020, McCulloch still managed to put up a hearty season with 525 yards on 80 carries and eight touchdowns.

Despite losing Caleb Mathews, who was a 5A region 8 co-MVP in 2020, the depth and talent at running back for Russellville still figures to be the best in 5A region 8.

Add talented sophomore Malachi Duncan into the mix and the Golden Tigers possess one of the deepest and most talented backfields around.

And while McCulloch will be the go-to back to allow for Warhurst to get what will be much-needed rest as he will start in the secondary for the Golden Tigers, each back that the Golden Tigers trot out will be more than capable of leaving their mark on the offense.

Of course, cycling through those guys will require some work in order to ensure that they get a certain amount of carries each.

And if the Golden Tigers can execute that game-plan, it just might pay dividends down the road.

“In our mind, there’s a certain amount of touches that we want those guys to get each game. And so that way by the end of the year hopefully those guys will be fresh and we can make a deep play-off run,” Ritter said.

**Wide Receivers/Tight End:**

With the development of the passing game becoming a larger part of the offense for the Golden Tigers, opportunities for playmakers in the receiving aspect of the offense will become plentiful.

And much like at the running back position, the Golden Tigers certainly don’t lack talent when it comes to receivers.

T.J. King showed last year why he’s a legitimate downfield threat with a combination of great speed, agility and playmaking ability. In 2020, King hauled in 35 passes for 600 yards and five touchdowns.

So King will be the go-to target for Amick when looking at throwing the ball downfield.

Bralynn Vincent, Nick McSpadden and Taylor Crumpton will also be key targets in the passing game as well.

Tillman Baker will slot in as the tight end on most sets for the Golden Tigers.

One of the more underrated weapons lies at the H-back spot for Russellville.

After an injury forced Nathan Brockway to miss a majority of the season in 2020, the 6’2, 225 lb. Senior will look to re-establish himself and become a prime target when he gets into space for Russellville.

**Offensive Line:**

When you lose a 4-star offensive lineman like Edgar Amaya, as well as other key players on the o-line, there’s bound to be some shake-ups.

While it might take a game or two for the restructured offensive line to find its footing, the talent is certainly there to have success.

Brodi Hank Carter made the switch from defense to offense and will slot in on the offensive line.

Dallan Montgomery, a transfer from Lawrence County, will provide some size and experience as he figures to play as one of the tackles.

Tate Barnes takes over as center while Tal

**Russellville’s 2021 Schedule**

Date	Opponent
8/19	vs. Decatur
8/27	vs. Deshler
9/3	vs. Mae Jemison*
9/10	at Brewer*
9/17	vs. LCHS*
9/24	at Hartselle
10/1	vs. Ardmore*
10/8	BYE
10/15	at East Limestone*
10/22	vs. Lee Huntsville*
10/29	at Madison Academy

\*- Class 5A, Region 8 opponent

Hamilton, Andrew McReynolds and Conner Byars are all competing for time and rotating in and out on the line.

**Defensive Line:**

The Golden Tigers will have to replace Angel Moreno who totaled 15 tackles for a loss to go along with three sacks while forcing two turnovers last season. But there is a plethora of depth for the Golden Tigers to dip into to shore up the defensive line.

Jerrin Jackson figures to line up at one of the defensive end slots while Matthew James will take on the role of noseguard.

Junior Baltazar (a junior) and Eric Hernandez (a sophomore) will also play vital roles along the d-line along with some of the guys from the offensive line which will enable the Russellville coaching staff to utilize up to six or seven different guys in order to provide some of that much-needed depth.

**Linebackers:**

Outside of losing Brooks Scott, who was a 5A region 8 all-region first team selection, the linebacking core returns some key experience for the Golden Tigers.

Malachi Duncan has shown flashes of brilliance as he continues his development at the linebacker position while Gavin Slay, who has loads of experience for the Golden Tigers, will line up on the other side.

The inside linebackers will be a mixture of Martin Tomas, Devin Green and Carson Hyde.

**Secondary:**

This is the area in which the Golden Tigers lost the most talent from a year ago.

Ashaad Williams, Caden Watts and Grayson Eady have all departed the program.

But that’s not to say there still isn’t an immense amount of talent in the current secondary either.

All told, the Golden Tigers plan on having at least four upperclassmen make up a majority of the secondary this season.

Emitt Green, a senior who will start at one of the safety’s, leads a veteran group of defensive backs as Conner Warhurst (also a senior) will line up alongside him at a safety spot as Ritter and his staff prefer to use Warhurst more on defense to tighten up the ship on that side of the football.

Taylor Crumpton (a junior) and Grayson Thorpe (a senior) will slot in as the primary cornerbacks.

**Special Teams:**

The Golden Tigers will rely on some youth and unconventional players when it comes to special teams.

Freshman Emmanuel Martinez will handle a majority of the kicking duties and played a key role in the Golden Tigers 45-37 victory over Deshler as he nailed a field goal just before the half to give the Golden Tigers a 17-16 lead.

Nathan Brockway will man the punting game for the Golden Tigers this season. And while Brockway might not have the typical punters build



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

King, above, will be one of the many offensive weapons that the Golden Tigers possess this season.



# *Best of Luck to All Golden Tiger Athletic Teams*



**Russellville City School Board of Education. Front Row, from left: Kim Clonts, Jerry Groce and Superintendent Heath Grimes. Back Row, from left: Greg Trapp, Bret Gist and Greg Batchelor.**

## *Russellville City Schools 2021-22 Calendar*

Labor Day Sept. 6

Homecoming—Half Day Oct. 1

Fall Break Oct. 7-8

Veterans' Day Nov. 11

Thanksgiving Nov. 24-26

Student Half Day Dec. 17

Christmas Break Dec. 20-Jan. 4

President's Day Feb. 21

Spring Break Apr. 4-8

Spring Holiday Mar. 11

Half Day/Last Day May 27

Contact our central office at 256.331.2000

**BUCKLE UP! It Could Save Your Life!**



**Best of Luck to All Franklin County Teams!**



*"As a working sheriff, I come out at night and work with our deputies. The heart of law enforcement is protecting and serving the community, and that's part of my day-to-day responsibility."*

**SHANNON OLIVER SHERIFF**

Pd. Pol Adv. by Shannon Oliver • 1668 Hwy 49 • Russellville, AL 35653

**'RUSSELLVILLE,' from page 18**

(as he stands at 6'2, 225 lbs.) while primarily playing the H-back position, he certainly does have the leg strength as he is currently averaging around 35 yards per punt attempt on the season.

Tillman Baker will be the short snapper and long snapper. Overall, the Golden Tigers will benefit from playing in a region where they figure to be top dog once again without much push from other region opponents. However, despite playing within a lackluster region, with games against Hartselle, Madison Academy and Deshler on the schedule, the Golden Tigers figure to be well-tested once the playoffs roll around in November.



**PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA**  
Ritter and the Golden Tigers will look to claim region titles in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 2005-2006.

**FOR RENT**  **GOLDEN TIGER PROPERTIES**

**2 & 3 BR HOMES APARTMENTS**

**256.810.3998 • 256.668.2708**

**Russellville**  
Alabama

From left: David Palmer, Darren Woodruff, Gary Cummings, Dexter Hamilton, Jamie Harris, and Mayor David Grissom.



**Working to improve our schools and the future of our children.**

Contact Russellville City Hall at 256-332-6060 • 304 N. Jackson Ave, Russellville, AL





# Phil Campbell **Bobcats**

**Head Coach: Kevin Barnwell**  
 (fourth season at Phil Campbell)

Record at PCHS: 13-20 (5-13 in region play)  
 Career record: 13-20  
 Playoff appearances: One (2020)  
 Previous head coaching stops: None

**Quarterback:**

Last year, Luke Barnwell saw a majority of the snaps at quarterback for the Bobcats.

This year, head coach Kevin Barnwell plans to roll with a two quarterback system which will be led by Bryant Hyde and Kyle Pace.

"Both of those guys bring different things to our game. Bryant is the speedy guy and Kyle is starting to learn our offense pretty well," Barnwell said. "We're doing a lot of things under center with Kyle so that we can get the ball to Bryant in the backfield when he's not at quarterback."

**Running Back:**

According to Barnwell, the running back position for the Bobcats will be done "by committee".

And with multiple guys playing multiple positions on both sides of the football, the "by committee" style is done by design.

"We're trying to use the running back by committee approach in order to allow some resting opportunities to get some rest for some of those guys that play on both sides of the ball," Barnwell said.

Noah Raper, Boone Swinney, Blaine Goodson and the aforementioned Bryant Hyde will all see action in the backfield for the Bobcats this season.

John Randall Herring has seen some snaps at fullback and figures to see a majority of the time at the fullback spot.

**Wide Receivers/Tight End:**

Having too many quality players is a good problem to have and the Bobcats should have plenty of quality players to rely on when it comes to the receiving game.

Using the split field offensive system, the Bobcats typically deploy a tight end wing where Kyle Pace will line up when he's not under center. And Blaine Goodson will also suit up at the tight end for Phil Campbell.

John Randall Herring and Andrew Greene will also factor into the mix in the receiving game for the Bobcats.

Jacob Barnwell, Sage Raper and Braxton Goodson will also see significant time at the receiver position for Barnwell and the Bobcats as well.

**Offensive Line:**

In 2020, the Bobcats boasted an offensive line that was stacked with senior talent.

This season will require some reshuffling as a lot of that aforementioned talent has now departed.

Grant Rollins, a 6'3 junior, will suit up as one of the guards on the offensive line for Phil Campbell while

Cooper Riddle (who has suited up in practice at tackle a majority of the time) will see a lot of time as a guard alongside Rollins.

"Cooper started some for us as a freshman and then he really came on in his sophomore year," Barnwell said. "And then this year when we do drills he has just done really well."

While the guard play has somewhat solidified itself, the tackle position battle will be one that will need to be won in the first few weeks of the season.

But in the meantime, the Bobcats will roll out Nick Williams, Seth Varney and Mason Mims at the tackle spot.

Snapping the ball at center for the Bobcats will be sophomore Jackson Clark.

**Defensive Line:**

This figures to be a real bright spot for the Bobcats as there are numerous players who can slot in at multiple spots.

And the bright spot isn't just a blip on the radar either.

With multiple underclassmen in the mix on the defensive line, this figures to be a strong point for the Bobcats for multiple seasons moving forward.

Colton Devaney has shown promise on the defensive line as a freshman as he lines up at the defensive end along with a mix of 6'2 sophomore Gage Baker, Boone Swinney, Kyle Pace and senior Austen Douthit. Tyler Ozbirn and John Randle Herring will line up as the defensive tackles for the Bobcats.

**Linebackers:**

Jett Traywick will be one of the feature linebackers for the Bobcats while Gunner Hargett (middle linebacker) and senior Cole Pace (outside linebacker) Will also man things within the linebacking core.

According to Barnwell, Pace has taken enormous strides, much to the delight of the coaching staff and the Bobcats are hoping that those strides will end up with positive results at the end of the day.

"Cole has really come along and done very well for us so far. And that's been a really nice surprise for us," Barnwell said.

**Secondary:**

Noah Raper Will undertake multiple roles with this Bobcat team both on offense and defense.

Barnwell says Raper will play a sort of "bandit" position in which Raper play in sort of a safety-linebacker type of hybrid position.

**Phil Campbell's 2021 Schedule**

Date	Opponent
8/20	at Phillips
8/27	vs. Lamar County
9/3	vs. Elkmont*
9/10	at Clements*
9/24	vs. Haleyville
10/1	at Colbert Heights*
10/8	vs. Laud. Co.*
10/15	at E. Lawrence*
10/22	vs. Danville
10/28	vs. Hackleburg

\*-Class 3A, Region 8 opponent

Bryant Hyde will also be a key cog in the secondary for Phil Campbell as Blaine Goodson Will line up at safety as well.

Goodson will also play cornerback for the Bobcats while Andrew Green will be tasked with shutting down the opposing passing game as a cornerback as well.

**Special Teams:**

Gage Baker is manning the kickoff duties as well as some field goal opportunities while Sage Raper Will also get some kicking chances as well.

Boone Swinney and Grant Rollins will be the punters.

The Bobcats will attempt to clinch back-to-back playoff berths for the first time since 2014-2015.

3A region 8 has quality opponents with the likes of Lauderdale County, Clements and Colbert Heights. But the Bobcats have a wide depth of talent and will be in the running for a playoff spot this season.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA  
 Swinney, with ball, and Hyde, far left, will be two of the key playmakers for the Bobcats this season.

Send your guest columns, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit www.franklinfreepress.net!

Bedford, Rogers,  
Bowling & McReynolds, P.C.

303 N. Jackson, Russellville  
256.332.2880



Go Teams.

No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers

*Best of Luck to All Area Teams!*



Jamie  
**KIEL**  
STATE HOUSE

Paid for by Jamie Kiel Campaign 14696 Highway 43 Russellville, AL 36653



Ralton Baker

**Good Luck  
Area Teams!**

“One man

practicing sportsmanship is  
far better than a hundred  
teaching it...”



256.332.9213 Home · 256.332.6740 Office  
256.810.0647 Cell · 5021 Hwy 75 · Phil Campbell

**Good  
Luck  
Area  
Teams!**



Probate Judge  
**Barry Moore**



# Red Bay *Tigers*

**Head Coach: Heath Childers**  
 (first season at Red Bay)

Record at RBHS: N/A  
 Career Record: 26-44  
 Playoff Appearances: One (2020)  
 Previous Head Coaching Stops:  
 Shelby County (2014-2020)

**Positional Preview:**

**Quarterback:**

When you lose a player like Jalen Vinson at a position so critical as quarterback, the next man up will have some big shoes to fill.

And that is partially why the Tigers are cycling through a couple of different players in order to find out who will be the best fit for a new offense as head coach Heath Childers enters his first season as the head coach for Red Bay.

Gage Edgmon comes in as a sophomore and figures to see most of the snaps under center at the start of the season for the Tigers while Elijah Luster (a senior) will also see critical minutes as the signal caller for the Tigers.

"Both Gage and Elijah have been working extremely hard and they both have really good skill sets and so we're really just kind of waiting on one of those guys to separate themselves from one another," Childers said.

**Running Backs:**

One of the key returning members for the Red Bay offense is senior running back Aiden Quinn who in 2020 accounted for 163 carries while

almost going for 1,000 yards on the year (947) and six touchdowns.

Quinn will undoubtedly be the top-tier guy in the backfield for the Tigers with plenty of new faces looking to get some reps as well.

Nathan Elrod (a senior) and Keaton Lanphear (a junior) will both get routine carries out of the backfield for the Tigers as newcomers to the position.

Cody Carnes (a sophomore) and Coby Jackson (a senior) could also see time carrying the football as well for Red Bay.

"We've got a lot of depth in the backfield. We've got two or three guys there at fullback and then we're two-deep at the wing and slot positions as well," Childers said. "So we've got a lot of good depth there so we feel really good about what we have going into the season."

**Wide Receivers/Tight Ends:**

This figures to be one of the more inexperienced areas for the Tigers this season.

And while the Tigers have never truly been a pass-first type of offense, this year could pose to be challenging as new guys at the receiver position look to establish their footing.

Mason Holt, the leading receiver for the Tigers a year ago with 21 catches for 503 yards and six touchdowns on the season, has graduated, leaving a lack of experience at the top of the depth chart in the receiving corps.

Elijah Luster will factor in as the go-to guy for the Tigers while Cody Carnes and Coby Jackson will also be in the mix for Edgmon and Luster (when

**Red Bay's 2021 Schedule**

Date	Opponent
8/20	at Hamilton
8/27	BYE
9/3	vs. Lexington*
9/10	BYE
9/17	vs. Tharptown*
9/24	BYE
10/1	at Sheffield*
10/8	vs. Hatton*
10/15	at Mars Hill*
10/22	vs. Colbert County*
10/29	at Fayette County

\*-Class 2A, Region 8 opponent

he's not lining up at receiver) to throw to.

Kyler Watson will be the primary tight end target for Red Bay this season.

**Offensive Line:**

The offensive line in years past has been a real strong point for the Tigers in their ability to establish a healthy running game.

But for this season, like most positions for the Tigers this season, there is a lack of experience. But there is enough talent there to enable the offense to establish itself.

Jon Shotts returns as the only member of the offensive line with any experience at the varsity level for the Tigers as he was a part-time starter in 2020.

Shotts will start as the left tackle while Brady Hardin ( a junior) will line up next to Shotts at left

**See 'RED BAY,' page 25**

## Good Luck to All Franklin County Teams!



From left: Commissioners Chris Wallace, Jason Miller, Joseph Baldwin and David Hester. Seated: Probate Judge Barry Moore.

# Franklin County Commssion

To Contact us, please call 256.332.8850 • 405 N. Jackson Ave • Russellville, AL

# Franklin County Board of Education Class of 2021



**Greg Hamilton**  
*Superintendent*



**Terry Welborn**  
*Chairperson*



**Shannon Oliver**  
*Vice-Chairperson*



**Kacey Hester  
Johnston**  
*Board Member*



**Ralton Baker**  
*Board Member*



**Pat Cochran**  
*Board Member*

If we may be of assistance to your or your family,  
please visit or call us at the Board of Education office:

500 Coffee Avenue East, Russellville  
256-332-1360.

[franklin.k12.al.us](http://franklin.k12.al.us)



## 'RED BAY,' from page 23

guard. Will West and Jack West (both juniors) will line up at center and right guard, respectively. And Andrew Massey will round out the offensive line by manning the right tackle post.

### Defensive Line:

Much like their offensive line counterparts, the defensive line was depleted by graduations as well for the Tigers.

However, the size on the defensive line does hold enough potential for the Tigers to at least have a formidable defensive line.

Senior Levi Blanton, who stands at 6'4, 240 lbs., returns as one of the lone members on the defensive line with experience while Jaxon Vinson (a freshman) and Kaiden Blansett (a sophomore) figure to factor into the mix up front on defense as well for Childers and the Tigers.

### Linebackers:

Blake Nix (a junior) will be the top man with the linebacking group while Tyler Watson will also be counted on to be a key part of the interior positions with the linebackers as well.

Nathan Elrod will be tasked with being on the outside linebackers, along with other defensive positions depending on the play call, spot along with a couple of other players still in the mix.

### Secondary:

At every position in the secondary, outside of Senior Elijah Luster who will line up as the free safety, the Tigers will be starting sophomores across the board.

Nathan Elrod will factor in as a safety from time-to-time and Holdon Inmon (a sophomore) and Cody Carnes (a sophomore) will both be in the corner-back mix for Red Bay for not only this season, but for seasons to come.

This will be a much different Red Bay team than fans are typically accustomed to as there is a flurry of young and inexperienced talent. But with that experience means that there will undoubtedly be a bright future within the Red Bay program, even if it means retooling for a year or so.

Despite the inexperience issue, the Tigers aren't the only team in 2A region 8 that will be retooling.

Mars Hill also lost a ton of talent just like Red Bay, and the rest of the region will be upcoming still. So the Tigers still figure to be in contention for a playoff spot in 2A region 8.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

The Tigers will have to rely on younger players, some of which will be at new positions in 2021, as they compete for a playoff spot for the fourth-straight season.



## Student Account<sup>1</sup>

Open Account Online >> Today



\$25 bonus with eStatement enrollment<sup>3</sup>

Free Internet & mobile banking<sup>4</sup> | Refunds up to 5 fees per year<sup>5</sup>

ATM fee refunds up to 20 bucks<sup>6</sup>

Email alerts when balance is low | And more



cbsbank.com | 877-332-1710

Connect with us!



1. Must deposit \$25 to open account. No requirement to maintain a minimum balance. Overdraft/Returned item fees may apply. All About U Student Account will convert to Star Account at age 25. 2. Wireless carrier data usage rates may apply. Customers must be enrolled in CB&S Bank's Internet Banking to use the Mobile Banking App and enrolled in Bill Pay to use the App's Bill Pay Feature. Apple and the Apple logo are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Android, Google Play, and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google Inc. 3. Limited time offer. One \$25 bonus per account. To receive the bonus, your account must remain open for 30 days, the account must not be overdrawn within the first 30 days, and you must be enrolled in eStatements. If qualifications are met, the \$25 bonus will be paid on the 30th calendar day after account opening. If this is not a business day, the bonus will be paid on the next business day. The value of the bonus will be reported as interest income for IRS purposes, and the customer is responsible for any taxes. 4. Charges and fees may apply from your cellular service provider. Contact your service provider for information. 5. Maximum of 5 fees refunded per calendar year by request. Only valid on All About U account. 6. CB&S Bank does not charge a fee for ATM withdrawals and refunds up to \$20 in other banks' ATM usage fees per statement cycle upon customer request. Only valid on All About U account.



# Tharptown **Wildcats**

**Head Coach: Kevin Lacey**  
**(sixth season at Tharptown)**

Record at THS: 13-37 (3-27 in region play)  
Career record: 13-37 in six seasons  
Playoff appearances: N/A  
Previous head coaching stops: N/A

## Tharptown's 2021 Schedule

Date	Opponent
8/20	at Sh. Christian
8/27	at Phillips
9/3	vs. Colbert County*
9/10	at Lexington*
9/17	at Red Bay*
9/24	at Cherokee
10/1	BYE
10/8	vs. Sheffield*
10/15	at Hatton*
10/22	vs. Mars Hill*
10/29	vs. Vina

\*-Class 2A, Region 8 opponent

### Special Teams:

An underrated aspect of Tharptown's game that might surprise some fans (and potentially win some games for the Wildcats) is the kicking game.

Ismael Perez, who until this year had been a soccer player only, will man all kicking duties for the Wildcats.

While there are certainly some mechanical things that Perez will have to work through, the talent is certainly there. The senior kicker can knock in kicks from 45-plus yards, with a good 10-15 yards to spare.

Dawson Higgins will be the main returner on kickoffs and punts while Aiden Villalobos will contribute as well.

### Quarterback:

The Wildcats will primarily rely on Hunter Reynolds Higgins under center but depending on the package that the Wildcats are running, multiple guys could see time at quarterback.

Blake Daily will also take snaps at quarterback to enable the Wildcats to utilize Reynolds' speed on the perimeter.

### Running Back/Fullback:

One of the veteran leaders on the offensive side of the ball for the Wildcats, Blake Daily figures to get a majority of the carries as the fullback for Lacey and the Wildcats.

Daily, a senior, rushed for 214 yards in Tharptown's jamboree victory over Shoals Christian.

Dawson Higgins slots in as the top running back for Tharptown and Aiden Villalobos will also get a considerable amount of carries.

### Wide Receivers/Tight End

The Wildcats *do* have experience in the receiving game as Nicholas Chaney will return as a three-year starter as a receiver.

Josh Riley slots in as the go-to tight end for the Wildcats and can also line up in the split formation when needed for Tharptown.

### Offensive Line

One of the larger offensive linemen in Franklin County, the Wildcat offensive line is anchored down by 6'5 Tyler Amos who will cover Reynolds' blind-side at left tackle.

Carron Sears will line up next to Amos at left guard while Noah Capelton slots in at center.

On the right side of the offensive line, Gabe Compton will take over at right guard for Austin Sutton who was involved in an accident earlier in the season and is thankfully okay but will be forced to miss the season.

Bryson Poss will man the right tackle post to round out the rest of the o-line.

### Defensive Line

Stopping the run has been an issue in previous years for the Wildcats. This year, however, the Wildcats have size and experience on their side to try and shore up that part of their game.

Tyler Amos will lead the charge up front on defense for the Wildcats as one of the defensive ends with Dylan Dolley lining up on the other defensive end spot.

Jacob Pointer and Christian Vazquez will man the defensive tackle posts as part of a formidable and experienced defensive line.

### Linebackers:

Blake Daily, Luis Valdez, and Gabe Compton will round out the starting line-backing core for the defense with a few others mixing in and out.

### Secondary:

Higgins will see plenty of action this season as he will be relied on to lead the secondary for the Wildcats as the go-to safety.

Josh Riley, Adrian Banderas and Joel Perez will slot in as the corners for the Wildcats secondary.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

Higgins, above, provides the Wildcats with some speed along the perimeter.

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

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



# Vina Red Devils

**Head Coach: Luke Childers**  
 (second season at Vina)

Vina, are also on the younger side with multiple freshmen factoring into the Red Devils' passing gameplan on Friday night.

Bailey Scott (a sophomore), Grayson Ridge (a sophomore), Christian Purser (freshman) and Kyle Lawler (a freshman) will all see time lining up as receivers.

In addition to the primary receiving corps, those in the backfield such as Griffith, Corrado and Fletcher could all be called upon to become weapons in the passing game.

Seth Fowler can also line up as a tight end when needed for the Red Devils.

**Offensive Line:**

The offensive line is where a majority of the experience for the Red Devils comes into play.

With four seniors and one junior on the offensive line, Childers and his staff are hopeful that the experience will lead to more efficient drives and will allow the offense to develop a bit more than in 2020.

Trenton Alack gets the start as the left tackle for the Red Devils and Seth Fowler will primarily slot in as the left guard. Chris Blevins will be the center while Cayden Lawler will line up next to Blevins at right guard. And rounding out the offensive line at right tackle is a mixture of Tristen Martello, Trevor Baker and Trey Ashley.

**Defensive Line:**

Trenton Alack and Wyatt Kennedy will man the

Date	Opponent
8/20	BYE
8/27	vs. Marion County
9/3	at Shoals Christian*
9/10	at Decatur Heritage*
9/17	vs. Waterloo*
9/24	vs. Lynn
10/1	at R.A. Hubbard*
10/8	at Cherokee*
10/15	vs. Hackleburg*
10/22	vs. Phillips*
10/29	at Tharptown

\*-Class 1A, Region 8 opponent

edge rush at defensive ends for the Red Devils while Cayden Lawler and Chris Blevins will attempt to stop the run up the middle as the defensive tackles.

**Linebackers:**

Nate Stidham and Trevor Baker will man the middle linebacker positions for the Red Devils while Malachi Fletcher & Kevin Corrado will get the nod as the starting outside linebackers.

**Secondary:**

Baylie Scott and Grayson Ridge will man the safety positions while the cornerbacks will be entrusted to Billy Horton, Seth Fowler and Christian Purser.

**Special Teams:**

Kevin Corrado will be the primary kicker for the Red Devils this season.

**Quarterback:**

Conner Davidson figured to be the quarterback at the top of the depth chart for head coach Luke Childers in 2021. But an ankle injury to Davidson has forced the Red Devils to re-evaluate their offensive plans.

Wyatt Kennedy, a senior who has primarily seen time at wide receiver, will now step into the role as the primary quarterback leading the offense for the Red Devils.

**Running Backs:**

A majority of the skill positions for the Red Devils are led by juniors, which bodes well for the present and future of the program.

Nate Stidham, a senior, will be the fullback leading the offensive charge while fellow senior Hunter Griffith will be the primary tailback and will get most of the carries for the Vina offense.

Kevin Corrado will play multiple positions for this Vina team and will be counted on to be a key part of the backfield while Malachi Fletcher will also factor in.

**Wide Receivers:**

There will be a lot of mixing and matching for the Red Devils when it comes to the receiving corps. This group, much like those in the backfield for



COURTESY PHOTO  
 2021 Vina Varsity Football Team

**Dr. Larry Stutts**  
 ALABAMA STATE SENATE  
 DISTRICT 6

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram icons

Funded by Stutts for Senate, P.O. Box 1012, Tusculumbia, AL 35674

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

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

Visit us on the web at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Advertise with us! Call 256.668.2708 or 256.332.0255

franklinfreepress.net

## MOWING

*Salvador's*  
**LAWN SERVICE**  
(256) 810-2351  
Free Estimates Licensed

MOWING • TRIMMING  
MULCHING • CLEANING LEAVING  
HEDGING & SHRUBS • EDGING

## MASSAGE

REWARD YOURSELF OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE

256.332.4220  
*Angel Harris*  
Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495  
Reiki Practitioner II

Gift Cards Available  
Creative Image Salon  
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

## LANDSCAPING

**K&S TREE SERVICE**  
253 Laurelwood Dr. Russellville, Alabama

Trimming Topping • Removal  
Bucket Work Stump Grinding

KARL RAGAN 256.332.9064

## PEST CONTROL

**PREDATOR PEST CONTROL**  
"The Insect Predator"  
Eddie Deaton  
(256) 627-1996  
50 Years Combined Experience  
Toll Free 1-888-832-5405

(662) 862-5631 (662) 840-4055

## HOUSING

256-332-1561  
73 Flippen St

UNITS NOW AVAILABLE

Russellville Housing Authority Incorporated

"The standard for fixed-income living in Russellville."

## CHURCH

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

201 N. Green Street, Russellville

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**JOEY RUSHING**  
Franklin County District Attorney  
256.332.8870 • 256.710.4713  
(daytime) (after hours)

ALABAMA GREAT SEAL

## PETS

**PAWS-N-PURRS**  
Daycare, Boarding & Grooming

1140 Ronnie McDowell Ave  
Behind Pizza Hut  
256-398-8112

## PUBLIC SERVICE

BUCKLE UP! It Could Save Your Life!

franklinsheriff.org  
(256) 332-8811

Compliments of **Shannon Oliver**  
SHERIFF

## HOME INSPECTION

**MC Home Inspection**  
Presale Home Inspection

**Mart Culp**  
Russellville, AL 35654  
martculp@gmail.com

256-331-9209  
256-324-8692

THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO GET OUR INK!



FRANKLINFREEPRESS.NET

MAILBOX • SMARTPHONE • TABLET • COMPUTER • RADIO