

Anderson Jack

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

256.398.8928 • 944 Ronnie McDowell Ave

KING'S PIZZA

14001 Hwy 43, Suite 12 • 256-332-8010

Everyday Deals:

Medium Pepperoni Pizza **\$7.99**

Pizza Cheese Sticks w/ Marinara Sauce

Medium **\$6.99** Large **\$7.99**

Free Local Delivery!

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

FranklinFreePress.net

1.19.22



We're All Ears!

Have an opinion? **256.332.0255**

Story idea?

Let us know!

FFP 256.332.0255

Guinn leaving Russellville City Schools to become Satsuma City Schools Superintendent

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When the Russellville City Board of Education chose Heath Grimes over Tim Guinn as their new superintendent in 2015, Guinn could have responded in several ways.

He had been at Russellville City Schools since 2002, serving as assistant principal and principal at Russellville High School. Guinn could have chosen to leave, but he didn't.

Instead, the retired Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Army Reserve took the high road and waited for the right opportunity to advance his career.

Guinn found that opportunity this month, when he accepted the position as Superintendent of Education for Satsuma City Schools. He will begin February 1, 2022, in his new position.

Satsuma is a town in Mobile County with a population of 6,750.

Satsuma City Schools has 1,520 students, 165 faculty/staff members and a \$15 million annual operating budget. The system has two schools, Satsuma Elementary, K-6th grade and Satsuma High School, 7th-12th grade.

Although Guinn has turned down other opportunities the past six years, he believes the 'right fit' was

See 'GUINN,' page 3

ALABAMA GUN & PAWN

Fishing Tackle - HUGE Supply!
New Shipment of Ammo!

15347 Hwy 43 • 256-332-1108

Cooper representing Franklin County in statewide DYW event

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

45 young women are gathered in Montgomery this week to take part in the 2022 Distinguished Young Women (DYW) of Alabama program.

While the girls will be competing for more than \$32,000 in scholarships, Madeline Cooper, Franklin County's DYW representative, doesn't see the program as a competition. She believes DYW offers participants too many opportunities to be considered a competitive event.

"I try my best not to view it as a competition at all," Cooper said. "That's not what it's about in my opinion. It's about going to the state level,

meeting these girls and being there to uplift each other. I love the interview process and being able to communicate with the judges.

"And we won't have our phone for the week, so we'll be off the grid and that will help me learn how to be on my own and be independent. I'm going down there to do my best. I'm going to compete, but not with the mindset of trying to beat everyone else. This program is so much more than that. That's why it interested me in the first place," Cooper added.

Distinguished Young Women of Alabama is part of a national scholarship program that promotes and rewards scholarship, leadership and

See 'COOPER,' page 7

JEFF BARKSDALE

FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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

Happy New Year, neighbors.



I wish all my neighbors a healthy, happy and safe New Year. Here's to this year bringing you nothing but the best.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Rhett Bradford, Agent
201 Washington Avenue NW
Russellville, AL 35663
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 Littleville

Accepting Tricare and BCBS

1369 George Wallace Hwy
256.332.4021

familypharmacygroup.com

It's Your Choice,



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

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

Steve Melton Baker, 73, of Russellville, passed away on Wednesday, January 12th. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

Thomas Rayburn Massey, 74, of Russellville, passed away on Sunday, January 16th. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

James "Ed" Edward Nicholson, 71, passed away on Saturday, January 15th. Interment at Liberty Chapel Cemetery.



Russellville City Schools Pre-K Registration

Registration: January 15, 2022 - March 9, 2022

- First Class Pre-K programs are accepting online pre-registration applications for the 2022-2023 school year beginning January 15th. (If you need assistance with accessing the online application, contact the local school/program.)
- Enrollment is open to all children four years of age on or before 9/1/22* who are residents of Alabama. (Children who are eligible for kindergarten are not eligible for pre-k.)
- Enrollees must provide a copy of the child's birth certificate. (It may be uploaded into the online pre-registration site or submitted directly to the local school/program.)
- Enrollees must provide proof of residence – either a current utility bill or copy of a lease or mortgage. (It may be uploaded into the online pre-registration site or submitted directly to the local school/program.)
- Public school system pre-k programs may have zoning requirements that determine eligibility for attending a program at a particular school. (Contact the school for attendance zone information.)
- There is no registration fee for First Class Pre-K programs.
- Upon enrollment, a child's immunization record must be provided to the school or program.
- No child will be denied participation on basis of income, sex, race, color, national origin, or disability.

Acceptance into a First Class Pre-K program is strictly through random drawing. Parent/Guardian does not have to be present at drawing. Email notices of acceptance status will be sent in mid-April.

Random Drawing Details

Date: March 11, 2022

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Russellville City Schools Early Childhood Center



prek.alaced.alabama.gov



Escuelas de Russellville Aplicación para Pre-K

Fecha de preinscripción: 15 de enero - 19 de marzo

- Estamos aceptando solicitudes de pre-inscripción en línea para el año escolar 2022-2023 (para obtener ayuda con el acceso a la aplicación en línea, comuníquese con la escuela/programa local).
- La inscripción está abierta para todos los niños que tengan 4 años de edad en o antes del 9/1/2022* y que sean residentes del estado de Alabama.
- Los solicitantes deben proporcionar una copia del certificado de nacimiento del niño (Puede descargar los documentos en la página electrónica de preinscripción o enviarlo directamente a la escuela o programa local).
- Los solicitantes deben presentar un comprobante de residencia, ya sea una factura de servicios públicos actual y una copia de un arrendamiento o hipoteca (Puede descargar los documentos en la página electrónica de preinscripción o enviarlo directamente a la escuela o programa local).
- Los programas de Pre-Kinder del sistema escolar público tienen requisitos de zonificación que determinan la elegibilidad para asistir a un programa en una escuela en particular (comuníquese con la escuela para obtener más información).
- No hay costo por registrarse en este programa
- Al momento de la inscripción, se debe proporcionar el registro de vacunas del niño.
- A ningún niño se le negará la participación por motivos de ingresos, sexo, raza, color, origen nacional o discapacidad.

Acceptance into a First Class Pre-K program is strictly through random drawing. Parent/Guardian does not have to be present at drawing. Email notices of acceptance status will be sent in mid-April.

Random Drawing Details

Date: March 11, 2022

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Russellville City Schools Early Childhood Center



prek.alaced.alabama.gov



KING'S PIZZA

PIZZA • PASTA • WINGS



**New Menu Items Including
Macaroni & Cheese, Only \$2.99!**



Specialty & Custom Built Pizza



Pasta - Wings - Salads



**Dippin' Dots Ice Cream, Beignets
Funnel Fries & Fried Pies!**



Pizza Omelets & Pizza Bagels!

Order online at...

Kingspizza.menuonline.com

14001 Hwy 43 • Franklin Shopping Center

(256) 398-8010

Mon.-Thu. 10-10, Fri.-Sun. 10-11

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!

'GUINN,' from page 1

there in Satsuma.

"They are very much like Russellville, so I wouldn't have such a learning curve," Guinn said. "When you talk to people in town, they are very much interested in who their superintendent will be. I had a very good feel for the community and much like Russellville, it's a tight, close-knit community, just a little bit smaller."

Prior to coming to Russellville, Guinn served as a teacher, coach and principal in Lawrence County Schools from 1991-97, a math teacher and basketball coach at Deshler High School from 1997-99 and principal at Vina High School from 1999-2002.

Guinn's wife Sandy serves as Technology Director for Franklin County Schools.

Guinn stressed that he wasn't leaving Russellville because he was dissatisfied with the system. Instead, it was all about the right opportunity.

"I love Russellville and we are very satisfied here," Guinn said. "Russellville has a wonderful reputation across the state, not only for athletics, but for academics as well."

It was last September when the deadline came to apply for Superintendent of Education in Satsuma. Guinn submitted an application, but not having received a response, he assumed the board had selected its candidate.

They had. What Guinn didn't know is he was that choice.

"In November, I was at a conference in Mobile when they asked me to come for an interview. In mid-December, I received a call from the board attorney informing me I was their choice," Guinn said.

Guinn discussed with the board his difficulty in finding housing in Satsuma and the fact that his wife, with just a few years remaining until her retirement, would not be coming right away.

"They were fine with our plan. All obstacles seemed to have been removed and the salary was where I wanted it to be, so I accepted the offer and am very much looking forward to it," Guinn said.

Guinn describes leaving Russellville as 'somewhat sad,' but said it was the right time with the right opportunity.

"I will miss the people here for sure. But I won't be gone forever. We'll come back and visit and my will still be here for some time," Guinn said. "Russellville will always be a special place to me. I'll always remember the professionalism of Dr. Wayne Ray. He was the one who sold me on Russellville. His professionalism and knowledge was something I wanted to emulate. We had so many conversations over the years and I learned so much from the man. He had a team approach and that was important," he added.



COURTESY PHOTO

Guinn has been at Russellville City Schools since 2002 and will now serve as the Satsuma City Schools Superintendent.

Kevin G. Kelly, M.D.

Serving your family for over 30 years

FAMILY PRACTICE
Pediatrics
Newborn Care
2-5901

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

Letter to the editor...

Dear Editor:

The Franklin County Farmers Federation Women's Committee would like to thank everyone who donated to the "Cottons for Christmas Sock Drive".

We collected over 300 pairs of socks and were able to provide each resident of Burns Nursing Home a nice gift bag which included lotion and multiple pairs of socks.

We appreciate your generosity and will continue this effort for our local nursing home residents for years to come.

Again, thank you!

Franklin County Farmers Federation Women's Leadership Committee

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

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

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.

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

Former commissioner Rayburn Massey passes away at 74

John Pilati

Franklin Free Press

Former Franklin County Commissioner Rayburn Massey died Sunday at the age of 74.

Massey, a Franklin County native, served as Commissioner for District Three from 2004-08, and from 2012-20.

Massey and his wife Brenda have two children and four grandchildren. He is a graduate of Belgreen High School and earned a diploma in instrumentation and electronics at Calhoun Junior College. Massey also earned a FAA licensed mechanic degree from Hamilton Technical School.

He worked as a department supervisor for Monsanto/Solutia, where he oversaw a department of more than 50 employees.

As a commissioner, Massey was passionate about working to improve Franklin County. He helped to improve county roads and bridges through funding from the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation Improvement Program in the amount of \$12 million plus.

He served on the Franklin County Broadband Task Force and worked diligently to help bring broadband to rural areas of Franklin County before leaving office in 2020.

Franklin County District Two Commissioner Jason Miller expressed his condolences upon hearing of Massey's passing.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the Massey family during this difficult loss," Miller said. "I ask everyone to join me in praying for peace and comfort for his wife Brenda and for those who loved him and have been greatly affected by his passing. May the Lord surround them with His love during this difficult time."

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Relating to Franklin County; to authorize the sheriff to sell abandoned, stolen and unclaimed property at auction; and to provide for the auctions and the disposition of the proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The Sheriff of Franklin County, at public auction or Internet auction, shall sell any abandoned and stolen personal property recovered by the sheriff's department which has remained unclaimed by the rightful owner for a period of one year. All sales shall be made in a lawful manner.

Section 2. The Sheriff of Franklin County shall keep and maintain a permanent record of all abandoned and stolen personal property recovered by the sheriff's department which states the description of the property, the date of recovery, the serial or other identifying number, and the place of recovery of the property. The records shall be open to public inspection at reasonable times. All abandoned or stolen property recovered by the sheriff's department shall be stored in a suitable place to protect the property from deterioration. After reasonable attempts have been made to locate and identify the owner, perishable property may be sold at once without notice. The proceeds shall be held for a period of six months for the account of the owner, and, if unclaimed after that time, shall be paid to the sheriff's department after deducting and paying all expenses incurred in the recovery, storage, maintenance, and sale of the property.

Section 3. At least every 12 months, the Sheriff of Franklin County shall sell at public auction or Internet auction to the highest bidder for cash all abandoned or stolen personal property which has been recovered by the sheriff's department, which has remained unclaimed by the rightful owner after a period of one year. The sales shall be made after notice has been given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in Franklin County once a week for two successive weeks or by posting notice in a conspicuous place at the Franklin County Courthouse for a period of at least 20 days prior to the sale. The notice shall contain the place, date and time of each auction and a description of each item of personal property to be sold at auction. If publication of the notice is made by publication in the newspaper, the first notice shall run at least 20 days prior to the auction. The owner of any abandoned or stolen personal property recovered by the sheriff's department may redeem the property at any time prior to its sale at no cost to the owner.

Section 4. After any property is sold at public auction or Internet auction, a notation in the storage record book shall be made of the sale and of the amount received for the property. All sales shall be paid in cash. The person making the sale may reject any and all bids if the bid amount is unreasonably low and may continue the sale, from time to time, if no bidders are present.

Section 5. The proceeds from any auction shall be paid to the Office of the Sheriff of Franklin County.

Section 6. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

Nine county establishments earn 'satisfactory compliance' health scores

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Nine of the 11 Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the period of December 21, 2021, through January 14, 2022, had scores that fell into the "satisfactory compliance" range.

Health ratings are required to be prominently posted in all food/lodging establishments. Scores are graded by the Alabama Department of Public Health inspectors on a 100-point scale.

Establishments with scores of 85 to 100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are routinely inspected. Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again in 60 days, and those scoring between 60 and 69 will have another follow-up within 48 hours. Any establishment scoring below 60 will be immediately closed.

Areas of inspection by ADPH include management and personnel; food storage, preparation and service; equipment; utensils; linen cleanliness; plumbing and waste; poisonous or toxic material storage and an inspection of the physical facility or property.

Nine of the 11 Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

The high score was 99, received by Dollar General Store #22991, 10450 Highway 43, Russellville.

Other inspection scores of Franklin County businesses included:

- 306 BBQ, 13670 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 89.
- Cano's, 201 W. Lawrence St., Russellville, 80.
- Hilltop Diner, LLC, 808 Ronnie McDowell Ave., Russellville, 93.
- Kentucky Fried Chicken, 15045 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 88.
- Los Dos Hermanos Corp., 409 Madison St. NE, Russellville, 90.
- Pizza Hut #2938, 13450 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.
- Russellville Hospital, 15155 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 95.
- Southside Quick Mart, LLC, 12301 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, 90.
- Taco Bell, 13831 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.

Health ratings are available at www.foodscores.state.al.us and may be viewed by city or county.

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 February 23, 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.

2003 Ford Expedition XLT
1FMPU16L73LA27348

Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoon panels, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

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



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 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

George Evans, MD

Offering general medical care services for the entire family



256.383.4473 Ext. 2021
340 Cox Blvd • Sheffield, AL

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

What's Happening

256.332.0255

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

Florence 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.

In celebration of the 120th anniversary of Red Bay First Baptist Church, the homecoming committee is seeking 120 people who will commit to reading the Bible all the way through in 2022. Please join us in reading and asking your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join us in this endeavor. Your life will be transformed. There are day-by-day reading calendars for January in the church office. You can also find reading plans on the internet.

Russellville Masonic Lodge 371 is selling Boston Butts for Super Bowl weekend. Butts are \$30 each and may be pre-ordered by dialing 256-810-1970. Pickup is Saturday, February 12, between 8-10 a.m., at the Lodge on Coffee Avenue.

The NACOLG SENIORx-Medicine Program is a program for free and low-cost medications for the uninsured, underinsured, Medicare coverage gap or disability waiting period. For more information, contact NACOLG SENIORx today. There is no charge for this service. 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463). Paula Pardue. 256-389-0529. This program is in partnership with the Alabama Department of Senior Services and NACOLG Department of Aging Services.

Qualifying for any Democrats that wish to run for office is now open until Friday, January 28, 2022 at 5 P.M. For any Democrat wishing to be on the ballot, please contact Wanda Myrick or Eddie Britton to qualify.

VOTE EXPERIENCE VOTE JEFF BARKSDALE FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY

- Eight years of experience as Assistant District Attorney
- Full time felony and misdemeanor prosecutor
- Graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law
- Knowledge and experience to lead as District Attorney
- Lifelong resident of Franklin County



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

Don't forget to visit us online at www.franklinfreepress.net!

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**

Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoon panels, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

And don't forget to check us out online at www.franklinfreepress.net!

'COOPER,' from page 1

talent in young women. The annual event is open to rising seniors, who first take part in a local DYW event, with the county winners advancing to the state level.

The Alabama representative will advance to the national program in Mobile, where more than \$130,000 in cash tuition scholarships will be awarded.

Cooper, the daughter of Matt and Greta Cooper of Russellville, plans to attend the University of North Alabama starting next fall. She will major in Business with a minor in Political Science. Cooper aspires to become a political consultant once she's completed her education.

"I've always enjoyed history and government. Through the years I've seen various presidential elections and local and state elections, and I've always been interested in how campaigns run," Cooper said. "I think it can be done in a better way. It's difficult surviving the media of our time period. I want to be there to support someone who I believe in."

Cooper hopes to return to Russellville after college and open some small businesses, starting with a clothing boutique.

The DYW program includes a talent aspect, and Cooper will showcase her vocal talents by performing *Don't Rain On My Parade* from the film *Funny Girl* with Barbara Streisand.

"I came across that song two years ago and loved it. It resonated with me. It's a very big, bold song and I think it fits my personality," Cooper said.

"I love musical theater and have been involved in the program at Russellville for seven-eight years."

Regardless of how Cooper fares this week in Montgomery, she's already received an impressive number of scholarships, including a \$10,000/year Presidential Scholarship that includes housing at UNA. She received a \$1,000/year scholarship from the Tennessee Valley Scholars Program, \$1,000 for winning the Franklin County DYW, \$800 for receiving the Winning Spirit of DYW scholarship, an additional \$2,000/year scholarship from UNA and \$600/year Honors College scholarship.

While in Montgomery, DYW participants stay with host families while they participate in a week full of practices and special outings. Those include a Kiwanis Club luncheon, Cattlemen's Association luncheon and a tour of the Alabama

State Capitol where they will meet Gov. Kay Ivey.

Madeline is the oldest of three children. She has two brothers: Bryson, 14 and Jack, 8.

"Being a big sister is one of the reasons I wanted to be a leader, someone who will stand up and do what needs to be done," Cooper said. "With two younger brothers, and a 10-year age difference with one, that's made me love being around children and given me more patience and understanding for people who have different personalities than mine."

The Distinguished Young Women program in Northwest Alabama is led by co-chairwomen Susan Hargett and Katernia Cole-Coffey. This year's Colbert County representative is Lauren Cook. Mary-Helen LeMay is the Lauderdale County representative.



COURTESY PHOTO

Cooper, above, will be competing alongside 44 other young women at the state DYW event in Montgomery.

Email your event information to us at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

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.
Call Michael Cummings at 256-768-3707
for more information**

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



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.

Russellville City Schools on virtual instruction through at least January 21st

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Just days after describing the total number of COVID-19 absences from Russellville City Schools as 'manageable,' Superintendent Heath Grimes made the decision to return to virtual instruction.

In an announcement sent Wednesday, January 12th, Grimes said a sharp increase in absences for both students and staff created a shortage of faculty members and the need for all-virtual format.

The virtual instruction is set to run through Friday, January 21st, with students resuming in-person instruction on Monday, January 24th.

"We know this is a lot to plan for at the last minute, and we apologize for the inconvenience, but the circumstances are simply out of our control, and our first priority is the safety of our students and employees," Grimes said. "Our hope is that this time away from in-person learning will allow a slow(down) in the spread of the virus and allow those who are currently sick sufficient time to recover."

In an interview with the *Franklin Free Press* on January 7th, Grimes said his system's COVID-19 numbers were 'in the range' of what he expected and were not sufficient to consider the virtual instruction option.

January 7th numbers showed 29 students and faculty with confirmed COVID-19 cases and 95 students/faculty/staff out for quarantine or isolation.

On Tuesday, January 11th, that number increased to 42 positives and 150 out for quarantine/isolation.

On Wednesday, January 12th, when the decision was made to convert to virtual instruction, Russellville City Schools had 59 positive COVID-19 cases and 205 out for quarantine/isolation. Grimes said additional students were sent home Wednesday after reporting being ill and showing symptoms of COVID-19. Wednesday's total absentee count from all four schools was 325, more than 13 percent of the system's enrollment.

RCS administrators encouraged students to check their emails and/or their respective learning platforms daily during the period of virtual instruction. Elementary students are receiving instruction primarily through Imagine Learning.

Extra-curricular activities including athletics and the Distinguished Young Women state program will continue during the period of virtual instruction.

Russellville City Schools students returned to classes January 5th.

Franklin County Schools saw students return Friday, January 14th, almost two weeks later. FCS Superintendent Greg Hamilton said the delay was a response to the expected post-holiday spike of COVID-19 numbers. It was the second year the system had a two-week delay before students returned for the spring semester.

There were 27 Franklin County Schools employees absent either with positive COVID-19 diagnoses or under quarantine/isolation on Friday. Absence numbers for students were not available as of press time.

**Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoon panels,
letters to the editor and other creative
submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.**

**For updates on news and sports throughout the
week, don't forget to visit us online at
www.franklinfreepress.net!**

Jeff Elledge's
CREDIT CARS

NO CREDIT - WE FINANCE

Water Authority members urge commission to move forward with broadband funding

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

With almost \$3 million in COVID-19 American Rescue Plan funds in its coffers, the Franklin County Commission heard from board members of the organization charged with bringing broadband to rural Franklin County at the commission's January 10th work session.

Scott Mugno and Randy Schultz, board members on the Franklin County Water Service Authority, addressed commissioners to stress the urgency of receiving funding to continue working toward the goal of reliable, affordable last-mile fiber optic broadband in Franklin County.

The Franklin County Water Service Authority is the entity authorized under Alabama law to bring broadband to Franklin County.

Although no official vote has been taken, commissioners are considering allocating all or part of the county's American Rescue Plan to build out broadband.

Other possible allocations of ARP funds include employee premium payments and the commission will pay a fee to Investing in Alabama Counties, a division of the Alabama County Commission Association that has provided guidance to counties as to how ARP funds may be expended.

The *Franklin Free Press* spoke with two commissioners who both support allocating approximately \$5 million to broadband infrastructure in Franklin County.

Build out of last-mile fiber optic broadband remains ongoing in Franklin County, primarily in the Alabama Power region in southern Franklin County and the eastern part of Franklin County including Tharptown.

FreedomFiber, the company working on the Franklin County broadband project, expects to have several areas lit up within 2-3 months, Mugno said.

Many residents in southern Franklin County already have broadband service.

Hodges area residents were recently allowed to connect to full 100-megahertz service up and down with unlimited data for \$49.95/month. A full gigabyte is also available to them at a higher monthly cost.

Freedom Fiber is a subsidiary of Tombigbee Electric Cooperative. While providers like AT&T and Charter/Spectrum have declined to build out rural areas of Franklin County, Freedom Fiber's business model is based on affordable, last-mile broadband to all parts of the county.

A large reason for the delay in funding is that commissioners were waiting on instruction from IAC as to how the American Rescue Plan monies could be spent. A source familiar with those instructions told the *FFP* that broadband build out is a permissible use of ARP funding.

The commission's \$5 million allocation would be used for build out in the central, north central, western and northwestern parts of Franklin County.

Mugno said their presentation to the commission was primarily to 'keep the process moving' while Freedom Fiber workers are already in Franklin County working to light up other areas.

"If we don't move on this build out, we will leave a significant portion of our youth without broadband at home," Mugno said.

07 Volvo S60

\$1500 Down

96 Ford F250

\$1500 Down

99 Lexus RX 300

\$1200 Down

10 Dodge Caliber

\$1500 Down

99 Ford F150

\$1200 Down

99 Dodge Dakota

\$1200 Down

97 Ford F150

\$1000 Down

03 Acura MDX

\$1000 Down

elledge.jeff@gmail.com

2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals

256.383.7979 • 256.710.3711

PUBLIC NOTICE

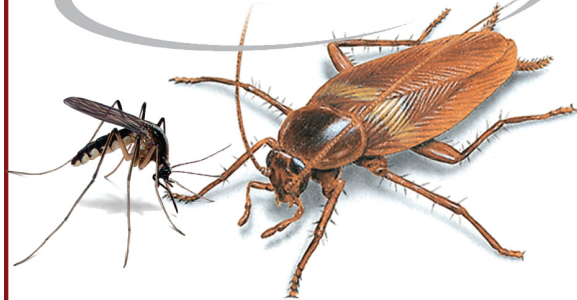
In accordance with the Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Alabama Code Sections 32-13-1 through 32-13-8, the following motor vehicle will be sold for cash at 10:30 a.m., on March 2, 2022, at M&N Wrecker & Service Center, 11833 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, Al, 35653. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and the right to bid.

2005 Nissan Altima SE
1N4BL11D15C335772

Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoon panels, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

And don't forget to check us out online at www.franklinfreepress.net!

Pest Solutions



Pest & Mosquito Control
256-332-4008

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us online at www.franklinfreepress.net!



Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

JOB OPPORTUNITY
 Kitchen Help Needed. Full-time or part-time. Pilgrim's Place Barbecue. Call 256-332-1007 or apply in person.
 Farm Help Needed. Full-Time Job. Call Thomas James at 256-627-5672.
 Looking for someone to

hang a ceiling fan on a 20 foot ceiling. (256)-320-6833.
FOR SALE
 1998 Ford F150 Truck For Sale. \$1,600. Call 256-668-2584.
 1992 Chevrolet Silverado Z71 Rear End for sale. \$300. 4-Wheel

Clutch \$150. Drive Shaft \$100. Call 256-668-2584.
 Trailer and house on 3.75 acres of land. 905 Railsplitter Road in Phil Campbell. Call (574)-214-6074 for more information!
 Eight dog crates for sale. Call (256)-332-0205 for sizes and price.
 2 Deer hunting climbing stands, 6 deer hunting ladder stands. Call (256)-332-0205 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.

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 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)
 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.

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




Enrique Aguilar Engel & Voelkers
 256-740-2356

NOTICE

Home-Health Caregiver


Compassionate, available home-health caregiver in Russellville area looking to take care of a senior citizen. Please call or text (908)-220-2531 or email to sonetas333@hotmail.com

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

 **State Farm**



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



**Auto, Home, Life Insurance
English and Spanish**

Real deal with a local feel.
Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.

Scotty Wood, Agent
13760 Highway 43 Ste 6, Russellville, AL 35653
256-332-0052
scotty@agentscott.com
agentscott.com



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

FranklinFreePress.net

SPORTS

1.19.22

Tharptown takes home first county title, ends Phil Campbell's streak

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

In the 15 seasons since its inception, the Tharptown girls basketball program has seen its fair share of success.

Despite multiple trips to the regional tournament, area titles and a collection of talented players, there has always been one accolade that has eluded the program.

The Lady Wildcats have never brought home a county title. Over the past decade and a half, the girls varsity county tournament has essentially been dominated by Phil Campbell and Red Bay, with the Lady Bobcats winning the previous four county titles in a row.

But this year, there's a new champ as the Lady Wildcats were finally able to lay claim to that elusive title after defeating Phil Campbell 34-33 in the county championship on Saturday night.

And while the Lady Wildcat program is certainly trending in the right direction following their first tournament title in program history, the success has been a bit of a long, winding road since head coach Tanna Benford took over five seasons ago.

"This group has worked extremely hard and has worked for a long time to get here. Gracie (Montgomery) came up in her 8th and 9th grade seasons and that group that she was a part of that year got bounced out of the tournament in the first round," Benford said. "Fast-forward to this group and Gracie is the only senior we have. But a lot of these girls have played varsity for a long time so there's a lot of experience here and that experi-

See 'THARPTOWN,' page 14

Overtime thriller



PHOTO BY BRADY PETREE

The Bulldogs needed overtime to defeat Red Bay to capture their third straight county championship by a final of 51-45.

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

VINA - Next time you hear about a Belgreen/Red Bay boys basketball matchup, make room on your calendar to attend.

You can thank me later.

Anytime these two squads step on the same court, whether it be a regular season game or a Franklin County tournament game, it typically goes down in some sort of spectacular fashion.

This year, as the Bulldogs were vying for their third-straight county title, the matchup needed overtime to decide a winner.

"I'm not surprised. Red Bay has really improved and I knew watching them last night what kind of effort they were going to give tonight. Their kids made some shots tonight, but our guys battled until the end and we found a way to win," Belgreen head coach Marty Cooper said.

Things started off strong for Belgreen in the first quarter. Collin Bonner put up six points with Will Bonner scoring four points en route to the Bulldogs outscoring Red Bay 13-12.

The second quarter was a much different change of pace.

An elite defensive showing from the Tigers limited the Bonner brothers to just two combined points in the second quarter and just seven points

overall for the Bulldogs in the quarter. Enough of a showing for the Tigers to take a 21-20 lead into halftime. Adrian Reaves knocked down a three-pointer to lead the Bulldogs in scoring in the quarter.

For the Bulldogs, there were a few changes that needed to happen. An uncharacteristically undisciplined first half from Cooper's squad coupled with a lockdown defense from Red Bay, meant that the thinktank for the Bulldogs was going to have to get to work at halftime to right the ship and keep the hopes of a third-straight county title alive.

Coming out of the half with a bit of a tweaked strategy on the offensive end, the Bulldogs got six more points in the third quarter from Collin Bonner as the Bulldogs narrowly outscored the Tigers 13-12 to tie things up headed into the fourth quarter.

"We changed our offense a bit in the second half but it was still really difficult. I think in the first half we were trying to get the ball and score when we needed to be a little more patient and move the ball before getting it back around and then trying to score," Cooper said.

The talent that was on display on Saturday night was quite the spectacle. And despite both squads having a fierce rivalry against one another, there is a certain level of recognition when it comes to

See 'THRILLER,' page 13

Pest Solutions

Pest & Mosquito Control
256-332-4008

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

Turn your home...

into an outdoor paradise!



We Do Custom Hardscaping!

256.332.8181

HWY 43 • Littleville

“Eye Care & Eye Wear for Your Unique Lifestyle”

256-332-5440
15255 Hwy 43
Russellville



 **EyeCare Professionals**

www.eyecareprofessionalspc.com • M-F 8-5

‘THRILLER,’ from page 11

understanding the talent on the court. Just ask Will Bonner. “That first half, we were very undisciplined and not being where we were supposed to be defensively and throwing up shots that weren’t great on offense,” Bonner said. “All credit to Red Bay because honestly they’re probably the most talented team around but in the end, it just came down to us becoming more disciplined in the second half and doing the right things we needed to do.”

The fourth quarter was a certified ‘barn-burner’, with both teams only scoring six points apiece. After Will Bonner scored on a layup to give the Bulldogs a three-point lead in the late going, it felt as though the Tigers chances were slipping away.

But not before Carson Corum hit a clutch three-pointer in the final minute to make it a 39-39 score which would be the final score of regulation, sending the game to overtime.

In overtime, it was the Bulldogs who put the clamps down and locked up the Tigers’ offense. Holding Red Bay to only six points in the quarter, the Bulldogs rode a 12 point quarter (six points each from Will Bonner and Collin Bonner) as they were finally able to seal the deal on a 51-45 Franklin County tournament title.

Of course, the Bulldogs have much larger goals in mind this season as they’re eyeing a return to the 1A state championship game for a second consecutive year. However, the county title is something that has been on their minds for quite some time according to Will Bonner.

“We have a ton of goals this year, and being Franklin County tournament champions was one of those goals. We’re never satisfied with where we currently are so we’re going to try and use this to help us get to that next level,” Will Bonner said. “Everybody on this team is very determined to win. In the fourth quarter and overtime, everyone played great defense and was willing to do whatever it took to win.”

Collin Bonner hasn’t been a Belgreen Bulldog his entire life. So the rivalries that precede his time as a Bulldog simply weren’t fully understood to the senior forward when he first stepped foot onto the Belgreen campus three years ago.

Fast-forward to the present day, and Bonner understands wholeheartedly just how significant this matchup means to the teams, schools and communities involved.

“We knew it was going to be a hard fight coming in here and they had gotten better as a team but we’re always looking for a challenge,” Collin Bonner said. “I was at Russellville before I came to Belgreen and the moment I came here, everyone was hyping up the Red Bay matchup and at the time I really didn’t understand why. But now I understand and it’s been a huge rivalry and it’s been fun to be a part of that.”

The biggest difference, according to Collin Bonner, in the second half was a rather simple one: set screens and move the basketball.

Safe to say it worked like a charm for the Bulldogs and especially the Bonner brothers who scored the last 21 points of the game for the Bulldogs from the third quarter onward.

“All we really did is start setting screens at the top of the key and running off each other and if it wasn’t there, we would reverse it. If I would catch it, a triple team would come up and I’d find someone else so it really just came down to us being able to move the ball around more,” Collin Bonner said.

Having squared off in the finals for the fourth-straight year, with the rivalry as intense as ever, there’s a certain level of respect between Belgreen and Red Bay. That respect, and the quality of the games between the two schools isn’t lost for one second for Cooper.

Even if the stress levels of the game made things a bit more uncomfortable for coaches as opposed to the fans.

“We have so much respect for Red Bay and I have so much respect for John (Torisky). We know that every time we play Red Bay, it’s going to be a battle,” Cooper said. “But neither team scored very much and it was a very physical, defensive battle and we were just very blessed to come out on the winning end of it. And it’s a great game for the fans. Not necessarily a great game for us coaches, but it’s for sure a great game for the fans.”

Collin Bonner led all scorers with 20 points in the game while going 8-9 from the charity stripe. Will Bonner had 19 points in the win as he would go 7-7 from the free throw line. Adrian Reaves (five points) and Austin James (three points) each knocked down a three-pointer for the Bulldogs while Cole King and Canaan Stough each scored two points.

For Red Bay, Carson Corum picked up most of the scoring duties with 19 points, sinking five three-pointers for the Tigers. Lawson Glover (seven points), BP Blair (seven points) and Andrew Ray (six points) also contributed to the scoring for the Tigers.

Don’t forget to visit us on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net!

'THARPTOWN,' from page 11

ence was big for us being able to win this tournament.”
Jumping out to an 8-4 first quarter lead, Tharptown looked as though they would be able to maintain control, and the lead, for a majority of the game. But Phil Campbell is no stranger to the championship stage.

Coming off of four-straight county titles, the Lady Bobcats managed to outscore Tharptown 13-6 in the second quarter and carry a 17-14 lead into halftime behind four points from Kenner Scott.

Coming out of the locker room after the half, the Lady Wildcats needed something to click. Thanks to stellar defense from the Lady Bobcats locking down Gracey Montgomery, Tharptown was essentially without one of their primary playmakers and offensive weapons for a large portion of the game.

For most teams, essentially having to play without your only senior on the team might prove detrimental, especially on a big stage like the county title game.

But the Lady Wildcats picked up the slack and were able to keep themselves in the game. Much to the delight of their senior leader.

“At first I was nervous that my team might panic because they (Phil Campbell) were doing a good job of defending me. But they handled it very well and I was able to help contribute more on the defensive side of things,” Montgomery said. “To be able to win the county championship in my senior year just kind of makes me feel accomplished. This is something that I’ve wanted to do since the 7th grade. I’ve always been pulled to the varsity team and we would always get put out in the first round. So to finally win it and make it through the end, it feels really great.”

Tharptown was able to cut into the Phil Campbell lead after outscoring the Lady Bobcats 10-9, thanks to six points from Savannah Romans, to make the score 26-24 lead for Phil Campbell headed into the final quarter.

The defensive prowess by the Bobcats affected more than just Montgomery as Tharptown’s leading scorer in the night, Sarah Mansell, was forced to readjust her game outside of her typical comfort zone.

Having to adjust on the fly without Montgomery for a large part of the game, Mansell and company had to pick up and push forward. And the end result proved to be just enough.

“I try to focus on being aggressive, especially on the defensive side in the post. But tonight they were playing very tough defense inside so I had to branch out and shoot a little bit more,” Mansell said. “We knew that we had the talent and potential, but we just had to get out there and play our game.”

Despite Mansell being a huge presence for the Lady Wildcats both on the interior and from beyond the arc, the biggest play on the night came late in the fourth quarter. Mansell was able to block a shot on a layup attempt by Phil Campbell, which in turn ricocheted off of the Lady Bobcats, forcing a turnover and essentially sealing the deal for Tharptown.

“I knew I had four fouls so I had to be careful not to foul her or I was out of the game,” Mansell said. “But I saw the ball in the air and I knew I had to go for it. And luckily I was

able to get a hand on it and get the block.”

After outscoring the Lady Bobcats 10-7 in the fourth quarter, the Lady Wildcats were finally able to celebrate their first county title by a 34-33 final.

“What Phil Campbell has done over the past few years has been really special and they are a very good team. But coming in, I told our girls after we beat them earlier in the season that we couldn’t be content with just beating them in the regular season because we knew we would probably see them in the county tournament as well,” Benford said. “We knew that we would get the best of them this game and they did play a great game. But our girls were up to the challenge and came to play and I’m very proud of them.”

Mansell finished as the leading scorer for Tharptown with 12 points including two three-pointers. Romans finished with ten points on the night while Gracie and Autumn Montgomery both finished with five points apiece.

Kenner Scott led all scorers with 14 points including two threes. Hannah Welborn finished with six points for Phil Campbell while Faith Cook knocked down a three-pointer and went 2-2 from the free throw line to give her five points for the Lady Bobcats.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

The Lady Wildcats were able to knock off the four-time defending champion Phil Campbell Lady Bobcats 34-33 to bring home their first county title in program history.

Andersyn Jack

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

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

Vina's Scott sinks 27 consecutive free throws, adds to impressive senior resume

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

Vina senior Sara Scott has had quite the senior season. First, she eclipsed the 1,000 rebound threshold for her career. Then not too long after, she surpassed the 1,000 point mark for her career. And now, the senior leader of the Lady Red Devils has another milestone to celebrate.

Scott recently went on a free throw shooting clinic, sinking an incredible 27 in a row spanning multiple games. That mark is good for the 12th longest streak in AHSAA history according to the record books.

And while Scott has certainly put in the work to achieve all that she has accomplished (as she has been a varsity player since her eighth grade season), she still puts in the same amount of work today as she did as an eighth grader years ago.

"I honestly never thought I would hit 1,000 points. My main focus every time I step out onto the court is to focus on defense and really work on my rebounding. So I set a goal for myself in the eighth grade, which was my first season playing varsity, that I wanted to get 1,000 rebounds," Scott said.

"So I reached that milestone and then I realized that I only needed 170 points this season to reach 1,000 points. And so I was like 'okay, let's go after that'."

Scott's head coach Richie Hester has seen his fair share of great offensive weapons as the head coach of Vina. And according to Hester, Scott is right up there with some of the other great Lady Red Devils to come before her.

"Sara is a great student-athlete. She's in Upward Bound, she's an A-B student and she's a leader on and off the court. She's played for me for five years and during that span we've won 74 games. It's really been a great opportunity to coach her," Hester said.

What makes the situation more intriguing in this case, is that Scott was unaware that she was on the verge of approaching a record-breaking number of consecutive free throws made.

"I really didn't have any idea and I don't think anyone really had any kind of idea until the Hackleburg game where I went 10-10 in that game," Scott said.

But someone *did* know. In fact, three people knew that Scott was on a historic pace.

Her head coach, her principal, and Ron Ingram, assistant communications director for the AHSAA.

And while Hester knew that his senior star was on track to potentially set some records, he elected to wait and tell her until *after* the streak was over, to avoid any unnecessary stress falling on Scott's shoulders.

"I checked the book after Hackleburg and noticed that we went 23-25 from the free throw line as a team and Sara was 10-10. So I decided to start looking back and they started adding up," Hester said.

"She didn't know because we didn't tell her and we didn't want to put any more pressure on her. We've had a lot of injuries and things like that this year and we've lost some close games this year.

So this is something that could spark more interest in the program and turn things around. So I'm just really proud of her for what she's been able to accomplish."

The news of Scott's accomplishment has already begun to spread far and wide across the state.

And for Scott, the opportunity to put herself *and* the school that she has grown up attending on the map, just makes the moment that much sweeter.

"A lot of surrounding schools may tend to look down a bit on Vina because we are such a small school. So just to bring such a positive light and do something this big for the school that I grew up in and really help put Vina in the spotlight for a bit really means the world to me," Scott said.



COURTESY PHOTO
Scott, above, hit 27 free throws in a row over a stretch of games dating back to late December.

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



MEDICAL ASSOCIATES
OF THE SHOALS

1120 S. Jackson Hwy
Sheffield, AL

351 Alabama Hwy 64
Killen, AL

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 March 2, 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.

2008 Chevrolet Aveo
KL1TD566X8B023769

Don't forget to visit us on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net!



RUSSELLVILLE DENTAL CARE

***DON'T HAVE DENTAL
INSURANCE?
WE CAN HELP!***



**Russellville Dental offers
an Insurance Plan for only
\$196 per year. Includes all
Free X-rays, Free Exams and Free Cleanings.
Discounts on all other procedures.**



**WHY PAY MORE
MONEY?**

Every Penny Counts

**510 Engle Dr, • Russellville
256.332.6073**