

**Anderson Jack**

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

256.398.8928 • 944 Ronnie McDowell Ave

**Free Local Delivery!**

**PIZZA • PASTA • WINGS**  
**256-398-8010**

**KING'S PIZZA**  
 14001 Hwy 43, Suite 12

PRSR - STD US POSTAGE  
 PAID Franklin Free Press  
 113 Washington Ave. NW  
 Russellville, AL 35653

**FranklinFreePress.net**

**12.15.21**

**TRAPP TREASURES**  
 Discount Varieties

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

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

**ALABAMA GUN & PAWN**

Fishing Tackle - HUGE Supply!  
 New Shipment of Ammo!

15347 Hwy 43 • 256-332-1108

**JEFF BARKSDALE**  
 FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY



PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JEFF BARKSDALE  
 PO BOX 491, RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35653

**Equal representation or politics as usual? — School board appointment stirs controversy**

*John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press*

Moments before he made the motion to replace Russellville City Schools Board of Education member Bret Gist with Radford Hester, District Five Councilman Jamie Harris said his decision was about fulfilling a promise to the people of his district for equal representation on city boards.

For Gist and his approximately 30 supporters in attendance at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the council's action was more about 'politics as usual' taking priority over what's best for the education of the system's 2,500 students.

Harris' motion, seconded by District One Councilman David Palmer, was

approved by a 5-1 vote. Harris, Palmer, District Two Councilman Darren Woodruff, District Four Councilman Dexter Hamilton and Mayor David Grissom voted in favor, while District Three Councilman Gary Cummings was the lone 'no' vote.

Hester, a former teacher, coach, administrator and superintendent of education, will take his seat on the board effective at the next scheduled meeting of the Russellville City Board of Education, set for December 16<sup>th</sup>.

School board members are appointed to five-year terms. Board members include Jerry Groce, Kim Clonts, Greg Trapp and Greg Batchelor.

See 'APPOINTMENT,' page 5

**Yogi's Ballpark celebrating grand opening Saturday, December 18**

*John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press*

Mark 'Yogi' Welborn's vision to have the marquis store on the stretch of Highway 24 from the Mississippi state line to I-65 dates back almost 10 years ago.

It wasn't until 2018 when that vision started to take shape. And with the October 9<sup>th</sup> opening of Yogi's Ballpark on Highway 24 East across from the Lee Sports Complex, it became a reality, though it was a long road to get there.

Welborn and Yogi's Ballpark will host a Grand Opening Saturday,

December 18<sup>th</sup>. Among those in attendance will be Santa Claus, who will be available for free photos from 1-3 p.m. Please bring your own cameras for pictures with Santa.

Customers can register to win their share of \$2,500 in cash and gas cards that will be given away all week. Just sign the back of your receipt and drop it in the entry bin and you've got a shot to win some of Yogi's cash.

Welborn purchased three tracts totaling the 10 acres that house Yogi's Ballpark, a combination hybrid truck stop and package store several

See 'OPENING,' page 10

**Merry Christmas, neighbors.**



I wish all my neighbors peace, joy and love this Christmas season and beyond. I'm blessed to be part of such a wonderful community.  
 Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Rhett Bradford, Agent  
 201 Washington Avenue NW  
 Russellville, AL 35653  
 Bus. 256-332-0540  
 www.insuredbyrhett.com

**State Farm**


**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!

SingingRiverDentistry.com



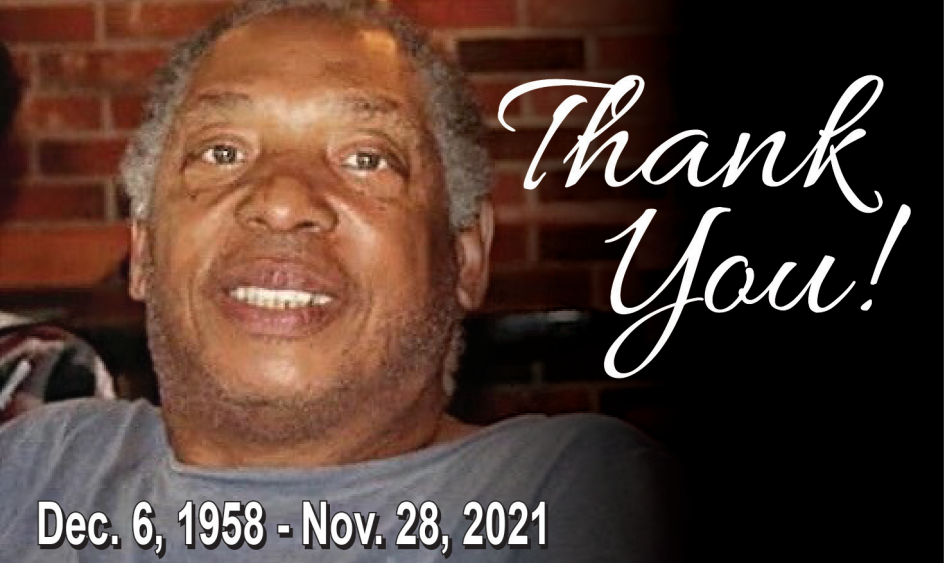
**Hablamos Espanol**

**FAMILY PHARMACY GROUP**  
 BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama

**Family Pharmacy of Russellville**

Accepting Tricare and BCBS  
 Hwy 43 & Underwood Rd  
**256.332.5545**  
 familypharmacygroup.com





*Thank You!*

**Dec. 6, 1958 - Nov. 28, 2021**

The family of Harold Sears would like to thank each and every one of you for all you have done during our time of loss.

You will never know how much we appreciate it during this difficult time.

*-The Family of Harold Sears*

**Miss Me, But Let Me Go**

When I come to the end of the road  
and the sun has set for me,  
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room,  
why cry for a soul set free?  
Miss me a little, but not too long  
and not with your head bowed low.  
Remember the love that was once shared,  
miss me but let me go.  
For this is a journey we all must take,  
and each must go alone,  
It's all part of the Master's plan,  
a step on the road to home.  
When you are lonely and sick of heart,  
go to the friends we know,  
And bury your sorrows in good deeds,  
miss me, but let me go.



*Willodean's*  
**on WGOL**

Tune in to WGOL 100.7 FM to hear "Real Estate Tips with Willodean" weekdays at 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. Davis is the owner/broker of Davis Realty & Associates in Russellville.



**Davis Realty & Assoc., Inc.**  
*"We sell anything under the Sun!"*

**FRANKLIN MEMORY GARDENS**



We offer ground burial, mausoleum and cremation spaces. All may be purchased at need or pre-need to include the burial vault and bronze memorial.

*Providing a peaceful, beautiful and serene cemetery for the people of Franklin County.*

**Carolyn Atkins Porter** *Since 1960*  
2710 Waterloo Road • 256.332.2115

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

**Donna Cornelius**, 56, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Thursday, December 9th. Interment at King Cemetery.

**Eva Joyce Flannagin**, 83, of Russellville, passed away on Friday, December 3rd. Interment at Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

**Silas Mark Oliver**, 80, of Russellville, passed away on Tuesday, December 7th. Interment at Bethlehem Cemetery.

**Freddie Mills**  
**BODY SHOP**

**Van Lawson • 256.332.4253**  
**Free Estimates • All Insurance Accepted**



*Merry Christmas*

Since 1978



# ALABAMA GUN & PAWN INC.



## Shop Now for Christmas!



### Tactacam Reveal Cellular Camera

- Solar rechargeable
- Works on AT&T and Verizon!
- Plans as low as \$5/month!

**\$15 OFF with this coupon!**

### Ruger LCP Max



- With night sight
- \* Free box of ammo w/ purchase!
- 10 round mag

**\*\*\* 50 Rounds \*\***  
**Brass Case Full Metal Jacket**  
**9mm Ammo: \$19.95**

**15347 Hwy 43 • 256-332-1108**

## Russellville City Council authorizes application for federal airport grant

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council authorized Mayor David Grissom to sign an application for a federal assistance grant for the Russellville Municipal Airport in the amount of \$22,000.

The council took the action at its December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. If received, the grant funds will be used for costs related to "operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services and combating the spread of pathogens at the airport, along with debt service payments."

In other agenda items, the council:

—passed a resolution commending the Cotton Flats Cruisers Car Club for its community support which included a \$500 donation to the Russellville Fire Department's Helping Santa Program.

—entered into a professional services agreement with Civil Group, LLC, for the Transportation Alternative Program project, which includes sidewalk improvements downtown.

—entered into an agreement with 3<sup>rd</sup> Eye Technology to provide cameras on garbage trucks at a cost of \$55/month per truck.

—approved a low bid for a camera system at the Russellville Police Department from Smart Fox Solutions for \$20,043.97.

—approved the promotion of John Cantrell to sergeant in the Russellville Police Department.

—approved the promotion of Jamie Reeves to Heavy Equipment Operator III in the Russellville Street Department.

—declared two vacancies for Firefighter II in the Russellville Fire Department and authorized promoting from within the classified service.

—declared Thursday, Dec. 23 and Friday, Dec. 24 as municipal holidays for the City of Russellville and Thursday, Dec. 30 and Friday, Dec. 31 as New Year's Eve and New Year's holidays for the City of Russellville full-time Civil service employees.

—approved Leamon Mosley to fill a vacancy on the Russellville Electric Board, replacing board member Arthur Elliott.

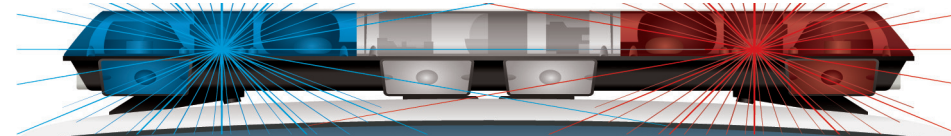
The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council will be December 20, 2021, with work session and 6 p.m., and meeting to follow.

## Pest Solutions



### Pest & Mosquito Control

## 256-332-4008



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## & HAPPY NEW YEAR

from the  
**RUSSELLVILLE**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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



# Letter to the editor...

To whom it may concern,

I know there have been several posts on social media and letters posted here about the misuse of money regarding the Russellville Electric Board. I know the linemen, and the guys are always working hard. They go over and beyond for their city, often risking their lives, spending countless hours away from their families, and working in terrible conditions, and they deserve nothing but praise. I personally want to thank them for what they do for the city of Russellville. But some of the things that are allowed to happen when it comes to the management does seem to raise concern. Does the manager of any utility department deserve a vehicle, yes, I think they do! Should it be the top of the line, absolutely not! Should they get a new one every year or two, I think not! Has this been happening in Russellville, yes it has. The manager, Charles Canida, has had several new "top of the line" vehicles over the years he's been manager. But as bad as that is to many tax paying citizens, to me it's not the biggest problem. The biggest problem is how he came about getting the job and his misuse of power as a board member. He was the chairman of the Russellville Electric Board at the time the current manager, Steve DeFoor, decided to retire. Once Steve retired the job should have been posted and the board should of reviewed all applicants and interviewed qualified candidates applying for the position. After all, this is the way things are supposed to happen. There are guidelines that should

be followed when a job opening of this caliber comes available. Of course, not in this situation. This position was NEVER posted and the board at the time lead by the chairman, Charles Canida, decided to hire one of their own, which is not only unethical but illegal. How did the city of Russellville stand by and allow this to happen? The saddest part is he knew nothing about being a manager of an Electric Department. He had absolutely NO experience for this position! But yet he appointed himself to this position. There were plenty of people highly qualified for the job that were never given the opportunity because of the misuse of power led by Charles Canida. I will not list the board members by name but never the less they allowed this to happen and they all knew it was wrong. So the person that's now driving around in a nice new "top of the line" vehicle with your hard earned money was hired unethically by appointing himself. This kind of misuse of power should be stopped. I am asking for the City of Russellville to demand Charles Canida resign his position as Manager of the Russellville Electric Board. If he is unwilling to do this, then the electric board needs to correct this wrong by removing him. If the board is unwilling to remove him then the city council should replace the board and get a qualified person in charge of a very important department.

Demanding what's right and ethical!  
Tabatha Smith

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

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

## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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

The *Franklin Free Press* is published weekly by  
Pilati Investments, Inc.  
Our publication is mailed to our readers at no charge.

### 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.

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

## 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...

[www.MedShoals.com](http://www.MedShoals.com)



1120 S. Jackson Hwy  
Sheffield, AL



351 Alabama Hwy 64  
Killen, AL



# 'APPOINTMENT,' from page 1

Gist's term expired June 1, 2021, and the appointment of his seat was on the council's May 12, 2021, meeting agenda, but no action was taken at that meeting. Gist served two terms on the school board, dating back to 2011.

Hester will be the lone board member from District Five. Two board members, Trapp and Clonts, reside in District One. Groce is a District Four resident and Batchelor a District Three resident.

"I want to thank Mr. Gist for his decade of service to the Russellville City Board of Education. I was elected by the people of District Five to represent them and we have not had a school board member from our district in more than a decade," Harris said.

"First and foremost, Mr. Hester is a resident of District Five and a close second his education experience as a teacher, coach, principal and superintendent of education that he brings to the board," he added.

Hester's appointment ended weeks of speculation as to whether Gist would be appointed to serve a third term. Gist requested to be placed on the December 6<sup>th</sup> city council meeting agenda. His name appeared on the agenda, but was the final agenda item, after board appointments were to be addressed.

Grissom allowed Gist to address the council during the work session, prior to the meeting, but the fact he was on the agenda after the board appointment was to be decided did not sit well with him.

"They put me on the agenda after the board appointment was to be decided," Gist said. "The decision would already be made. They knew how many votes they had and I don't believe I got a fair shake."

Gist previously sent an email to each council member and the mayor reiterating his interest and willingness to serve another term on the school board. Gist also met with Harris several times this year, he said.

Harris made the motion to appoint Gist to his second term in 2015, even though Gist was a District Four resident. After he was reelected last year, Harris said he was resolved to nominate a District Five resident.

Harris asked that the appointment be taken off the May 2021 meeting agenda in order to have more time to evaluate who he would nominate.

"It's nothing personal. This seat was up for appointment and I wanted to nominate a quality member of my district to fill it," Harris told the *FFP* in May. "I made the motion to appoint Bret Gist (in 2015) so obviously I have no personal issues with him."

Gist is the co-owner and vice-president of Franklin Manufacturing, Road Gear Truck Equipment, LLC and G&G Steel, a Russellville company started by his father in 1975. G&G provides fabrication for multiple private industries as well as the military. The company employs several hundred workers in Russellville and Cordova.

Gist and G&G Steel actively work with local high school Career Technology Programs to help students learn the skills needed for full-time employment after graduation.

G&G employs high school students on part-time basis through an apprenticeship program and several now work for the company on a full-time basis.

Gist serves on the board of directors of North Alabama Works and Valley State Bank. He is a RHS graduate and has established technical trade and nursing scholarships in honor of his grandparents.

He is a member of the Bevill State Community College Advisory Committee and active supporter of the Northwest-Shoals Community College FAME Program. He is a board member of the NW-SCC Foundation and NW-SCC ASPIRE Committee for Career Tech. He is a 2018 graduate of the Leadership Alabama program

Gist served on the school board when Heath Grimes was hired as superintendent in 2015.

Russellville City Schools, with 54 percent of its enrollment being Hispanic, has received state recognition for its English Language Learners program and test scores and state grades continue to show the success and growth of the system, even with the challenges of its demographics.

As he addressed the council, Gist asked to continue to be a part of that growth process.

"I come tonight with a heavy heart and ask everyone to really think hard about what is best for the city school system," Gist said. "I think my track record, along with the other board members, speaks for itself.

"I would appreciate the opportunity to continue the growth our school system has seen. My mother taught me about the love of being a servant to others and I work hard every day to help see the continued growth of Russellville City Schools. You see the support we have here tonight for our schools. If you graduated at Russellville like I did, you know what it means to be a Russellville Golden Tiger. I ask you tonight to be reappointed to the school board," he added.

Two board members and Grimes attended the meeting in support of Gist, along with several administrators and teachers.

After the meeting, Gist said he believed the decision was made before the meeting and nothing he said made any difference, but he wanted to publicly state his passion to continue serving Russellville City Schools.

"When something's not broken, don't try to fix it. That can do damage. We are thriving academically and athletically. Our Fine Arts program is thriving and we've done so for many years now," Gist said.

"We are building a new high school addition, have plans to redo our Career Tech facility and have a Career Tech Coordinator doing a great job. It takes a long time to understand the ins and outs of board operations. My heart is with this school system. It's not about me personally. It's always been about our school system. With our unique demographics, officials at the state level speak highly of the leadership we have in our school system. We're willing to go to bat for our students, teachers and it's working," he added.

Gist asked the council to consider their oath of office and what it means when making a decision about the board appointment.

"Ask yourselves are you really considering what you were sworn in to do, which is make the best decisions to the best of your abilities for the City of Russellville. If not reappointing me is the best decision for the city, I think a lot of people might question that," Gist said.

The council also approved another board appointment at Monday's meeting, as former councilman Arthur Elliott was replaced on the Russellville Electric Board by Leamon Mosley.

On Tuesday, Gist said he will continue to support Russellville City Schools, both personally and professionally, something he's not sure the city council is doing.

"Now my position and role has changed, but my drive and passion to improve our school system has not changed," Gist said. "If only we had a mayor and council with the same drive and passion who would make decisions based on what's best for the city and not what's best for them politically. That would make Russellville a better place to live and work."

Woodruff, whose campaign for City Council District Two was based on equal representation for his district on city boards, believes all citizens must be represented in order to improve the quality of education in Russellville. "I want to thank Mr. Gist for all of his years of service to Russellville City Schools. He has been an excellent board member," Woodruff said. "I believe every district in Russellville should be represented on every board. Anything less is discrimination.

"According to school records, District Two has not had a school board member since the birth of the school. Every district deserves to be represented. This was one of my campaign promises," Woodruff said.

Palmer, the District One councilman, told the *FFP* in May he believed the quality of board candidates outweighs what part of the city they live in.

While he still believes the qualifications of a school board member are paramount, Palmer said he now understands his fellow council members' push for equal representation.

"I'm not opposed to equal representation by any means. But what I want is five people who can serve on the board and make the best decisions for the school, or any other agency or entity their board represents," Palmer said. "This involves looking at who can work together and be a partner with the city council and mayor to work for the betterment of the city. I appreciate those who have served on boards and those who are presently serving. It is a sacrifice and I really appreciate what they do," he added.

When it comes to Hester, who has more than four decades as an educator, Palmer said his qualifications as a school board member are evident.

"I talked with Radford Hester. He has more than 40 years' experience at every level of education possible," Palmer said. "His qualifications to serve as a school board member should not be questioned. That was never an issue with me."

where you're never left holding the bag!

**BIG STAR**

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

See our weekly specials

South Jackson Ave • 256-332-3535



# Turn your home...

# into an outdoor paradise!



We Do Custom Hardscaping!

## 256.332.8181

## HWY 43 • Littleville

# What's Happening

256.332.0255

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

**F**lorence Lauderdale Animal Services and local rescues are working with Franklin County to help save many abandoned animals to give them a chance at a new life. Save Our Strays needs donations called into Russellville Animal Clinic, to pay for veterinary services, spay/neuter and medical treatment for everything from heartworms to Parvo. There are also boarding expenses for the animals due to their medical treatment. No amount of donation is too small. This group has saved many cats and dogs, and they need the community's help. Call Russellville Animal Clinic and tell them you're donating to the Save Our Strays Account. Their phone number is 256-332-2254.

**F**ood Giveaway - Groceries will be given out while supplies last! Thursday, December 30, 2021 2:00 p.m. Please stay in your vehicle and use social distancing. Russellville First United Methodist Church (Corner of Madison and Washington).

**R**ussellville Masonic Lodge #371 is selling Smoked Hams for Christmas. Hams are \$30 each and may be pre-ordered by dialing 256-810-1970. Pickup is Thursday, December 23, between 8-10 a.m., at the Lodge on Coffee Avenue.

## Wood-Thompson Insurance

### Merry Christmas!

130 North Jackson Ave • Russellville

8-5 Monday thru Friday.

Closed Saturday

### 256-332-1381



## 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

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).

## Merry CHRISTMAS

and

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Franklin County Probate Judge

# BARRY MOORE





# 2021 Santacon fundraiser set for December 18

Submitted to the FFP

Enjoy a day of fun and excitement at the 2021 Santacon, a fundraiser for FAME Girls' Ranch.

The event will be hosted by the Krewe De Guard, a local non-profit organization working for the Russellville community.

Santacon will begin at 11:30 a.m., on Saturday, December 18. Registration begins at 11 a.m., outside the Russellville Canteen, 201 Washington Ave. NW.

Come dressed as a Santa, star, Christmas tree, elf or something else in the spirit of Christmas. There will be lots of picture taking, mingling and fun.

The walk will begin on South Jackson Avenue and end at the Franklin County Courthouse, 410 North Jackson Avenue. There is a \$10 cost to participate in Santacon. Pictures with Santa at the courthouse are available for \$5 and hot cocoa at the courthouse will be \$2.

Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Elves will bring two surprise Special Guests!

Registration form and rules can be found on the Krewe de Guard Facebook page. Please bring your registration form and \$10 for Santacon with you to the registration table at the Canteen.

And don't forget a few dollars for pictures at the courthouse and cocoa.

Google Santacon San Francisco, New York City and Boston for costume ideas. Most of all, have some fun!

**North Highlands Church of Christ**  
in partnership with Food Bank of North Alabama

**FREE** Every 3rd Saturday of each month  
Sat., Dec 17<sup>th</sup>

9:00am-11:00am  
North Highlands Church of Christ Fellowship Hall

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" Matthew 25:35

*Merry Christmas*



**Franklin County Chamber of Commerce**  
P.O. Box 44 • Russellville, AL  
Cassie Medley, Executive Director

256.332.1760 • fax 256.332.1740  
info@franklincountychamber.org • franklincountychamber.org

Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period is October 15th - December 7th!



**MEDICARE**  
**INSURANCE SPECIALISTS**  
MUSCLE SHOALS 256.648.5220






Kay Holland Paul Sanderson Mark Sanderson Marianna Honeycutt

Give us a call for a FREE review of your Medicare plan.  
410 S Wilson Dam Road • Muscle Shoals, AL (in Lon's Plaza)

**KING'S PIZZA**

**NOW OPEN!**

Specialty Pizzas **DOORDASH**

Custom Built Pizza -  
*Your Choice Flavored Crust & Base!*

Pasta - Wings - Salads

Dippin' Dots Ice Cream,  
Funnel Fries & Pies!

Pizza Omelets & Pizza Bagels!

Order online at...

[Kingspizza.menuonline.com](http://Kingspizza.menuonline.com)

14001 Hwy 43 • Franklin Shopping Center  
(256) 398-8010  
Mon.-Thu. 10-10, Fri.-Sun. 10-11

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



# Highlands INTERNAL MEDICINE

welcomes  
**Adnan Seljuki MD**



2424 Danville Rd SW  
Suite K  
Decatur, AL 35603

**Now Seeing  
New Patients**

Walk-ins and Most insurances accepted.

**Mon-Thu. 8-5 • 256.309.5850**

# Bobby's KNIVES & MORE



**NEW LOCATION!**

Bobby's Knives & More has moved from its former Backwoods Bargains location to 5825 Highway 56 in Russellville.

We are giving away a Christmas edition Case knife! Just come by and register to win. No purchase necessary! You do not have to be present to win. Drawing will be held December 18, 2021.

**Come by and see us at our NEW location, or call us anytime at 256-366-7886.**

**Hours: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.**

## Belgreen graduate awarded automotive scholarship

Submitted to the FFP

A Belgreen High School graduate and Northwest-Shoals Community College student is among the 56 students across Alabama to be awarded a \$3,600 scholarship to study automotive manufacturing.

Payton Scott, a 2018 BHS graduate, was one of two NW-SCC students to earn the scholarship, along with Muscle Shoals High School graduate Lucas Isbell.

The scholarships are a result of the partnership between the Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association and the Alabama Community College System. The program was designed to build interest in the exciting and rewarding careers the automotive industry offers.

To be eligible, students needed a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, and had to submit an essay on why he or she wants to work in Alabama's automotive industry. A reference letter was also required as part of the application process.

The scholarship covers up to \$3,600 (\$1,800 for two semesters within the current fiscal year) of tuition, fees and books.

Since 2001, the Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association has provided awareness of manufacturing trends, techniques and concerns within the automotive manufacturing industry. The association's mission is to promote growth and continuous improvement of automotive manufacturing in Alabama.



**Payton Scott**

### 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 January 12, 2022, 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.

2017 Kia Soul  
VIN# KNDJN2A24H7880026

1988 Ford LGT Conv.  
2FDLF47M7JCA26838

2003 Hond ULX  
1HGCM563X3A048797

**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)!**



# Giving back to the community



**CELL TOUCH**  
Phones • Accessories • Chargers  
256-398-8811

**306 South Jackson • 256.398.8811**

**Lowest prices in the area!!!**

**VAPOUR SHOP**

- HUGE selection of phones and accessories! All unlocked. Plans thru Boost, AT&T, H2O, Verizon, Net 10, Page Plus & Simple Mobile. Layaway plans available.
- We do REPAIRS on most phones, tablets and laptops!
- Vapes & accessories! All juices, any size, any flavor, \$15.99 or LESS! Vape mods are 20% off!
- Variety of Delta products in stock! Tenemos recargas internacional de Tigo y Boss Revolution! Se habla Espanol!!



COURTESY PHOTO

The Russellville High School Varsity Cheerleaders, Junior Varsity Cheerleaders and Russellville Middle School Cheerleaders donated more than \$1,500 to Russellville Fire Department's Helping Santa program and the King's Ranch. The donations of toys and supplies for Christmas were presented this week to RFD firefighters Randy Seal and John David James. Coaches of the squads include Stephanie Mayfield, Beth Gilmer and Hannah Bendall. Great job ladies!

**Merry Christmas!**  
**Sen. Larry Stutts**  
Proudly Serving District Six in the Alabama Senate



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

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram icons

**Jeff Elledge's CREDIT CARS**

**NO CREDIT WE FINANCE!**

|                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 09 Chevy HHR<br>\$1200 Down | 12 Jeep Liberty<br>\$2000 Down      |
| 07 Volvo S60<br>\$1500 Down | 07 Honda Pilot<br>\$1500 Down       |
| 07 Acura MDX<br>\$2000 Down | 06 Nissan Pathfinder<br>\$1200 Down |
| 99 Lexus RX<br>\$1500 Down  | 07 Dodge Ram 1500<br>\$1800 Down    |

elledge.jeff@gmail.com

**2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals**  
**256.383.7979 • 256.710.3711**



## RV Utilities officials proactive in resolving delays in billing statements

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

A problem causing customers not to receive their utility bills on time has been corrected after officials with Russellville Utilities contacted the billing company and brought the problem to its attention.

Amy Rickard, Russellville Utilities Office Manager, said there was a period earlier this year when customers were not receiving their utility bills on time, and in some cases, not until after the due date had passed.

Billing for Russellville Utilities is contracted to Central Services Association (CSA), which processed and mailed customer bills from its Birmingham office until that office closed several months ago.

CSA transferred the Russellville Utilities account to its Atlanta office, and that's where the delays began, Rickard explained.

"They were having trouble getting anyone hired and getting them to stay, so they dropped the ball on getting statements out in a timely manner," Rickard said. "That did happen but it has been straightened out for the last three months."

The *Franklin Free Press* was contacted by two customers of Russellville Utilities who said they did not receive bills at all for two months. Those customers said they drove to the Russellville Utilities office and asked what amount they owed so that their service would not be cut off.

Rickard contacted the company's South Carolina office and asked that the Russellville Utilities account be moved there, which it was.

"That has been much more efficient. Now customers are getting them like they used to when they came from Birmingham," Rickard said. "We have had some delays with customers receiving bills late as a result of the post office notice that it may take an additional 5-10 days or more for mail to be delivered."

"The only delay now would be a delay from the post office because our bills are going out like they have for years. During the period of time when they moved us to Atlanta, I called them once a day, sometimes more, checking on that problem," she added.

Rickard said that any customers who contacted Russellville Utilities after receiving a bill late had their late fees waived.

"If it was because the bill came late we took those fees off," Rickard said.

When billing and usage information is sent electronically to CSA, Rickard said Russellville Utilities receives confirmation from CSA and most bills are mailed that day.

"As soon as they receive all the information we get a confirmation the same day, usually within an hour," Rickard said.

If your utility bill does not arrive on time, call Russellville Utilities Customer Service at 256-332-3850.

## 'OPENING,' from page 1

years ago. When he purchased an additional one acre that allowed him to request annexation into the City of Russellville as an adjoining land owner to city property.

Once the property was annexed into the city, Welborn could then petition to sell alcohol on the premises.

But that wasn't the only hurdle Welborn had to overcome. His whole vision for a premier store depended on the State of Alabama's installation of a traffic light at the Highway 24/East Lawrence Street intersection.

Funding for that project was approved seven years ago, then taken away when the project was defunded. Welborn credits Franklin County Engineer David Palmer and the Russellville City Council and Mayor David Grissom with working to get the traffic signal back on the approved list.

"They were pushing for that traffic light already because of wrecks at that intersection, so when we knew it was coming, I started putting my plan together," Welborn said.

The 5000-square foot building houses a convenience store, open 24 hours a day, a package store and shower facilities for truck drivers. Additionally, there are three masters and two satellite pumps for trucks behind the building.

Welborn's vision isn't complete yet. Although the Exxon signage is in place, he's still waiting on signs for the building.

Down the road, although there's no specific timeline, Welborn hopes to have a motel behind the property and possibly a fast food restaurant or something similar to a Huddle House or Waffle House.

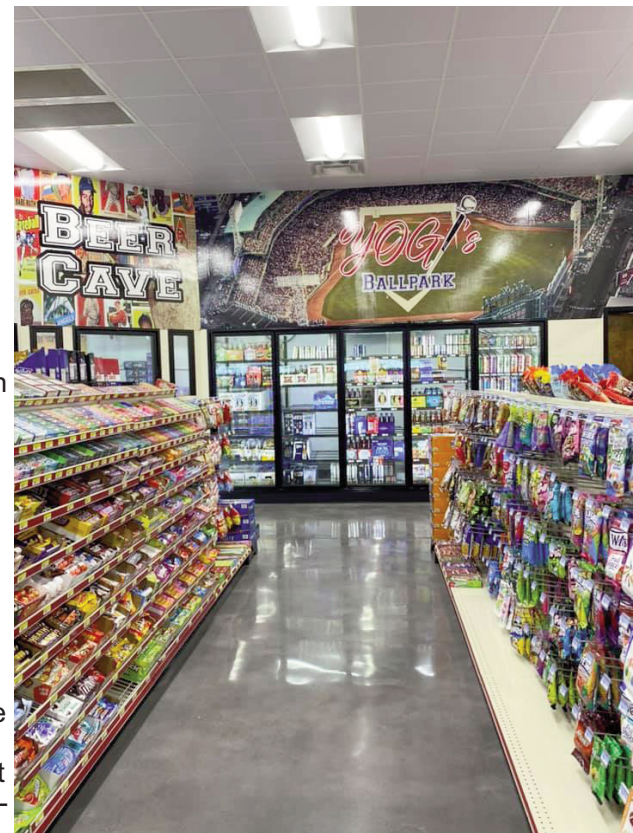
"We wanted to have the marquis store on that 100-mile stretch. I look at it like a Love's with smaller parameters. That's how we built the store. I want to elevate the amenities of what we're able to offer and I looked at Love's and how they operate their locations," Welborn said.

"The cherry on top of this would be the motel, fast food or a Huddle House, etc.," he added.

Yogi's Ballpark has a deli with hot food available 24 hours a day. Breakfasts include homemade biscuits with fresh sausage or Amish bacon, as well as pastries.

Welborn is excited about what Russellville residents have to look forward to with Huntsville's continued growth to the west and Tupelo to the east.

"Those are among the many positive things that will impact the future of Russellville, our standard of living, education and other improvements that go along with more tax revenue," Welborn said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Yogi's Ballpark is equipped with snacks, beverages, and a package store to go along with a deli.

Move-In Special

Ask about our  
\$250  
Referral  
Program

No Security Deposit

Plus get a Keurig Coffee maker & \$100 Gift Card

Apartments Now Available  
CALL 256.332.4620

Senior Living 50 & disabled or 62 and older, or mobility impaired

VILLAGE SQUARE APTS.

TTY 800.676.3777

100 Village Square • Russellville AL 35654



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)!

For daily updates on news and sports, don't forget to check us out on the web at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!





# Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

**YARD SALES**  
Multi-Family Yard Sale. Wednesday, December 15. 7-5. Top of Spruce Pine Mountain. Highway 26. Look for signs. Lots of winter clothing, Christmas decorations, movies, some furniture, jewelry, Roku & much more!

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**  
Kitchen Help Needed. Full-time or part-time. Pilgrim's Place Barbecue. Call 256-

332-1007 or apply in person.  
**FOR FREE**  
Free eggs! Chicken, ostrich, quail, pheasant and many more! Call (256)-856-4139 for more information.  
Free Firewood. You pick it up. Call Mary at 205-494-3668.

Make Christmas Candles! 5 10-pound blocks of Candle Wax For Sale. Paid \$25 each. \$95 for all. Call 256-398-2255.  
Candle Making Supplies For Sale. Pan, Pot, Round-Square Mold, Wicks, Dye, Thermometer. \$50 for all. Call 256-398-2255.  
Eight dog crates for sale. Call (256)-332-0205 for sizes and price.

0205 for prices.  
Coffee table with wooden top. \$50. Call (256)-332-0205.  
Large two-door oak wardrobe with shelves. \$225. Call (256)-332-0205.  
Nice gentleman's chest. Brown wood. \$225. Call (256)-332-0205.  
Cemetery plot for sale at Franklin Memory Gardens, Waterloo Road in Russellville. Located on Prayer Side of Cemetery. \$1200. Call 256-668-7004.


Home. Very friendly with kids. Call 256-668-4352.  
**FOR RENT**  
1 BR Apartment For Rent. Furnished. Private Entrance, Patio. Call 256-332-5081 or 256-627-1916. (1)  
2 BR Apartment For Rent. Large Yard. Covered Patio, Central Air. Call 256-332-5081 or 256-627-1916. (1)  
RV For Rent. 1 BR. Cedar Ridge Campground. No pets. No smoking. Call 267-240-6958.

*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.*

Buying a home is a way of insuring the most important thing, just like insuring your life. Comprar una casa puede asegurarnos lo mas importante, tal como asegurar su vida.



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


**FOR SALE**  
For sale: T-shirt business/equipment/monogramming equipment is for sale (heat presses, printers, silhouette vinyl cutter), the business Facebook page (2,100 members), embroidery machine and supplies, tons of inventory, a shelf, and also several rolls of vinyl. Please call or text 256-668-0421 for more info!  
Trailer and house on 3.75 acres of land. 905 Railsplitter Road in Phil Campbell. Call (574)-214-6074 for more information!  
Sanyo with Manual Remote & Stand. HDMI input. Works. \$50. Call 256-398-2255.

Girls denim jeans. Sizes 10, 12, 14, & tall. GAP, Old Navy, The Flirt, Wrangler, Rider & Levis. Call (256)-332-0205.  
Mikasa 80 piece of Nature's Garden Dishes. DA 906 Blue Freesia. Safe for dishwasher & microwave. \$145. Call (256)-332-0205.  
Girls shoes. Keds, size 9, 8 pair. \$5 each. Born, size 10, 8 pair, \$5 each. Call (256)-332-0205.  
Girls GAP denim jacket. Size small. \$10. Call (256)-332-0205.  
2 Deer hunting climbing stands, 6 deer hunting ladder stands. Call (256)-332-

Two women's bicycles, rode very little. \$40 each for them. (256)-324-2407  
Fresh chicken eggs: \$1.50/dozen. Fresh duck eggs: \$2/dozen. (256)-324-2407.  
For sale! Chainlink fence. About 300 feet in length. \$25 takes the entire thing! Call (256)-856-4139.


**FOR RENT**  
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;

**Right coverage. Right price. Right here in town.**



Here's the deal. The right insurance should help you feel confident and comfortable. I'm the right good neighbor for that. Call me today.  
Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Rhett Bradford, Agent  
201 Washington Avenue NW  
Russellville, AL 35653  
Bus: 256-332-0540  
www.insuredbyrhett.com



## Southwood Gardens Apartments

Are you looking for an apartment that is closer to Walmart, the grocery stores, drug stores, and doctors? Are you 55 years of age or older drawing disability or 62 or older, if you are, then Southwood Gardens Apartments is where you need to be!! Besides being close to Walmart, we are also close to all surrounding churches and businesses!


Rent is based on income. Water is furnished, you only pay electric!  
Apartments are 1 bedroom on ground level furnished with: Carpet, Blinds, Central Heat & Air, Stove, Refrigerator, Laundry room onsite, and Maintenance on call.

Southwood Gardens Apartments are accepting applications. We have some vacant apartments now. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please send them our way.

We have new Management!  
Apply at on-site rental office

Monday-Friday  
8:00am-4:30pm  
100 Southwood Gardens  
Russellville, Al 35653  
(256)332-9027

"Owner does not discriminate against persons with disabilities."

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

## NOTICE

IN THE PROBATE COURTS OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF:  
TIMOTHY AND ANDREA EWART  
CASE NO.: 8739

STATE OF ALABAMA )  
COUNTY OF MADISON )

NOTICE TO: SKYLER SHANE VANDIVER  
FATHER OF S.I. VANDIVER, DOB MAY 21ST, 2020

Please be advised that a Petition for Adoption, in the above-styled matters have been filed in the Probate Court of Madison County by Timothy and Andrea Ewart and that on the 10th day of February, 2022 at 1:30 p.m., these matters have been set for a hearing on the same in said Probate Court in Madison County, Alabama. Should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein, with counsel for said Petitioners, whose name and address are shown below and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court.

Coby McEachern Boswell, Esq.  
Attorney for Petitioner  
1000 Church Street. NW  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
(256) 534-8799

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





# REVIVE, REFRESH, RENEW!

Bring back your youthful appearance with Botox & Fillers!

We now offer Botox and Filler Treatment. Please call our office to schedule your appointment. We are delighted to offer our loyal patients the benefits of these

high-demand treatments!

**\$11**  
Per unit

## Botox Treatments

- Glabellar Lines/Fascial Pain
- Forehead Lines/Fascial Pain
- Crows Feet/Fascial Pain
- Lip Plumping/Smile Lines

## Dermal Filler Treatments:

Lip Filler -

**\$600**



# RUSSELLVILLE DENTAL CARE

256.332.6073

510 Engle Dr, • Russellville



## Seven Bobcats named to 3A region 8 all-region team

Brady Petree  
 Franklin Free Press

The 2021 football season was very kind to the Phil Campbell Bobcats. After a 7-3 regular season that saw the Bobcats clinch a second place finish in 3A region 8 and securing a postseason berth.

And as the season came to a close just weeks ago with the state championships being played, the individual accolades are beginning to roll in for the Bobcats.

John Randle Herring was named the 3A region 8 defensive lineman of the year in addition to being selected to the first team for the region. The senior lineman, who also suited up at tight end and running back on the year, put up big numbers for a vibrant Bobcat defense.

Accumulating a staggering 47.5 tackles (4.8 per game) on the season, Herring's biggest performances on the year included an 8.5 tackle game against Lauderdale County and a nine tackle game against East Lawrence.

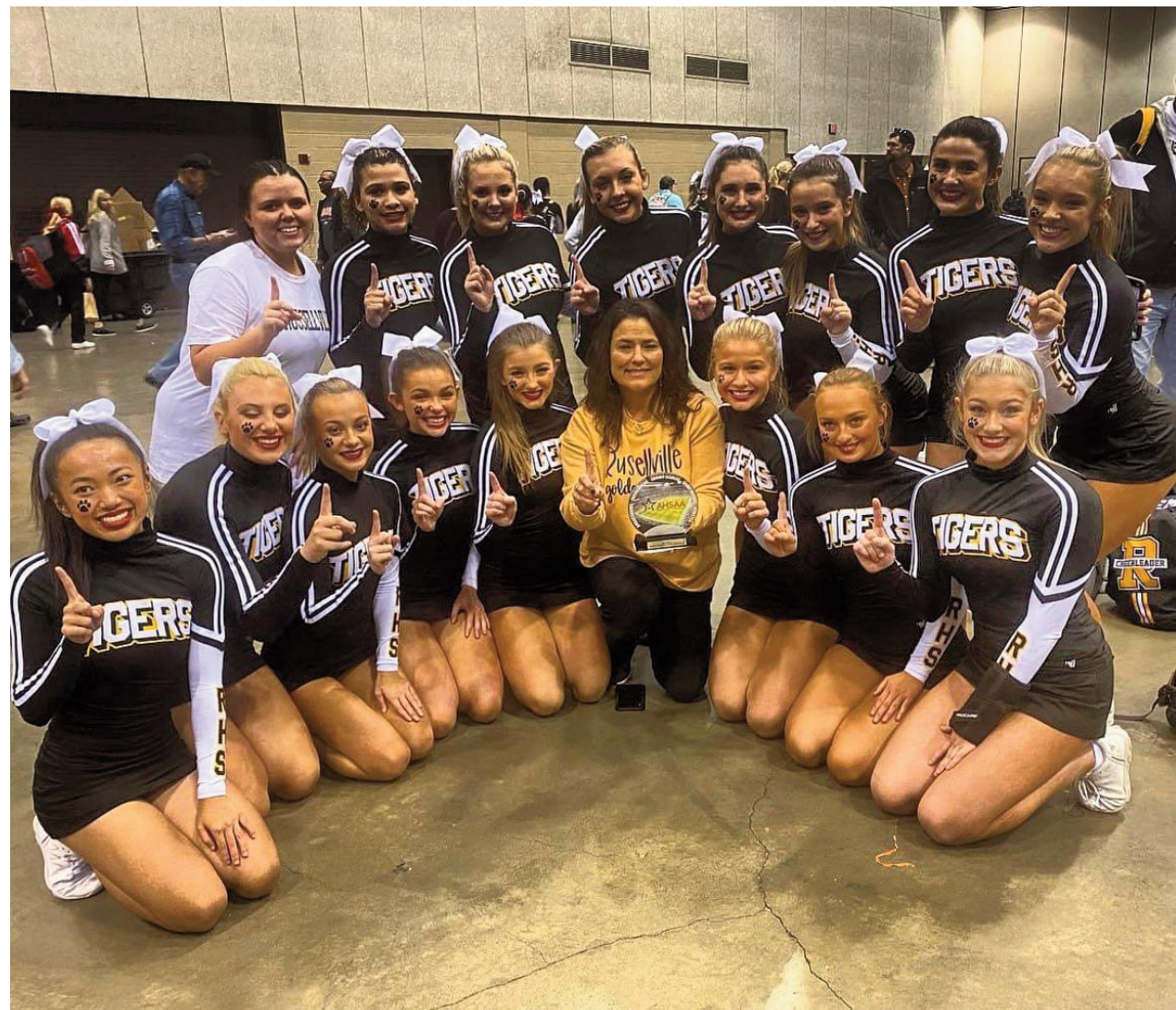
Offensively, Herring was efficient as well. Carrying the ball 69 times on the season, Herring amassed 354 yards on the ground and three touchdowns.

Herring wasn't the only Bobcat represented on the all-region team as six others were named to the first team.

Blain Goodson, who primarily played at the tight end slot on offense while lining up at cornerback on defense, was also named to the first team. Catching only ten passes on the year, Goodson was extremely efficient as he accumulated 292 yards to go along with five touchdowns. On the defensive side, Goodson made 29 tackles (2.6 per game) and also had one interception on the season.

Bryant Hyde, Andrew Green, Boone Swinney,  
 See 'BOBCATS,' page 17

# Competing in the state finals



**COURTESY PHOTO**  
 Competing in the AHSAA 5A cheerleading competition, the Russellville Golden Tiger varsity cheerleading squad placed third out of 18 competing squads in the finals.

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

The Russellville High School varsity cheerleaders finished third in the state in the recent Alabama High School Athletic Association 5A state cheerleading championships.

Cheer coach Stephanie Mayfield's team entered the competition for the first time this year. The finals were held in Birmingham.

After winning the North Super Regional 5A Game Day finals, the team placed third in the December 6<sup>th</sup> state finals, narrowly missing a second place finish by just a few points.

18 5A squads competed in the Game Day finals. There are 64 5A cheer squads across Alabama. The competition saw squads judged in cate-

gories including Band Chant, Sideline (situational), Crowd Leading and Fight Song.

"I am so proud of the hard work and effort this team showed, not only in this competition, but all year," Mayfield said.

"And we want to thank everyone who texted well wishes or came to Birmingham to support them last week."

The 2021-22 varsity cheerleading team includes: Ella Burcham (Captain), Tori Tiffin (Co-Captain), Madeline Cooper, Sophie Hill, Emily Gipson, Keshie Allen, Silvie Miller, Sarah Morgan, Maggie Bishop, Danica Graham, Stella Hill, Kinsley Palmer, Caylin Pinkard, Chloe Sheffield and Annie Willis.

Hailey Mitchell, aka 'Champ,' also competed with the team in the AHSAA competition.

**Pest Solutions**

**Pest & Mosquito Control**  
 256-332-4008

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)!



# 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**



"The standard for fixed-income  
living in Russellville"

**Russellville  
Housing Authority  
Incorporated**

## 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)



## PERSONAL TRAINER

**Personal Touch Fitness**  
Personal Training & Rehab



Weight Training - Abdominal Routine  
Cardio and Flexibility Exercises  
Nutritional Counseling

**Rickey Smith**  
Fitness Specialist

256-668-2844

## PUBLIC SERVICE

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

franklinsheriff.org  
(256) 332-8811

Compliments of  
**Shannon  
Oliver**  
SHERIFF



**THERE ARE  
OTHER WAYS**



**TO GET  
OUR INK!**

## HOME INSPECTION

**MC Home Inspection**  
Presale Home Inspection



**Mart Culp**

Russellville, AL 35654  
martculp@gmail.com

256-331-9209  
256-324-8692



FRANKLINFREEPRESS.NET

MAILBOX • SMARTPHONE • TABLET • COMPUTER • RADIO





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

## 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**

## NOW HIRING

**\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus  
for all New Employees!**  
**Starting wages \$16.40 per  
hour with incentive up to  
\$32.20 per hour!!!**

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 plant on  
2045 Hwy. 244 in Russellville,  
or online at [www.pilgrimsusa.com](http://www.pilgrimsusa.com).  
Call Michael Cummings at 256-768-3707  
for more information**

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



## A very successful week: Bulldogs go 3-0 against county opponents

Staff reports

It was a very good week for the Belgreen Bulldogs who went 3-0 on the week with all three wins coming against different county foes.

With the three wins on the week, Belgreen moves to an impressive 8-1 with only three weeks left in the year.

### Belgreen 69 Tharptown 33

Kicking off their perfect week, the Bulldogs got a win over Tharptown thanks in large part to four Bulldogs who scored in double digits on the night.

Austin James led the scoring charge for the Bulldogs in the first quarter, leading the way with seven points including a three-pointer.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 19-10 lead as Belgreen got four points apiece from Canaan Stough and Cole King and two points each from Will Bonner and Hadden Taylor.

The second quarter was more of the same from the Bulldogs as they outscored the Wildcats 19-11, bringing their lead to 38-21 at halftime. Will Bonner scored 11 points in the quarter to lead all scorers as Austin James would knock down a pair of three-pointers giving him three field goals from beyond the arc in the half. Adrian Reaves chipped in with two points of his own in the quarter.

The third quarter is where the Bulldogs saw their lead extend by its largest margin by a 26-8 total, giving Belgreen a commanding 64-29 lead headed into the fourth quarter.

Hadden Taylor led all scorers in the quarter, scoring ten points while going 2-2 from the free throw line. Canaan Stough scored six points in the third quarter while Will Bonner scored three points with Braycen Johnson and Cole King scoring two points and one point in the quarter.

A low-scoring fourth quarter saw the Bulldogs close the door on the Wildcats, outscoring Tharptown for the fourth straight quarter by a 6-4 margin to close out the 69-33 win.

Carson Cox scored four points in the fourth quarter with Taylor adding two points.

Will Bonner led all scorers with 18 points while Hadden Taylor (14 points),

See 'BULLDOGS,' page 18



## 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.



**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**



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR  
**David & Kim PALMER**  
*and Family*



**Happy Holidays**  
*from*  
**RUSSELLVILLE GAS BOARD**

If we can be of service,  
please call 256-332-3850



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**



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

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

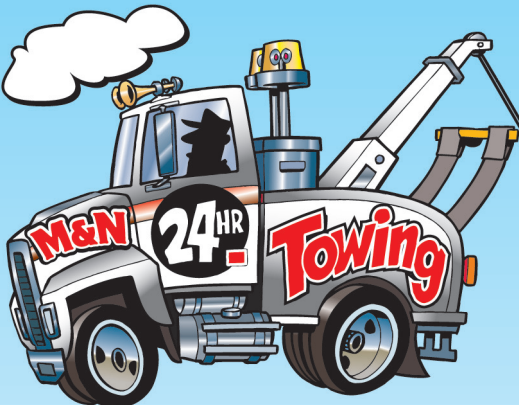
**Mon.-Fri. 9-6**  
**3145 Hwy 237**  
**Phil Campbell**



**Next to Phil Campbell High School**

**Owner/Pharmacist**  
**Wes Mayfield**

**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**

**'BOBCATS,' from page 11**

Braxton Goodson and Jeitt Traywick all made the first team in 3A region 8 as well for the Bobcats.

Hyde was the epitome of the phrase "Jack-of-all-trades" for Phil Campbell as contributed in meaningful ways on offense, defense and special teams. Suiting up primarily at running back, Hyde totaled 128 carries to accumulate 812 yards (6.3 YPG) in addition to 12 touchdown carries. In the receiving game, Hyde was targeted seven times on the season, catching all seven targets for a total of 84 yards and two touchdowns.

Suiting up at cornerback primarily on defense, Hyde made nine tackles on the year with one interception to his credit. An excellent kick returner, Hyde returned seven kickoffs for 206 yards including a 98-yard touchdown return.

Green, one of four seniors to make the first team, carried the football 38 times for 221 yards (5.8 YPG) and three touchdowns on the ground. Through the air, Green also hauled in nine passes for 281 yards to go along with three touchdown receptions.

Defensively, Green was a force for the Bobcats as well. A five tackle performance against Clements en route to a 30 tackle season for Green also went along with three interceptions for the senior.

Swinney was a solid defensive staple for the Bobcats as well as on the punt return team. Seven tackles, a season-high for Swinney, against Danville was the exclamation mark on a season that saw Swinney account for 34 tackles on the season.

In terms of punt returns, Swinney returned nine punts for 252 yards.

Braxton Goodson, the lone sophomore to make the first team for the Bobcats, was a key part of the defense for Phil Campbell.

Against Lauderdale County, Goodson accounted for 9.5 tackles which was his season-high followed soon by an eight tackle performance in the Bobcats' playoff game against J.B. Pennington. Goodson totaled 61 tackles on the season (5.5 per game) to go along with three interceptions.

Traywick also was an important piece of the defense for head coach Kevin Barnwell and his staff as he (Traywick) totaled 57.5 tackles (5.2 per game) in addition to two interceptions on the season.

Honorable mentions for the 3A region 8 team included: Tyler Osborn, Jackson Clark, Austin Douthit, Cole Pace, Kyle Pace and Cooper Riddle.



*Wishing You All the Blessings*  
**of This Bright & Beautiful Season**  
*from the City of Russellville*

**Job Opportunities**

Franklin County Water Service Authority (FCWSA) is accepting completed applications with accompanying resumes for the following positions until 4 pm on Wednesday, December 22, 2021:

- \*Licensed Grade IV Water Treatment Plant Operator
- \*Meter Reader/Laborer

Applications may be obtained via email request to [beverlyscott@fcwsa.net](mailto:beverlyscott@fcwsa.net) or picked up at the drive-up window at the office in Belgreen.

No telephone calls, please.

FCWSA is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability or any other protected class of individuals in employment or provision of services.



# Shoals Primary Care

welcomes

## Dr. Zaman Shah

to the practice  
in Sheffield



**Board certified in Internal Medicine, Dr. Shah is an exceptional physician and a close family member of Dr. Syed.**

**He will be continuing Dr. Syed's legacy of excellent and compassionate patient care with Shoals Primary Care.**

*Monday-Thursday 8am - 5pm*

*Walk-ins are Welcome*

MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED

MEDICARE PATIENTS WELCOME



342 Cox Boulevard  
Sheffield  
256-383-4473  
shoalsprimarycarellc.com

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

303 N. Jackson  
Russellville

256.332.2880

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

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

## 'BULLDOGS,' from page 15

Austin James (13 points) and Canaan Stough (11 points) all scored in double digits for the Bulldogs. Cole King scored five points, Carson Cox scored four points while Braycen Johnson and Adrian Reaves scored two points each.

Dylan Valdez scored ten points to lead all Tharptown scorers while Malachi Minor scored seven points.

### Belgreen 57 Vina 18

A strong defensive showing from the Belgreen saw the Bulldogs hold Vina to single digits in each quarter en route to their second win of the week.

It was a group effort in the first quarter as Belgreen got scoring contributions from five different players as the Bulldogs outscored the Red Devils 19-6 in the first quarter.

Alex Jarnigan scored six points in the quarter to lead Belgreen scorers with Jordan Wright scoring five points. In addition to Jarnigan and Wright's scoring output, Adrian Reaves and Carson Cox each scored three points with Canaan Stough scoring two points.

A rout in the second quarter was enough to seal the deal the rest of the way for the Bulldogs as they outscored Vina 23-2 behind a very strong quarter from Cole King.

King scored 11 points in the second quarter en route to a 42-8 lead for Belgreen entering halftime. Will King and Canaan Stough each scored three points while Adrian Reaves, Jordan Wright and Chris Naylor each scored two points in the second quarter.

The second half was no different as the Bulldogs continued to show their defensive prowess, holding Vina to just ten total points in the second half.

Cole King finished with 13 points to lead Belgreen while Jordan Wright scored nine points. Alex Jarnigan and Adrian Reaves scored eight points each on the night. Carson Cox and Canaan Stough each chipped in with five points as Brent Sykes (four points), Will King (three points), and Chris Naylor (two points) contributed to the win.

### Belgreen 59 Phil Campbell 33

After starting out uncharacteristically slow with a 9-9 tie at the end of the first quarter, the Bulldogs found another gear in the second quarter to jump out to a rather large lead entering halftime.

Outscoring the Bobcats 25-4 in the second quarter, the Bulldogs went into the locker room leading their county rival 34-13.

Scoring six points in the first quarter, Collin Bonner followed that up by scoring 11 points in the second quarter to lead all scorers. Will Bonner scored six points while Adrian Reaves scored four points in the second quarter.

The Bulldogs didn't skip a beat coming out of halftime as they were able to outscore the Bobcats 16-10 to extend their lead to 50-23 entering the fourth quarter.

Austin James did most of the heavy lifting in the quarter as he led all scorers with nine points, going 4-4 from the charity stripe. Collin Bonner scored three points in the quarter to bring his scoring total to 20 points on the night through three quarters while Will Bonner went 2-2 from the free throw line in the quarter.

A 27 point lead would prove to be enough to hold on for the win for the Bulldogs as the Bobcats outscored Belgreen 10-9 in the quarter.

For Belgreen, Collin Bonner was the scoring leader with 20 points while Will Bonner scored 16 points. Austin James scored 13 points with Adrian Reaves and Cole King adding six points and four points each.

Can Habada led the Bobcats in scoring with six points in the game while Blain Goodson, Canaan Clay and Sage Raper each scored five points.

## "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



# Artistic Jewelry & Repair, Inc

**SALES • CASTING • REPAIR**

Neil Willis, Owner • Jim Poss  
256.332.9199

15357 Hwy 43  
Russellville

Little Packages.

*Big Joy!*

**Kevin G. Kelly, M.D.**

Serving your family for over 30 years

FAMILY PRACTICE  
Pediatrics  
Newborn Care  
256-331-25901

**Urgent Care**

Walk-in Clinic

**We are still here!**

- Entrance located on right side closest to Fred's
- Please excuse our growing pains.

No Appointment Needed

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

**256-331-2092**



# 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  

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).

# Red Bay Hospital

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)



**MERRY  
Christmas!**

*from*  
**YOGI'S  
BALLPARK**



**Grand**

**Opening**

**Sat., Dec. 18th**

**Free Photos with  
Santa from 1-3 p.m.**

*(Bring your camera)*

**Register to win your  
share of \$2,500 in  
Gas Cards & Cash!**



*Pictures w/ Santa...*

**Hwy 24 East  
Across from Lee Complex**