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

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#### Grants awarded to cities of **Russellville, Littleville for demolition,** sewer improvements

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

As Gov. Kay Ivey handed out oversized checks to representatives from more than 50 Alabama cities, towns and counties Thursday afternoon, representatives from Russellville and Littleville were on hand to take photos with the governor holding the ceremonial checks.

The much smaller, authentic version of the checks is what officials came home with, though, and it represented grants in the amount of \$300,000 to the City of Russellville and \$350,000 to the Town of Littleville.

Those grants were part of \$18.2

million awarded Thursday as part of Alabama's Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), that allow local governments to use the funds for public water service to households, repair of damaged streets and roads, sewer system improvements, drainage issues and removal of dilapidated structures.

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The grants were awarded in a Thursday afternoon ceremony in the State Capitol.

"These grants are a means in which local governments can address some of their more pressing needs," Ivey said. "I am pleased to award these grants, and I commend those local officials who recognized

See 'GRANTS,' page 3



26.22

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

S Free Local

Happy New Year,

neighbors.

r sTD U\$ Franklin



RUSSELLVILLE

#### **County commission approves** premium payments for full and part-time employees

#### John Pilati Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission approved COVID-19 premium payments to all full-time and part-time county employees at the commis-sion's January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Each of the county's 111 full-time employees will receive a one-time premium payment of \$3,000. The 11 part-time employees will each receive \$1,500. Franklin County Commissioner Jason Miller said the payments will be made in February and may come in one or two installments

County employees making over \$70,250 will not receive the premium

pay. Elected officials will also not receive the premium payments.

"We appreciate our employees for what they do and this was a way to show that appreciation particularly for their dedication through this pandemic," said Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore.

Including retirement and FICA taxes, the total amount of the premium payments will be \$406,538.40.

In other agenda items, the commission:

-voted to commit up to \$5 million to build out broadband across Franklin County. These funds will come out of American Rescue Plan Act monies received by the county.

See 'COMMISSION,' page 5



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Daniel Glen Murray, 78, of Russellville, passed away on Tuesday, January 18th. Interment at Bethsaida Cemetery.

Eva Mae Martin Pruett, 61, of Russellville, passed away on Saturday, January 22nd. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

Vicki Renae Staggs, 59, of Russellville, passed away onTuesday, January 18th. Interment at Glendale Cemetery.

## 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



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#### 'GRANTS,' from page 1

those needs and took the time and effort to seek an answer through this grant program."

The CDBG program in Alabama sees grants awarded annually in categories of small city (population 2,999 or less), large city (population 3,000 or more), and county and community enhancement. The funds are administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs from funds made available by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Russellville Mayor David Grissom, and councilmen Darren Woodruff and Jamie Harris attended the grant ceremony that saw their city awarded \$300,000 to demolish 11 dilapidated structures and remove the debris. This includes the demolition and removal of all structures on the former College Avenue Elementary School property.

Councilwoman Jenna Daniel represented Littleville as the town received \$350,000 to replace/rehabilitate sewer lines and manholes along U.S. Highway 43.

Officials from both communities expressed their appreciation to Rep. Jamie Kiel for his assistance and support in the grant process, and to the Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments for handling the application process.

"I am very pleased to see these grants awarded to two communities in House District 18. We appreciate the efforts of Gov. Ivey, ADECA, NACOLG and the work of the men and women representing these communities to improve the quality of life for their residents," Kiel said.



**COURTESY PHOTO** 

The City of Russellville received a \$300,000 grant for removal of dilapidated structures from the Community Development Block Grant program.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Town of Littleville received a grant of \$350,000 to be used for sewer improvements from the Community Development Block Grant program.

Page 4 January 26, 2022

## My take on this... Saying it, doesn't make it right

Well, do you think it's time to bring out the coats and boots instead of wearing shorts and flip flops?

Did you know it depends upon the age of the person, as to how that question will be answered. The young folks in my generation have been freezing since it got in the forties. I've already been wearing my coat, boots, and scarf around my neck to keep me warmer. Here is a tidbit of advice: Wearing a scarf is an article of clothing that keeps you so much warmer.



Gail Motes

All generations have worn shorts and flip flops and sweatshirts in cold weather. Whether you have forgotten or want to hide the fact doesn't change the difference in your teenage days. For the few of you who say, "I wouldn't be caught dead wearing something like that," you might be telling the truth, it could be you just had rather your children or grandchildren never know it. Well, all I can say is, it's a good thing you didn't die while you were wearing something like that!

Of course, dressing warmer than others doesn't always pertain to the weather. It has a lot to do with arthritis, blood thinners, or just being coldnatured. That is the "human-weather-thermometer." You will hear your elders say, "it feels like it's going to rain. I can feel it in my bones." More times than not, it is an accurate forecast.

I can remember my mother predicting the weather. She had arthritis very bad. It's sad when your body aches can predict the weather.

I can remember when my parents and grandparents would look at the skies

or tell which way the wind was blowing and would say, "It's going to rain." I never picked up on how that was done. The one that I can remember is when you get your car washed that it's a good possibility it will rain.

I enjoyed the summer showers that just popped up out of nowhere when it would be so hot outside.

I'd stand out in it and it would feel so good. I'd always know the words I'd hear from one of my aunt's. I'm sure most of you have heard the same thing, "do you not have enough sense to get out of the rain?" I wonder how many times she heard the same thing. She must have forgotten what she did as a child.

For those of you who see the younger folks wearing shorts and sweatshirts in the colder temperature and comment on how these young folks just don't have any sense anymore; I will say in their defense that yes, they really do!

Some folks will not let kids be kids. I can recall a time in my son's life when he would be told, "why won't you act your age?" It really meant he had forgotten he had been young once. I'd remind him of the things he had done as a child that he had told me over the years. Then he'd realize that his son *was* acting his age.

It's not just the elders that comment. The young folks could probably be heard saying, "Look at all those clothes she's wearing. She's burning me up just looking at her."

Regardless of your choice of clothing, I just would like to say, "I don't care what you wear." I just hope you stay warm.

As always, until later.

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

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#### 'COMMISSION,' from page 1

So far, the county has received \$3 million of an expected \$6 million, so the commitment is contingent upon the county receiving the balance of the funds.

FreedomFiber, a subsidiary of Tombigbee Electrical Cooperative, is working in Franklin County to complete the infrastructure for affordable, reliable, last-mile fiber-optic broadband. Extensive work has been done in southern Franklin County in the Alabama Power service area, as well as eastern Franklin County.

These funds from the county are expected to allow the build out across the county to be completed where all residents have access to affordable, reliable, last-mile fiber-optic broadband.

"This will be a benefit to everyone in Franklin County," Miller said. "We've got the opportunity to do something significant for the people of Franklin County and I can't think of a better way to spend these funds."

Moore said the commission is waiting for guidance on how to distribute the funds. The county is part of the Investing in Alabama Counties program, part of the Alabama County Commission Association. IAC is providing legal guidance as to how American Rescue Plan funds may be distributed.

"We've talked about supporting this broadband build out from day one,"

Moore said. "There is a real benefit long-term for Franklin County from this investment. But we've got to go through the proper legal procedure and paperwork. It's not just a matter of handing over a check."

-approved a second safety grant for College Road in the amount of \$169,532.28. That amount includes a 10 percent match of \$18,836.92 from Franklin County. The safety improvements will include four additional sections of guardrails on College Road as well as illuminated speed limit signs. Alabama Guardrail, Inc. will serve as the general contractor for the project.

—approved hiring Brad Estes as a temporary Corrections Officer/Dispatcher with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, effective January 5, 2022, and the employment of Estes as a permanent Corrections Officer/Dispatcher effective January 18, 2022. Zachary Cochran was also approved for employment as a permanent Corrections Officer/Dispatcher.

—approved the hiring of Steven Bullion as a Deputy/Courthouse Security Deputy.

—approved revised subdivision regulations for Franklin County. The revisions were drafted by Franklin County Engineer David Palmer and Assistant County Engineer Jason Baggett. A public hearing was held prior to the vote with no citizen input as to the revisions.

—approved the hiring of Brooke Harbin as Accountant/Payable Clerk in the Franklin County Commission Office.

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!



### **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

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



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



## What's Happening

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 preordered 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 Democrat wishing to be on the ballot, please contact Wanda Myrick or Eddie Britton to qualify.

Early Childhoo Education

Escuelas de Russellville Aplicación para Pre-K

Fecha de preinscripcion: 15 de enero – 19 de marzo

- Estamos acepando 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



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# Rebuild Alabama funds to repave, restripe several county roads

John Pilati

Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission approved a list of projects to be funded through the Rebuild Alabama program for fiscal year 2021-22 at the commission's January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Rebuild Alabama Act provides grant funding for projects across the state funded by the 2019 gas tax approved by the Alabama Legislature.

There are five Rebuild Alabama projects in the 2021-22 plan, including: —Resurfacing and traffic striping of a 1.95 mile stretch of CR-68 from CR-

48 to County Line Road, in the amount of \$185,662.16.
—Resurfacing and traffic striping of a 1.36 mile stretch of CR-20 from CR-63 to CR-75, in the amount of \$174,126.03.

—Resurfacing and traffic striping of a 2.62 mile stretch of CR-22 from Alabama 13 to Alabama 13 in the amount of \$235,126.00.

—Resurfacing and traffic striping of a 3.86 mile stretch of CR-49 from CR-524 to Lost Creek Road, in the amount of \$584,989.59.

—Resurfacing and traffic striping of a 2.73 mile stretch of CR-90 from Caney Branch to Alabama 247, in the amount of \$194,140.30.

Total Rebuild Alabama funds to be expended in the 2021-22 FY are \$1,374,044.08, with 12.52 miles of roads impacted.

Additionally, there are four projects that have not been completed from the FY 2020-21 Rebuild Alabama Act, that will be completed in this fiscal year. They include:

—Resurfacing and traffic striping of a 2.69 mile stretch of CR-47 from CR-57 to Gravel Hill Road, in the remaining amount of \$47,825.61.

—Resurfacing and traffic striping of a 2.10 mile stretch of CR-79 from Alabama 243 to CR-93, in the remaining amount of \$67,635.52.

—Resurfacing and traffic striping of a 2.16 mile stretch of CR-74 from Alabama 243 to CR-75, in the remaining amount of \$86,877.82.

—Resurfacing and traffic striping of a 1.95 mile stretch of Hovater Mill Road from CR-58 to the Colbert County line, in the remaining amount of \$55,080.06.

Rebuild Alabama Act grants apply to any classified road or bridge open to public traffic.

#### Garbage truck purchase leads RV Council meeting agenda

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council approved the purchase of a garbage truck from the Morgan County Commission at the council's January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The city will purchase the 2014 Freightliner garbage truck for \$60,000 from Morgan County. The truck features the automatic side loader arm that allows the cans to be emptied by the operator of the truck.

The purchase will be made out of the city's general fund.

In other agenda items, the council:

—approved a resolution to donate a 2001 Ford Crown Victoria to the Russellville Municipal Airport Board.

—renewed a \$500,000 line of credit with CB&S Bank at a rate of prime less one percent, currently 2.25%. The line of credit currently has a balance of \$217,894 which represent funds used to purchase garbage trucks last year.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council will be February 7, 2022, with work session at 6 p.m., and meeting to follow.

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

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# Aderholt begins re-election bid for U.S. Congressional seat

Submitted to the FFP

Tuesday, Congressman Robert Aderholt, Republican from Haleyville, filed paperwork with the Alabama Republican Party to seek re-election to Alabama's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

"I was honored to turn in my qualifying papers with the Alabama Republican Party to seek reelection to the United States House of Representative to continue to serve the people of Alabama's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The past few years have been tough for our nation with the COVID-19 pandemic changing our lives, and politicians on the left using it as an excuse to push big government ever deeper into our lives.

"Republicans have been in the minority in the House of Representatives during this entire time, but we have fought hard, and won some victories in

pushing back against Nancy Pelosi, members of the Squad, and their leftist, socialist agenda. I am very optimistic that 2022 is going to be the biggest victory yet. 2022 is shaping up to be the year Republicans take back control of the House. One year from now Republicans should be in the majority for the first time in four years with a Republican Speaker, and a Republican agenda in the House.

"Across America, people are saying they have had enough of this big government, big spending approach to our problems. As Ronald Reagan said, "govern-



**Congressman Robert Aderholt** 

ment is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem." Under Republican leadership in Congress, there will be no more multi-trillion-dollar spending on leftwing slush fund priorities that have sent inflation soaring. There will be no more attempts to hijack our election process by federalizing our state-run elections. And there will be no more vaccine mandates.

"It has been my honor to serve the people of Alabama's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. In the 2020 election I was humbled you gave me 83% of your vote. This was the most of any congressional candidate in Alabama with opposition. I thank you for that vote of confidence. But I never take your vote for granted, and I am asking for your vote again. Together, with my Republican Alabama colleagues, and those who will be elected across America, we can start the process of taking back our country!"

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## **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



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.



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#### NW-SCC announces President's List, Dean's List honorees

John Pilati

Franklin Free Press

Northwest-Shoals Community College recently announced its President's and Dean's List honorees for the 2021 fall semester.

Requirements for the President's list are a semester grade point average of 4.0 and completion of at least 12 semester credit hours of college-level work.

Students from the *Franklin Free Press* coverage area to earn President's List honors included: —Hodges: Allison Oliver.

—Phil Campbell: Lexi Crittenden, Kayla Cummings, Macey Farley, Karlee Faust, Katelee Smith and Carly West.

-Red Bay: Ellec Bays.

—Russellville: Christopher Askew, Stefanie Castillo, Christina Chavez, Diana Delgado Hernandez, Jasmine Donahoe, Celia Echeverria, Jonah Fisher, Daniel Francisco, Alana Jenkins, Alexis Lambert, Kenya Lopez, Jessica Martinez, Adrianna McCleese, Michael Scheuerman, Payton Scott and Victoria Shook.

-Spruce Pine: Kelley Aycock, Austin Odom and Meg Sornberger.

Requirements for the Dean's List are a semester grade point average of 3.5 or above but less than 4.0 and completion of a minimum semester course load of 12 semester credit hours of college-level work.

Students from the *Franklin Free Press* coverage area earning Dean's List honors were:

—Phil Campbell: Chloe Carpenter, Chloe Hill and Emily Wise.

—Red Bay: Megan Dill, Samantha Humbers, Glenan Humphres and Kevin Pineda Figueroa.

--Russellville: Brittany Ballard, John Bishop, Priscilla Cortez, Jacob Fleming, Karen Garza, Leah Grimes, Mila Hall, Caitlin Hedge, Esperanza Jimenez, Cecilia Juan, Miguel Juan, Jose Lara Cruz, Jaden Laster, Abraham Martinez, Jennifer Monteon, Benjamin Keith Oglesby, Gregory Porter, Caymen Quinn, Shawn Shackleford,



Yesenia Vargas and Esmeralda Vargas Cruz. —Spruce Pine: Jacob Davis and Ariaunna Gilstrap.

—Vina: Kyser Jackson and Tristan Moomaw. Congratulations to these students!

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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-

NOTICE

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FranklinFreePress.net Lady Red Devils secure key area win over Phillips

#### Staff reports

With the area tournament right around the corner, local teams are ramping up their play in hopes of securing better seeding or potentially hosting an area tournament with their sights set on making a postseason run. Last week, the Vina Lady Red Devils took a step in the right direction by securing a solid non-area win before knocking off a longtime area rival in a much-needed area win.

#### Vina 54 Sheffield 30

Taking on a talented 2A Sheffield team, the Lady Red Devils got big performances from Sara Scott and Kaitlyn Athey to secure the win for Vina.

The Lady Red Devils jumped out to an early 11-7 lead over Sheffield in the first quarter behind four points from Scott and Abbie Petree in the quarter. Sara Harper knocked down a three-pointer in the quarter as well.

A second quarter scoring barrage by Vina saw the Lady Red Devils extend their lead headed into halftime after outscoring Sheffield 18-9. Athey scored seven points for Vina in the quarter including a three-pointer. Kaley Attaway scored six points with KK Mitchell and Sara Scott each scoring two points.

A halftime lead for the Lady Red Devils of 29-16 would soon be extended as the Lady Red Devils outscored Sheffield 13-9 to make it a 42-25 lead for Vina entering the fourth quarter. Athey knocked down a pair of threes in addition to going 1-3 from the free throw line in the guarter, giving her seven points. Scott scored four points in the quarter

See 'WIN,' page 14



256-332-4008



Bonner needed just 23 points against Ingomar to surpass the 2,000 point mark for his career last Saturday. The senior Bulldog scored 29 points and was named the player of the game en route to the win and the milestone.

Brady Petree Franklin Free Press

INGOMAR (MS) - Will Bonner has been playing varsity basketball for quite awhile.

Starting his varsity career as an eighth grader at Russellville, Bonner has dominated the court for the Belgreen Bulldogs for the previous three seasons.

And over the course of his career, he has accomplished almost everything there is to accomplish for a high school basketball player.

County titles, regional titles, a state championship appearance, and more, there isn't too much left on the resumé for Bonner to chase.

Outside of a state title of course, which the Bulldogs hope will be coming home this season.

So with his extensive varsity career nearing a close in his senior season, the milestones that he hasn't achieved yet have begun to rack up.

Having crossed the 1,000 point mark in the second game of last season, Bonner needed 23 points to surpass the 2,000 point mark for his career entering last Saturday's game against Ingomar (Mississippi) and enter into an elite group of players to reach that total.

While the milestone was certainly on Bonner's mind as the Bulldogs looked to square off against one of Mississippi's premier programs in Ingomar, See 'NUMBERS,' page 13

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#### **'NUMBERS,' from page 11**

the senior guard was focused on one thing from the start: get the win. "Going into the game, I knew I needed to have 23 points to reach 2,000. I also knew we were facing a good Ingomar team so I also wasn't too worried about the 23 points because I was really just trying to put in a great team effort and get the win," Bonner said.

But with teammates like the ones Bonner has, they weren't about to let him come back to Alabama without crossing that 2,000 point mark.

"Then in the fourth quarter, I was three points away and I came out of the game around the five minute mark. Coach (Cooper) put us back in and I made a layup which brought me within one point. Then Adrian Reaves told me I was one point away and that *he* was going to get the assist for it and I said 'sounds good'," Bonner said. "So he grabbed a rebound and chunked an outlet pass to me down the court and I got fouled, went to the line and made the first one and everybody in the gym went crazy. It just felt really good to reach one of the milestones I wanted to reach."

While Bonner had already shown promise during his days as a Golden Tiger, the strides that he has made on the court has been considerable according to Belgreen head coach Marty Cooper.

"It just shows that over four years, he has just continued to get better. And the thing about Will is, he might have a game where he only has 12 or 13 points but when we really need him to do something, he can go out and get 33 or 35 points for us," Cooper said. "He just does whatever it takes to win. Whether it's having eight assists and only 12 points or 35 points in a game, he does that for us."

But Bonner wasn't always a prolific scorer.

According to the senior Bulldog, in the early days of his varsity career, his style of play mostly centered around being a playmaker as opposed to being a scorer.

"My eighth grade year, I didn't really score a lot but then in my freshman year I started scoring even more. But I was really a facilitator," Bonner said. "Then when I got to Belgreen in my sophomore year and really when I scored my thousandth point early in my junior year, I knew I had a shot to get to 2,000."

Of course, Will isn't the only talented Bonner brother attempting to bring Belgreen its first boys basketball state title. Collin Bonner, who is also a senior, recently reached the 1,000 point mark for his career as well.

So for the two brothers to not only chase a state title on the same team together, but to also achieve these important personal milestones alongside one another makes the accomplishments all the more special.

"It's just really special. Not many people get to do something like this alongside their brother," Bonner said. "We have a really unique bond out on the court. He's a phenomenal player who can score the ball at-will. You don't really see a lot of people reaching 1,000 points but just to be able to do everything we've done while on the same court is really special."

That bond has shown time and time again on the court for Belgreen as they are coming off of a fourth-straight county title and have visions of a second consecutive state title berth on the horizon.

And for Cooper, the dividends from the Bonner brothers' bond has been very apparent.

"We're just blessed because they're very special kids, especially at the 1A level and they've really allowed for us to compete at the 2A, 3A, and 4A levels," Cooper said. "They can play at a very high level but just to have their ability at the 1A level is a very special thing."

As for the game in which Will Bonner scored his 2,000th career point...

See 'NUMBERS,' page 15



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### 'WIN,' from page 11

while Attaway scored two points.

A strong defensive showing in the fourth quarter from the Lady Red Devils held Sheffield to just five points in the fourth quarter while Vina scored 12 points to cap off the 54-30 win.

Athey finished the game with 19 points while Scott finished with 14 points. Attaway scored eight points in the win while Harper finished with six points. **Vina 65 Phillips 50** 

Vying to improve their area standing ahead of the 1A area 13 tournament in a few weeks, Vina needed a big win over Phillips to make that happen.

And senior Sara Scott ensured that a win was going to happen as she led all scorers with an astounding 29 points including making 14 free throws consecutively through the second half.

Kicking things off in the first quarter, the Lady Red Devils outscored Phillips 14-9 behind seven points from Scott. Autumn Chandler scored three points while Sara Harper and Abbie Petree both had two points in the quarter.

Matching their scoring total from the first quarter, Vina paced the scoring in the quarter with 14 points compared to 13 points for Phillips. Sara Harper scored seven points in the second quarter with Sara Scott, Hailey Cantrell, Abbie Petree and Kaley Attaway each scored two points in the quarter.

Taking a 28-22 lead into halftime, the Lady Red Devils were still looking for that big quarter to put some distance between themselves and Phillips.

That big quarter came in the third quarter as Vina outscored Phillips 18-8 to secure a comfortable 46-30 lead entering the fourth quarter. Scott scored ten points in the quarter while going 6-6 from the free throw line. Harper scored five points as Attaway scored three points.

Again, the Lady Red Devils were able to match their scoring total again, this time with 18 points despite being outscored 25-18.

However, the comeback bid by Phillips would be too little, too late as Vina would hold on for the 15 point win to gain an extra win in the area standings.

Scott scored ten points in the final quarter to finish with her aforementioned 29 points. Harper also had a solid outing, scoring 15 points in the win. Attaway and Petree each scored six points for Vina.



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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 16, 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.

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#### **'NUMBERS**,' from page 13

#### Belgreen 71 Ingomar 37

Playing against an Ingomar program that has won six 1A state titles in Mississippi in the 30th annual Hot Bed Classic in New Albany, the Bulldogs figured to be up to a challenge in the game.

But the Belgreen showed just why they are ranked number two in 1A in the latest ASWA boys basketball polls.

It didn't take long for the Bulldogs to find their footing against Ingomar as they jumped out to an early 17-5 lead in the first quarter behind nine points in the quarter from Collin Bonner. Adrian Reaves knocked down a threepointer while Will Bonner scored three points and Cole King scored two points.

Despite the first quarter being lead by a wide margin for the Bulldogs, the second quarter saw them extend their lead by an even wider margin.

Outscoring Ingomar 21-6 in the second quarter, Belgreen held a 38-11 lead headed into halftime. Collin Bonner scored 13 points in the quarter, giving him 22 points in the first half alone. Reaves would knock down another three-pointer in the second quarter giving him six points in the half while Canaan Stough and Will Bonner each scored two points.

Coming out of halftime, the Bulldogs weren't able to extend their lead but they performed well enough to keep Ingomar at bay, matching their scoring total at 15-15.

Will Bonner scored 15 all 15 points in the quarter for the Bulldogs as he entered the fourth quarter needing only three points to reach the 2,000 point plateau.

Bonner would reach that number and surpass it as he would lead the Bulldogs in scoring for the fourth quarter with nine points while going 2-2 from the free throw line. Collin Bonner scored eight points in the final quarter to give him a leading 30 points amongst all scorers.

Belgreen outscored Ingomar 17-11 in the fourth quarter to give the Bulldogs a 71-37 win in the tournament.

Will Bonner was named the player of the game.

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