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## Neighbors secures Democratic nomination for Congressional seat

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The good news for Franklin County resident Rick Neighbors is that he defeated fellow Democratic challenger Rhonda Gore in the May 24, 2022, primary election to become the Democratic nominee for United States Congress for Alabama's Fourth Congressional District.

The less-than-good news? He will now face 13-term Republican incumbent Robert Aderholt in the November 8, 2022, general election.

Aderholt's war chest of almost \$1.3 million dollars in a heavy Republican district doesn't bode well for his Democratic challenger, at least on paper.

This isn't Neighbors' first time in this situation, though. He lost to Aderholt in the November 2020 general election as Aderholt garnered 82 percent of the vote. Neighbors was unopposed in the 2020 Democratic Primary. So last month's win was his first. Neighbors lost his bid to become the Democratic nominee in 2012 and 2018.

But he's back again in 2022. Neighbors is the political equivalent of the young boxer who continues to get knocked down, but finds the will to get back up and continue fighting.

Why, you might ask? Because Rick Neighbors believes in his message. He just has to find a way to share it with the approximately 450,000 resi-

See 'NEIGHBORS,' page 7

## Domestic dispute leaves Russellville man dead

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

A 31-year-old Franklin County man is dead after a domestic disturbance at a residence on Highway 63 Sunday afternoon.

Franklin County Sheriff's Office deputies were called to a residence at 6515 Highway 63 Sunday around 4:45 p.m., according to Franklin County Sheriff Shannon Oliver.

When deputies arrived, they found Jared Brannon Richardson, 31, outside the residence, deceased. Oliver said Richardson had been shot. His body was turned over to the Alabama Department of Forensic Science for an autopsy, Oliver said.

The investigation revealed that

Richardson got into a dispute with his father, Turner Richardson, and came at him holding a large wrench, Oliver said. Both men lived at the Highway 63 residence. The elder Richardson shot his son and maintains his action was taken in self-defense, Oliver said.

Turner Richardson was questioned by investigators Sunday evening and released. He acknowledged shooting his son but said he was defending himself. The case will be presented to a Franklin County Grand Jury at a later date.

"We are trying to determine if the father's actions were in self-defense. That will be an issue to be determined by a grand jury or a court," Oliver said.

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**Charles "Charlie" Britnell**, 91, of Russellville, passed away on Thursday, June 2nd. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

**Kimberly Ann Puckett Miller**, 54, of Russellville, passed away on Monday, June 6th. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

**Byron Lee Steward**, 48, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Saturday, June 4th. Interment at Shady Grove Freewill Baptist Church Cemetery.

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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 July 27, 2022, at M&N Wrecker & Service Center, 11833 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, Al, 35653. Seller reserves the right to

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## Pilgrim's sponsoring Russellville Public Library Summer Reading Program

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

As the Russellville Public Library staff prepares for the 2022 Summer Reading Program, they won't have to worry about funding, thanks to a donation from Pilgrim's Russellville.

Recently, Pilgrim's Complex Manager Jamie Young presented new Library Director Joshlynn Bowen with a check for \$3,250 which will fund the annual program in its entirety.

"I personally could not be more excited," Bowen said. "To my knowledge, this is the first time the Summer Reading Program has ever been fully funded."

The Summer Reading Program is for elementary school-aged children. The program starts the first Friday in June, with weekly activities every Friday at either 1 or 2 p.m.

Entertainer Steve Trash will perform at the first Summer Reading Program on Friday, June 3, at 2 p.m. Other Friday programs will feature craft projects, puppeteer/ventriloquist Ron Lighty and other guests.

Participants keep track of how many books they read and at the end of the summer, those who meet the goal enjoy awards and a pool party.

With so many activities available during summer months, the program is a way to keep children focused on reading.

"We encourage them during the summer months to read. We give them the books in hand and help prepare them for the upcoming school year," Bowen said.

As for Pilgrim's generous support, Young said it's the kind of program the company looks forward to assisting.

"We always take an active role in helping our community and when you have a program that benefits kids and encourages them to read, that's something we're proud to be a part of," Young said.

Russellville City Councilman Darren Woodruff attended Pilgrim's check presentation at the library and discussed how much the company supports its community.

"We are so appreciative of what Pilgrim's does each and every day to support its employees and our community. Pilgrim's footprint in Russellville and Franklin County goes way beyond just being a large employer. Through their Hometown Strong program and many other contributions, they make this a better place to live and work every day," Woodruff said.

For more information on the Russellville Public Library and its Summer Reading Program, visit the library's Facebook page by searching



COURTESY PHOTO

Pilgrim's Complex Manager Jamie Young presents Library Director Joshlynn Bowen with a check for \$3,250 to fund the annual summer reading program.

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



# Letter to the editor...

To the editor:

I would like to extend my heart-felt thanks to those who supported my campaign for the United States House of Representatives. Especially those volunteers, who put up signs, helped with publicity, and did all the hard work involved in running for office to ensure my success in the Democratic Primary. I would also like to extend my special appreciation to the Franklin Free Press for its unbiased and thorough coverage of the campaigns and election.

My Campaign Volunteers as well as myself, would like to thank all of those voters who exercised their patriotic duty and voted in the recent election on May 24. As President Ronald Reagan once said " For this Nation to remain true to its principles, we cannot allow any American's vote to be denied, diluted, or defiled. The right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties, and we will not see its luster diminished."

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Neighbors

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

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

## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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### Correction Policy

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

### Letters to the editor

The *Franklin Free Press* is published by hometown people, for hometown people.

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

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# Letter to the editor...

Dear Editor,

Amity is a word that means "FRIENDSHIP."

Last year National Race Amity was celebrated in Russellville and Franklin County, in observance of the centennial of the organization.

The Race Amity Day Coalition received proclamations from the cities, towns and county commissions in the Shoals area, and celebrated the day with a program. Race Amity Day has an overall mission of the cultivation of friendship and cooperation among and between all people, with the cultivation of race amity as its key tool and end goal.

This year we are expanding our efforts to invite civic organizations and churches in Franklin County to join our coalition and indicate their support for the idea and the mission of our local effort to publicize and expand observance of Race Amity Day.

Race Amity Day will be June 12, 2022. If your organization or church would like to be a supporter, you can contact the Race Amity coalition on Facebook at Race Amity Day in the Shoals or call 256-764-1766.

You are also welcome to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Rev. Charles Dale  
For the Race Amity Day Coalition



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# What's Happening


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

 There will be an Antique Tractor Show as part of the City of Russellville's Fourth of July Jam on Sloss Lake. The Antique Tractor Show will be held at Sloss Lake from 7:30-2 on July 4. If you're interested in bringing a tractor to the show, call Jacob Murray at 256-668-7607.

 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.

 The Woodruff Family Reunion will be held at Cedar Buff Farm, 3449 County Road 78, Russellville, on Saturday, June 11, from 10-2. Please bring a covered dish or dessert of your choice.

 LifeSouth Community Blood Center will host a blood drive at Russellville Hospital on TUESDAY, JUNE 14TH, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.. LifeSouth is the primary supplier of blood products to Russellville Hospital. Please contact Deborah Lindsey to schedule an appointment at 256-332-8676 or by email at [deborah.lindsey@russellville-hospital.org](mailto:deborah.lindsey@russellville-hospital.org). Please be sure to bring your photo ID when you donate. Everyone who signs up to donate will receive a free T-shirt, an appetizer card from Texas Roadhouse, a free cookie dough card from Papa Murphy's and a free meal ticket from Russellville Hospital. All donors will receive a free cholesterol screening. We will also be giving away DOOR PRIZES!

 My Father's House will host "Celebrating the Mighty God," a Kid's Crusade, June 15-17, 2022, beginning at 6:30 p.m., nightly. There will be food, refreshments, games & crafts. Church is located at 104 East Lawrence Street in Russellville. For more information or a ride, call 256-460-1376.

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# 'NEIGHBORS,' from page 1

dents of Alabama's Fourth Congressional District.

"We're not going to be Aderholt on money," Neighbors said.

"We're not going to win this election through Facebook or Twitter. We're not going to win this election on radio or TV ads. We're going to win by knocking on people's doors and saying 'I'm Rick. Let's work together to make our world better for all of us.' We've got to get people out to vote for that message to work. If they don't get out, we're not going to beat the money," he added.

Aderholt received 54 percent of the vote in the May 24<sup>th</sup> primary, out totaling Gore 4,483 to 3,810.

The low voter turnout for the Democratic Primary was due in part to voters choosing to vote in the Republican Primary, where the majority of local races, along with the well-publicized Governor's race and United States Senate primaries were held.

"The May 24<sup>th</sup> turnout means there are a whole lot of people out there we need to take our message to," Neighbors said. "The field is ripe for harvest. We just have to pick the harvest and that takes work."

And picking the harvest is something Neighbors knows well.

The son of a North Carolina sharecropper, Neighbors volunteered to join the United States Army and served three tours in Vietnam.

He works for Pilgrim's Russellville as a manager in Maintenance Planning.

Neighbors is the kind of person who was taught to respect our nation's president, regardless of his or her party affiliation.

"When the President spoke, you sat up and listened and you expected him to give good reasoning but that's not true anymore," Neighbors said. "Our critical leaders are not treating people with respect and that's cruelty."

"Look at our Fourth Congressional District. We are paying global corporations good money (through incentives) to come in and pay people \$10-\$11 an hour. Why are we spending money to do this and making people poor? We're selling our jobs and labor cheap."

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Neighbors said he's seen corporations increase wages a small amount but not enough to offset inflation.

"These corporations come in and give a few bonuses, but don't increase wage rates. A bonus isn't something a person can bank on. You can't build on that. A bonus comes and goes, depending on the whim of the company. There's no commitment from these companies to their community or to their employees. And Robert Aderholt is one of these leaders right in the middle of this problem," Neighbors added.

Whether Neighbors' message resonates with voters remains to be seen. But it's hard to argue with some of his ideals.

"Regardless of what party you were, I was raised on the idea of Democracy in America being something special and that we as Americans do good because doing good is the right thing to do," Neighbors said.



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## Patriotic nonfiction and military history books to add to your reading list

Lori Skinner  
For the Franklin Free Press

Observance of Memorial Day always leads me to reflect on the ultimate sacrifices made by the courageous men and women who choose to serve our country. I am so thankful for each and every person that has chosen to serve and given their all to protect our freedom. Having our nation's heroes in mind, I wanted to share a few nonfiction reads that may be of interest.

Young elementary readers will enjoy *Gabe: The Dog Who Sniffs Out Danger* by Thea Feldman and Chris Danger. Gabe is a real-life hero that received the American Humane Association's Hero Dog Award for his work detecting explosives for the military in Iraq.

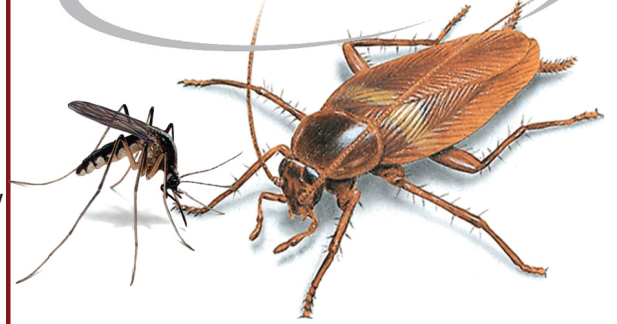
Another great read is *Twenty-One Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier* by Jeff Gottesfeld and illustrated by Matt Tavares. This is a sobering and powerful tale of the sentinel guards and those they have honored since midnight July 2, 1937.

The popular *Who Were* series is a great place to start for slightly older elementary aged students that would like to learn more about various elements of military conflicts. *Who Were the Navajo Code Talkers?* by James Buckley Jr. examines the role of American Indians in creating a secret, unbreakable code during World War II. Another great read in this series is *Who Were the Tuskegee Airmen?* by Sherri L. Smith. With thrilling details of World War II flight missions and grueling training sessions, at Tuskegee University in Alabama, this book also examines the lives of the pioneers of military integration.

Adult readers will enjoy *The Bomber Mafia: A Dream, a Temptation, and the Longest Night of the Second World War* by Malcolm Gladwell. Using original interviews, archival footage, and insight, Gladwell shares the stories of the individuals that led to the successful use of airplanes and precision bombing. Barbara W. Tuchman's Pulitzer Prize winning *The Guns of August*, is a powerful recreation of the first month of World War I. Selected by Modern Library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time, this one should definitely be on your list to read. *New York Times* bestseller *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II* by Liza Mundy explores the important secret service of more than 10,000 women who served as code-breakers during World War II.

Contributor Lori Skinner is the Head Librarian for Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC). For more information, she can be contacted at 256-331-6288 or lori.skinner@nwscc.edu. NW-SCC Libraries are open to the public and look forward to serving your library needs.

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Yard Sale! Brookwood Subdivision in Russellville on Underwood Road. Saturday from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Several families. Signs will be placed out, just follow the signs.

Yard Sale one day only, Friday, June 10th from 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. 380 Ash Ave. uphill past community center next to last house on the right.

Yard Sale. Thurs./Fri. June 9/10. 4284 Highway 83, Russellville. Lots of men's and women's clothes. Household items. Just too much stuff to mention. Cheap prices—it's got to go. Cleaning out storage house!

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Thursday/Friday, June 9/10. 8 a.m.-until. 501 NE

Lauderdale St, Russellville. Lots of baby stuff, tools, TOO much to mention!

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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.

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**6.8.22**

## Franklin County well-represented on all-state soccer, softball teams

Staff reports

Graduations have concluded and summer workouts are in full swing across the state of Alabama. So now that we can take time to reflect on the year prior, and take a look at some of the players in Franklin County who were selected to their respective sports all-state teams for the year.

And with multiple teams making deep runs in the postseason, it's not strange at all to see multiple players getting the nod for prestigious accolades.

This week we will take a look at players that were selected to all-state teams in both soccer and softball with baseball to follow in the coming weeks.

### Soccer

The Russellville Golden Tiger boys soccer team came home with a 4A-5A runner-up trophy for the second straight year and with it, the Golden Tigers boast a number of key players who were selected to the ASWA all-state team.

As a midfielder, Jonathan Salgado was selected to the all-state boys super first team as one of the leaders for head coach Trey Stanford and his squad. Making the super team signifies the absolute best of the best in the state of Alabama and Salgado's performance on the season didn't go unnoticed.

Also making the all-state super team, on the second team, was forward Orlando Jimenez. Both Salgado and Jimenez exit Russellville as two of the more prolific players in the program's young history.

In terms of the class 4A/5A all-state team,

See 'TEAMS,' page 15

# Running towards success



COURTESY PHOTO

**Stough signed a scholarship with Calhoun Community College to continue running cross country and will pursue a teaching degree with hopes of becoming a coach in the future.**

*Brady Petree  
Franklin Free Press*

BELGREEN - When contemplating whether or not to run, whether it be for exercise or for personal enjoyment, most people would trend towards the side of not doing so.

But Canaan Stough isn't like most people.

In fact, the former Belgreen Bulldog enjoys running so much that he decided years ago to try doing it competitively.

And the end result has paid off handsomely for him.

After he walked the stage in late May to receive his diploma from Belgreen High School, Stough will be transitioning to Calhoun Community College where he will not only continue his academic career, but his athletic one too.

Stough received a scholarship from Calhoun to run cross country, something he had been doing since the seventh grade.

However, even with his enjoyment of running for miles on end, running cross country wasn't something that he himself initially decided to do.

A requirement for basketball led to Stough taking

up cross country and with his first strides in his seventh grade year, the rest is history.

"Coach (Chuck) Simmons, who was the basketball coach at the time, actually required us to run cross country as well. So that got all of us started. But I stuck with it because I really enjoyed it," Stough said. "At the end of every race, everyone is always telling you 'great job' and you always are able to make friends as you run too. But during the race it's super competitive because you are always wanting to pass the next guy in front of you and it's just an overall fun experience."

During his time as a Bulldog, Stough wasn't *only* blazing a trail on the cross country paths. In addition, he also was a standout baseball and basketball player for Belgreen as well.

And with his busy athletic schedule over the years, Stough has never had to worry too much about staying in game-ready shape.

"In basketball, we would do sprints and I would never get tired, I would always be able to go without taking a break. And the same thing in baseball. We would run foul poles and that would help me with my conditioning as well. But I was able to stay

See 'RUNNING,' page 14

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

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# Russellville Water & Sewer Board

## 2022 Consumer Confidence Report

(MONITORING PERIOD PERFORMED JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2021)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Russellville Water & Sewer Board is pleased to share this year's Annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). It describes to you, our customer, the quality of your drinking water that's being delivered every day. This report covers the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. The Russellville Water & Sewer Board's drinking water supply surpasses the strict regulations of both the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), which require all water suppliers to prepare this report every year. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water while ensuring the protection of our natural resources.

### OVERVIEW

In 2021 we distributed approximately 1.4 billion gallons of water to our residential, commercial and wholesale customers. We wholesale water to the Franklin County Water Authority Water System and the West Lawrence Water System.

The Russellville Water & Sewer Board's drinking water sources are provided by both groundwater and surface water. Our groundwater well is located off Highway 624 West and Lawrence Street. This well draws water from the Bangor Formation Aquifer. We have two (2) surface water sources. Our primary surface water source draws water from Lake Elliott, a 200-acre reservoir also located just off Highway 624 West. Our backup surface water source is located at the Cedar Creek reservoir located north of Highway 24 West.

We treat our surface water using Disinfection, Coagulation, Sedimentation and Filtration to remove and reduce potential contaminants that may be found in our source waters. Ground water was treated by Disinfection and Pressure Sand Filtration Process during 2020. All water was treated with fluoride for dental protection. The Russellville Water and Sewer Board has a Well Head Protection Plan for your groundwater source. A Source Water Assessment Plan is also maintained for each source being utilized.

The Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) was published in the Federal Register on December 20, 2016. UCMR 4 requires monitoring for 30 chemical contaminants between 2018 and 2020 using analytical methods developed by EPA and consensus organizations. Russellville Water and Sewer Board collected two (2) rounds of samples from their well source during 2020 to check for PFAS. None were detected. This monitoring provides the basis for future regulatory actions to protect our public health.

We regularly provide a monthly Bacteriological Sampling and maintain an active Back-flow Prevention Plan. Our Drought Contingency Plan is available at the Water Office for review upon request. We use the ADEM Laboratory System- Central Lab and Pace Analytical to perform testing of our drinking water.

### IS OUR DRINKING WATER SAFE?

The Russellville Water and Sewer Board routinely monitors for substances in our drinking water according to Federal and State laws. We're proud that the drinking water we provide to our customers meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. **OUR SYSTEM HAS HAD NO DRINKING WATER VIOLATIONS!** We have learned through our monitoring and testing, however, that some substances have been detected. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) have determined that **YOUR DRINKING WATER IS SAFE** at these levels. A comprehensive list of these detected items is shown in the Tables in this Report.

### WHAT DO THESE TABLES MEAN?

It's easy! The **Table of Primary Contaminants** provides an overview of some primary contaminants that are known to pose a health risk to humans. In the **Table of Detected Contaminants**, the column labeled Amount Detected shows the highest test results during the year. The column labeled "Sources of Contaminant Level" shows where each substance usually originates. The **Table of Secondary Contaminants** lists regulated contaminants that may cause cosmetic or aesthetic effects in drinking water.

### DEFINITIONS

**AL:** Action Level of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. The MCL have been set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water, which there is no known or expected risk to health. The MCLG allows for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL:** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Treatment Technique:** A required treatment process, procedure, or activity necessary to provide deliverance of safe drinking water.

### Key to Tables

AL	=	Action Level	pci/l	=	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
MCL	=	Maximum Contaminant Level	ppm	=	parts per million, milligrams per liter (mg/l)
MCLG	=	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	ppb	=	parts per billion, micrograms per liter (ug/l)
NTU	=	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	TT	=	Treatment Technique
ND	=	Not Detected			

## Table of Primary Drinking Water Contaminants

Sample Period 1/01/2021 - 12/31/2021

At high levels primary contaminants are known to pose a health risks to humans. This table provides a quick glance of any primary contaminant detections.

CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED	CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED
<b>Bacteriological (Units)</b>					
Total Coliform Bacteria	< 5%	0	Endothal (ppb)	100	ND
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	.09	Endrin (ppb)	2	ND
Fecal Coliform and E.coli	0	0	Epichlorohydrin	TT	ND
			Glyphosate (ppb)	700	ND
<b>Radiological (Units)</b>					
Beta/Photon emitters (mrem/yr)	4	ND	Heptachlor (ppt)	400	ND
Alpha emitters (pci/l)	15	ND	Heptachlor epoxide (ppt)	200	ND
Combined radium (pci/l)	5	ND	Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	1	ND
Uranium (pci/l)	30	ND	Hexachloropentadiene (ppm)	1	ND
<b>Inorganic (Units)</b>					
Antimony (ppb)	6	ND	Lindane (ppt)	200	ND
Arsenic (ppb)	10	ND	Methoxychlor (ppb)	40	ND
Asbestos (MFL)	7	ND	Oxamyl [Vydate] (ppb)	200	ND
Barium (ppm)	2	ND	PCBs (ppt)	500	ND
Beryllium (ppb)	4	ND	Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	1	ND
Cadmium (ppb)	5	ND	Picloram (ppb)	500	ND
Chromium (ppb)	100	1.95	Simazine (ppb)	4	ND
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	.69	Toxaphene (ppb)	3	ND
Cyanide (ppm)	200	ND	Benzene (ppb)	5	ND
Fluoride (ppm)	4	0.685	Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	5	ND
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	1.29	Chlorobenzene (ppb)	100	ND
Mercury (ppb)	2	ND	Dibromochloropropane (ppt)	200	ND
			0-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	ND
			p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	75	ND

Nitrate (ppm)	10	0.458	1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	5	ND
Nitrite (ppm)	1	ND	1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	ND
Selenium (ppm)	50	ND	Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	ND
Thallium (ppm)	2	ND	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb) (ppb)100	100	ND
<b>Organic Chemicals</b>			Dichloromethane (ppb)	5	ND
2,4-D (ppb)	70	ND	1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	5	ND
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	50	ND	Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	ND
Acrylamide	TT	ND	Ethylene dibromide (ppt)	50	ND
Alachlor (ppb)	2	ND	Styrene (ppb)	100	ND
Atrazine (ppb)	3	ND	Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	5	ND
Benzo(a)pyrene[PHAs] (ppt)	200	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	ND
Carbofuran (ppb)	40	ND	1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	ND
Chlordane (ppb)	2	ND	1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	5	ND
Dalapon (ppb)	200	ND	Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5	ND
Di-(2-ethylhexyl)adipate (ppb)	400	ND	TTHM (ppb)	80	6.5
Diethylhexylphthalates (ppb)	6	ND	Toluene (ppb)	1	ND
Dinoseb (ppb)	7	ND	Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	2	ND
Diquat (ppb)	20	ND	Xylenes (ppm)	10	ND
Dioxin[2,3,7,8-TCDD] (ppb)	30	ND	TOC	TT	1.3
Chloramines (ppm)	4	ND	Chlorine (ppm)	4	2.20
Chlorite (ppm)	1	ND	Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	800	ND
HAA5 (ppb)	60	48.0	Bromate (ppb)	10	ND

## Table of Detected Contaminants

Sample Period 1/01/2021 - 12/31/2021

CONTAMINANT	MCL G	MCL	Range	Violation	Amount Detected	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Bacteriological (Units)</b>						
Turbidity	N/A	TT	0.0 - .08	NO	0.06	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	N/A	TT	0.0 - 1.3	NO	1.3 ppm	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Organic Chemicals</b>						
Copper	1.3	AL=1.3	0.0 - .069	NO	.069 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	4	4	.00 - .80	NO	0.686 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	0	AL=15	0.0 - .001	NO	0.00129 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	10	10	0.226-0.458	NO	0.458 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Volatile Organic Chemicals (By Products of Disinfection)</b>						
Chlorine	4.0	4	0.44 - 2.2	NO	2.2 ppm	Disinfectant
HAA5	40	60	20.0 - 48.0	NO	48.0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TOC	NA	TT	0.85 - 1.3	NO	1.3 ppm	Naturally present in the environment
TTHM	60	80	14.0 - 65.0	NO	65.0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination

## Table of Secondary Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	Units	Amount Detected
Alkalinity, Total (CA)	NA	ppm	110
Aluminum	0.20	ppm	ND
Bromodichloromethane	NA	ppm	0.058
Calcium	NA	ppm	45.6
Carbon Dioxide	NA	ppm	2.9
Chloride	250	ppm	6.74
Chloroform	NA	ppm	0.052
Color	15.0	Units	ND
Dibromochloromethane	0.50	ppm	ND
Hardness	NA	ppm	121
Iron	0.30	ppm	ND
Magnesium	NA	ppm	1.81
Manganese	0.05	ppm	ND
Contaminant	MCL	Units	Amount Detected
pH	NA	ppm	7.8
Silver	0.1	ppm	ND
Sodium, as Na	NA	ppm	0.772
Sulfate	250	ppm	1.48
Total Dissolved Solids	500	ppm	142
Zinc	5.0	ppm	0.259



## CRYPTOSPORIDIUM AND GIARDIA

The Russellville Water System also tests their source water for pathogens, such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia. The pathogens can enter the water from animal or human waste. All test results were well within state and federal standards. For people who may be immunocompromised, a guidance document developed jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control is available online at [www.epa.gov/safewater/cripto.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/cripto.html) or from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or 800-426-4791. This language does not indicate the presence of cryptosporidium in our drinking water. Based on a study conducted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants was not required.

## REDUCED MONITORING FOR DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS (DPB)

During past years, the Russellville Water & Sewer Board was required to collect samples at various locations throughout the distribution system to test for Trihalo-Methane (THM) and Haloacetic Acid (HAA5) levels in the drinking water. Due to the low levels detected, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) reduced the amount of required samples that Russellville has to collect due to its exceptional water quality.

All sample results are within the acceptable range required.

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS

The Alabama Rural Water association (ARWA), Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), along with geologists have worked together to form a Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) for our Finished Water Well Supply; Lake Elliott and Cedar Creek Reservoirs. This Plan is an effort to conserve and protect your water source. Our final approval for the Source Water Assessment (SWA) determined our source to have an overall low ranking for susceptibility of contamination. Please help us make these efforts worthwhile by protecting our Source Water. Carefully follow instructions on pesticides and herbicides you use for lawn and garden. Also, properly dispose of household chemicals, paints and waste oil. The Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) has recently been updated during 2021. Customers are encouraged to view the SWAP in its entirety at the Russellville Utilities Office located at 721 Jackson Avenue South.

## GROUND WATER RULE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requires all water systems that utilize a finished water wells for drinking water submit a Ground Water Monitoring Plan. Based on the City of Russellville's Plan, our ground water source meets the requirements for 4-Log inactivation of viruses.

## REQUIRED ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, but the FDA does not approve bottled water manufacturers or distributors. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

2

(A) Microbiological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be natural occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, storm water runoff, and residential uses.

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. It may also be found from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

(E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia or other contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD

Lead in drinking water is rarely found in source water but is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water; however, we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is more likely to cause leaching of lead from plumbing materials. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. These recommended actions are very important to the health of your family.

Lead levels in your drinking water are likely to be higher if:

- Your home or water system has lead pipes, or
- Your home has faucets or fittings made of brass which contains some lead, or
- Your home has copper pipes with lead solder and you have naturally soft water, and
- Water often sits in the pipes for several hours.

EPA and ADEM requires Russellville to collect and analyze Lead/Copper samples every three years from homes representative of its water service area. These samples were collected during 2019. The Lead/Copper results were all within an acceptable range. The next Lead /Copper sampling period will be collected in 2022.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATION COMPLIANCE

This 2021 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) was prepared by the Russellville Water and Sewer Board using technical assistance and guidance from the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the National Rural Water Association (NRWA), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

## Russellville Water and Sewer Board Members

Dan Terry	Chairman
Richard Tutich	Vice-Chairman
Tim Smith	Secretary
Joe Graham	Board Member
Harold Mitchell	Board Member

If you have any questions regarding this report or any questions concerning your water, please contact Eric Hill, Manager of the Russellville Water Works and Sewer Board, by calling (256) 332-3850. Our Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at 721 Jackson Ave. S., Russellville, Alabama.

Learn more about the Russellville Water and Sewer Board at [www.russellvilleutilities.com](http://www.russellvilleutilities.com)

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# 'RUNNING,' from page 11

in shape because of cross country because before basketball and baseball seasons rolled around, I was already in good condition because I ran cross country," Stough said.

Most days, Stough can be found running in some capacity. But you might not catch him running in the same place or terrain two days in a row.

The former Bulldog says that he enjoys mixing up his training regimen and also gets excellent practice working on different types of strategies for his races.

Add his current training to his college strength and conditioning schedule and safe to say that Stough is going to be in peak physical condition when the fall rolls around - even if it means being sore for a day or two in the process.

"Currently I enjoy running on the treadmill because I can set the incline to whatever I want but that's not really the terrain I compete on. So when I want to train for a race, I will run outside of my house, down the road, in the woods, through gravel and just all different kinds of stuff," Stough said. "Coach Bain gave us all strength training to do and it kills our legs like crazy. Even the people that have been doing it for a while say it's tough but it is going to be well worth it I know."

And of course, like most athletes, Stough has a favorite and least favorite performance during his Bulldog days.

The one thing that differs in Stough's case though, is the fact that his least favorite race was actually his best performance.

"My least favorite was the Indian Mound race, but it was my best time. The hills are what kills me. At the start, you start flat and go up hills and it's not too bad. But then you get to a part where it's just like a snaky downwards hill and just goes up and down and I hate it. But that was my best time overall," Stough said.

Stough holds the Belgreen record for time in the 5K, two mile and the 2.1 mile races and he also finished as the number three senior in the state of Alabama in class 1A-2A.

In the 2021 AHSAA cross country state championship 5,000 meter run, Stough placed 17th out of 160 total runners in the meet while also setting a personal record of 17:57:65.

"It started at a race where a couple of coaches came up and talked to me before the race. Then afterwards, coach (Tiffany) Bain came up and talked to me and told me that she would keep in touch so it just went from there," Stough said. "Going from me not expecting a scholarship to getting a scholarship was just awesome."

Of course, Stough has plenty of people to thank for helping get him where he is today.

And the ones he has to thank first and foremost are the coaches who oversaw his career to this point, and the one who is giving him the opportunity to continue doing what he loves.

"I just want to thank coach Simmons and coach Colby Cox for having faith in me and always pushing me to be my best self. And also to coach Bain at Calhoun for believing in me and giving me the chance to run cross country at the college level. It really is a dream come true," Stough said.

As he enters the summer with a bright future ahead, Stough still has some nerves left about making the move to the college level. But his nerves aren't involving the team he's joining.

In fact, Stough says that the team has welcomed him in with open arms already and he already feels like he is a part of the team without even having raced in a single competition yet for Calhoun.

"I was excited but I was very nervous and I still am nervous for the college part. But in terms of the running part, I don't think it will be as bad because I know a good bit of the team. Gracie and a few others I know will be there and I've already had a few of the current members reach out to me already," Stough said. "I know a good bit of those guys and I know I will be able to go there and not feel left out at all and that's the thing I like about the team. They reach out and check in on me with anything I need and it's such a huge sigh of relief."



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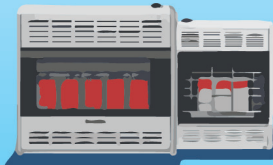
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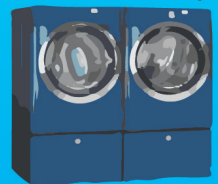
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# 'TEAMS,' from page 11

Russellville had a total of three players named to all-state teams including Jimenez and Salgado.

As a part of the class 4/A5A all-state teams, Vicente Machic (midfielder) was also chosen and will join Salgado and Jimenez as exiting as part of a historic group of players.

On the girls team, the Lady Golden Tigers had one selection to the all-state team as junior Ashly Garcia was chosen after leading the Lady Golden Tigers back to the post-season once again.

### Softball

Belgreen, Russellville and Tharptown each were represented on the all-state softball teams as both the

For the Belgreen Lady Bulldogs, who made a postseason run once again, Makayla Willingham was chosen to represent as a member of the class 1A all-state first team by the ASWA.

What makes Willingham's selection stand out is the fact that she is only an eighth grader and was the only eighth grader selected to the 1A first team.

Joining Willingham on the all-state team is her teammate Lily Blackburn.

Blackburn, a sophomore pitcher, was chosen as a member of the second team all-state team for 1A. With Willingham and Blackburn part of a young dynamic core, the Lady Bulldogs are well-positioned for both the present and the future.

In class 2A, the Tharptown Lady Wildcats had one selection to the all-state team.

Senior pitcher Taylor Cameron led Tharptown in the circle for the season and was rewarded with an honorable mention selection to the 2A all-state team.

As for class 5A, the Russellville Lady Golden Tigers had a very successful year.

Sophomore pitcher Jacey Moore was chosen as the representative for the Lady Golden Tigers for the 2022 season and will look to build on her successful year in the 2023 campaign for Russellville.



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- THARPTOWN**

***Russellville - Page 20***

***Belgreen - Page 23***

***Phil Campbell - Page 24***

***Red Bay - Page 25***

***Tharptown - Page 26***

***Vina - Page 27***

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# A letter to RHS Class of 2022 from RCS Superintendent Heath Grimes

To the RHS Graduating Class of 2022:

I want to begin this letter to you by saying how tremendously proud I am of each one of you. Graduating from high school is a major accomplishment, and one that you and your loved ones can be proud of as well. As you soon walk across the field and close out this chapter of your lives, hold your heads high and take pride in what you have accomplished thus far. Each one of you has much to celebrate!

It has been my honor as your superintendent to watch the accomplishments the Class of 2022 has made, particularly during the last four years. I have seen many of you excel in athletics – winning games and matches, dedicating yourself to hard work during practices, winning awards, earning state titles, receiving athletic scholarships, and representing RCS with class and honor. I have seen others excel in the performing arts – performing under the Friday Night Lights in the Marching Hundred, performing onstage in musical and theater productions, winning regional and state awards for your talents, and securing scholarships and opportunities to continue your craft at the next level. I have watched many career tech students work hard and achieve certifications that will help you get ahead and be closer to establishing yourself in whatever career you choose; I have watched as so many of you set goals for yourself in the classroom and worked hard to achieve those goals, and how your academic success led to scholarships and awards that will help you further your academic career. I've watched many overcome language barriers, academic barriers, and other challenges that led to this day – of making it to graduation and receiving your high school diploma,

which is an amazing accomplishment in itself that you should be proud of. And I've watched as this class has overcome smaller, everyday obstacles; bonded and supported one another; grew in character and maturity; and have become individuals our community can be proud of.

Throughout your time at RCS, we have tried to prepare you for this moment where you will walk out of our halls and step into the world as young adults, ready to contribute to society through your words, actions, and presence. It is my sincere hope you will take the lessons you have learned during your time at RCS and use them to guide you in the future: the leadership and teamwork qualities you received from being a student athlete; the time management you learned from your academic work; the responsibility you gained by being part of one of our fine arts programs; the knowledge and friendship-building skills you learned by being involved in extracurricular activities; the good character you developed over the years of learning right from wrong; the perseverance you learned by overcoming obstacles and adversity; and the pride and confidence we hope you all feel after being part of this school system.

I have all the confidence in the world that the RHS Class of 2022 will forge paths that lead to bright futures and great accomplishments.

Congratulations, Class of 2022! I hope you always know how GREAT it is to be a Golden Tiger!

Dr. Heath Grimes  
Superintendent  
Russellville City Schools



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

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# *Congratulations to the Russellville High School Class of 2022!*



**Back Row, from left: Radford Hester, Jerry Groce, Greg Batchelor.  
Front Row, from left: Kim Clonts, Greg Trapp, Heath Grimes.**

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Keslie Allen  
Gabriel Amick  
Yoni Miguel Andres  
Daniel Galvez Antonio  
Sofia Bahena  
Wayner Barrios  
Brayden Bolton  
Olivia Borden  
Abby Boyd  
Ashton Boyd  
Austin Boyd  
Noah Brady  
Nathan Brockway  
Mathew Bryant  
Ella Burcham  
Natalie Busler  
David Butler  
Conner Byars  
Juan Merida Cano  
Naydelin Perez Carrillo  
Ayelen Bautista Castaneira  
Madeline Cooper  
Zadie Cooper

Victoria Corcimaru  
Byron Cotoc-Perez  
Katie Cummings  
Antony Garcia De Aza  
Marvin De La Cruz-Serrano  
Kiah Derrick  
Allison Diaz-Martinez  
Griselda Felix Francisco  
Yoslin Pinto Figueroa  
Addyson Fikes  
Marty Fisher  
Nicole Foster  
Sandra Mateo Francisco  
Julio Francisco Perez  
Magdalena Francisco  
Yenifer Francisco-Francisco  
Thalia Francisco-Mendez  
Conner Franks  
Trent Franks  
Araceli Funez  
Anthony Gann  
Makaila Gann  
Kiley Gillespie  
Eli Gipson  
Emily Gipson

Byron Carranza Gonzalez  
Osvaldo Gonzalez  
Abby Green  
Emitt Green  
Madelynn Green  
Brock Grissom  
Jade Romero Gutierrez  
Talton Hamilton  
Madyn Harris  
Andrew Hatton  
Karen Perez Hernandez  
Jose Hernandez  
Anthony Hervert  
Brayden Hill  
Reed Hill  
Sophie Hill  
James Hooper  
Karson Hyde  
Dawson Ikerd  
Jerome Jackson  
Katlyn James  
Morgan Jenkins  
Mario Felipe Jimenez  
Orlando Luna Jimenez  
Diana Rosas Jimenez  
Rawilny Adames Jose  
Emilio Diego Juan  
Daniel Francisco Juan  
Elisiano Francisco Juan  
Federico Juan  
Nelson Kennedy  
Julio Linares  
Pedro Andres Lopez  
Josue Pascual Lopez

Eduardo Lucas  
Luis Lucas  
Camille Lynn  
Vicente Machic  
Jessica Lugo Macias  
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Kyle Seal  
Cristobal Siquina Sanchez  
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Gracie Smith  
Roberto Sop  
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Catarina Sum Siquina  
Drake Taylor  
Wesley Tello-Figueroa  
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**Congratulations to Kyle Seal,  
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Linley and Adlee  
and PawPaw Orland  
and MawMaw and  
PawPaw Jim and Nanny**

**Congratulations,  
2022 Graduates!**

**You make us proud to  
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**David Reed  
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# Russellville High School Class of 2022 Valedictorian: Kiah Derrick

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

When his family moved to Russellville eight years ago, Kiah Derrick found himself in the role of the 'new kid' in town.

So when the 2022 Russellville High School Valedictorian says one of the best things about his hometown is how people are so accepting, welcoming and kind to new residents, Derrick knows what he's talking about.

Derrick was honored at graduation as the Class of 2022 Valedictorian. Brayden Bolton was named Salutatorian.

"Definitely the best thing about Russellville is the people," Derrick said.

"When I moved here everyone was so accepting and made me feel welcome. It's the small town climate where everyone knows everyone. Russellville does a good job, especially with its schools, promoting kids and supporting them to push themselves."

Derrick took a number of Advanced Placement (AP) classes and he appreciates school administrators and faculty encouraging students to enroll in them.

"They are challenging classes that prepare everyone well," Derrick said. "The teachers and coaches at RHS love what they do and that's important to help people develop into who they are and what they want to be."

Derrick is the son of Steven and Darcy Derrick. His father is CI Manager at Innovative Hearth Products in Russellville. Derrick has two younger sisters who attend Russellville City Schools.

Derrick will enroll at the University of Alabama Huntsville this fall to study Cyber Security.

"I've always liked working with computers and the IT field really interested me. There's lots of opportu-



**Kiah Derrick**

nities for jobs there so I decided to go in that direction," Derrick said.

Derrick was a recipient of a merit scholarship to UAH that is based on grade point average and ACT score.

Derrick participated in RHS' Career Tech Program, taking computer science, engineering and some business classes through CT. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

"We have one of the best Career Tech programs in Northwest Alabama. Whether you plan to go to college or enter the work force right away it's a really good program," Derrick said.

Derrick was a member of the RHS tennis team for six seasons.

"I enjoy playing doubles more because it's more fun, but I'm definitely better at singles. I think it's about the mindset," Derrick said. "I love tennis. It's a way to keep in shape and I'll definitely keep playing."

When it comes to his academic success, Derrick said his best efforts come during the school day.

"I'm not one to study a lot at night. I do more lis-

tening in class and pay attention, taking notes the whole time and it just sticks with me," Derrick said. "If you pay attention, are hands on and listen and understand in the moment, you don't have to go home and study three hours. That's not my style."

When he completes his education, Derrick hopes to return to Russellville to work and start a family. While he's open to Huntsville, which is loaded with cyber security and IT job opportunities, he'd love to return home.

"In cyber security there are lots of jobs where you can work from home so I'm not sure where I'll end up. But Russellville will always be my hometown. I'm just not sure what the future holds," he said.

Derrick credits his parents for giving him all the opportunity needed to succeed, both in school and in life.

"They've always pushed me to do my best but always support me even when I fail," Derrick said. "They want me to do the best I can and if I don't get an 'A' or win a match, they don't treat me any different. That's really important. Some parents get upset if their kids fail or don't do what they want them to do in life, but mine did a good job supporting me even when it doesn't always work out."

As he reflects on his eight years at Russellville, Derrick said there were many teachers who had a positive influence on him, although three stood out.

"Coach (Ben) Phillips (tennis) definitely taught me how to have fun and enjoy what you do, win or lose," Derrick said. "Mr. (Hunter) Ray (AP calculus) did a great job showing how sometimes you fail, sometimes you do well, and sometimes your grade doesn't affect who you are."

"And my chemistry teacher, Mrs. (Nicole) Watts, taught one of the hardest classes I took and made me realize life gets hard but you can push through it no matter what," he added.

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**Congratulations to the Class of 2022!**

from **David Palmer**  
Russellville City Council District One



# A letter to the Class of 2022 from Franklin County Superintendent Greg Hamilton

Dear Class of 2022:

Congratulations on your significant accomplishments as you prepare to move on to the next phases of your lives.

It is my hope, and that of the dedicated educators in the Franklin County School system, that we have helped prepare you for life after high school, regardless of where that path takes you. While I am excited to see what life has in store for each of you, there's also a touch of sadness knowing this will be the time that we say goodbye.

Each of you is special, and you have your own strengths, skills and personality traits that have positively impacted our school system, as they will also impact people whose lives you have not yet touched.

As it is for me, I'm sure this is an emotional time for you, seeing your days in Franklin County Schools come to an end. As you move forward with your lives, please take time to reflect on your days in the halls of Belgreen, Phil Campbell, Red Bay, Tharptown or Vina High Schools.

You are part of the heartbeat of these communities. We hope the day will come when you tear up with pride watching your son or daughter enter school on that first day of kindergarten. And I sincerely hope you remain a part of Franklin County as you start your own families.

Every door in life is open for you. Whether your path takes you to college, a technical school, the workforce or the armed forces, I challenge you to make a difference in the lives of others.

What are your life goals? To be wealthy? Famous? Powerful? While there's nothing wrong with healthy ambition, I can tell you from my own experiences that the greatest life rewards come as a result of making positive differences in the lives of others.

Whether it's in the lives of your family, your employees, your community, your church or the lives of complete strangers, be that beacon of light that makes a difference to others regardless of where it shines. Life offers no greater reward.

I want to thank the members of the Franklin County Board of Education for their dedication in positively impacting the lives of Franklin County students, faculty and staff. Each of these men and women genuinely care about the success of this system and each student.

You will always remain a Bulldog, Bobcat, Tiger, Wildcat or Red Devil. This was and forever will be your school. I encourage you to stay involved with your school or, if life takes you elsewhere, to be active in the school in your new community. By doing that, you're helping to build the foundation for the future of your community.

Soon we will begin preparations for another school year, and a new class of seniors across Franklin County.

But that doesn't mean the accomplishments of the Class of 2022 will be forgotten. To the contrary, your inspiration to learn, grow and develop as tomorrow's leaders will have a lasting effect on Franklin County Schools. And for that, we will remain forever grateful.

I wish you the very best success in your lives and I'm excited to see what the future holds for the Class of 2022.

I'll close with a timeless quote from Benjamin Franklin: *An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.*

Congratulations to you and your families!

Greg Hamilton  
Superintendent, Franklin County Schools

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# Belgreen High School Class of 2022

## Valedictorian: Maria Jose Estrada

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

When she begins classes this fall at the University of Alabama, Maria Jose Estrada will carry with her the confidence of knowing she is loved and supported by her family, and that's a big deal for the Belgreen High School Class of 2022 Valedictorian.

"My parents (Jose and Jacqueline Estrada) were always my biggest supporters in everything. If not for them, I would not have been able to do anything," Estrada said. "They always helped me without pushing me too much. They never made it seem like a negative if I didn't succeed. I knew I was loved and had their support in everything."

Estrada, the middle child of three, will pursue a degree in Nursing at Alabama.

"It's something I'm pretty interested in. It's pretty cool what they do at Children's Hospital and I'd love to work there as a pediatric nurse," Estrada said.

Describing herself as goal-oriented, Estrada said she set out to finish as Valedictorian and used that as motivation.

"There were some times I struggled but I studied and worked hard. My goal was always to be on top of my class rank," Estrada said. "When I finally met that goal, I was proud of myself for sacrificing a lot of late nights studying."

At Belgreen, Estrada was a three-year cheerleader, president of the Senior BETA Club, a member of FCCLA and SBLA and a Junior Leadership participant. She also ran cross-country for the Bulldogs for three years.

"Running is not the most fun thing ever but it's useful to get my mind off things," Estrada said. "I look at it as a distraction. When I run, I'm able to clear my mind and not worry about what may be going on at the time."

Estrada received an Academic Scholarship from UA of \$7,000 per semester, subject to meeting academic guidelines. She earned a Junior Leadership Scholarship and received a scholarship from Girls State, which she was part of last summer.



**Maria Jose Estrada**

See 'ESTRADA,' page 24

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- Jaycob Collin Bonner
- William Bonner
- Cobi Ski Branch
- Felica Brook Campos
- Nora Jeanette Castillo
- Kaley Chandler
- Haley Lynn Nicole Chaney
- David A. Coffman
- Carson Cox
- Emma Daniel
- Janna M. Davis
- Heather Michelle Dean
- Dulce Luna Donagustin
- Maria Jose Estrada - Valedictorian
- Jackson G. Galliano
- Aine Gonzalez
- S.J. Harder
- D'Laney Hayward
- Darrin Hayward
- Serenity Faith Horne
- Alex T. Jarnigan
- Jake Kellum

- Cole King
- Ivan Antonio Luna
- Tyler Mann
- Caleb Melton
- Jackson Mitchell
- Benjamin X. Ragan
- Nicholas Ramos - Salutatorian
- Adrian Ty Reaves
- Sohely R. Aguirre
- Omar Salcedo
- Bradon Snell
- Canaan Stough
- Isabella Streetman
- Seth Austin Sykes
- Hadden Taylor
- Joshua Calen Tunell
- Brodie Vandiver
- Jayden Hope Vandiver
- Madison Alivia Vandiver
- Chandler Drake Welch
- Shane Welch
- Christopher Wilkins
- Haylie Marie Lynn Wilkins
- Kelsey Leigh Williams
- Timothy W. Yarbrough Jr.



# Phil Campbell High School Class of 2022 Valedictorian: Emma Ergle

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

She's an outstanding student who finished first in her class, a six-year member of the Phil Campbell softball team, president of her senior class and senior editor of the school yearbook.

So what makes Emma Ergle nervous? Not much, except giving a Valedictorian address to an audience full of her classmates and their families. As with most of what Ergle does, though, she came through the experience successful.

"I was extremely nervous," Ergle said. "It's different than anything I ever had to do. It took a long time to come to terms that I had to go up and give a speech in front of everyone in my school and their families. It's such a formal setting. I had a lot of worries whether my speech would be good, if people could hear me, if I'd be talking loud and clear enough.

There's more that goes into it than just giving a speech. But I think it went alright," she added.

Ergle is Valedictorian of the Phil Campbell High School Class of 2022. The daughter of Chad and Shanda Ergle, Emma began at Phil Campbell after attending East Franklin Junior High School through sixth grade.

Although she wanted to do well in school, finishing first in her class was never a goal for Ergle.

"Honestly, it never crossed my mind," Ergle said of finishing first in her class. "From the beginning of high school, I said I want to do my best, work hard in every class and it was just an added bonus at the end to be recognized as Valedictorian."

Ergle will enroll at the University of Alabama this fall where she will pursue a degree in Computer Science. Ergle received a Presidential Scholarship from Alabama, a \$2,500 scholarship from the College of Engineering, a

\$3,000 Bryant Jordan Scholarship and \$2,500 scholarship from Essity of North America.

At Phil Campbell, Ergle followed the path of her sister (Karli Hill) and tried out for softball. It turned out to be a great decision.

"My sister played when I was really young, and as a younger sister I wanted to do anything she did," Ergle said. "I started pitching and really liked it. I met a lot of people through softball. My closest friends are people I played softball with my whole life."

Asked to name her most challenging class in high school, Ergle answered immediately.

"Pre-calculus. It was rough. We had a good teacher (LeeAnn Moore) and she got us all through it. She was always patient and did a good job explaining things," Ergle said.

Ergle holds all her teachers in high regard. As she prepares for the next phase of her education, Ergle reflected on how much a caring and dedicated faculty meant to her and her fellow students.

"Our teachers were great. They knew you and your situation and always did their best to make sure you're on the right path," Ergle said.

Ergle chose Computer Science as a degree plan because of the number of job openings in the field.

"Cyber security is becoming more important now in our world and I thought it would be a good place to start off. I took a computer science class (at school) this year and a programming class on my own," Ergle said.

When the day comes where she's standing in her new dorm room, Ergle said there may be a few tears falling, but she's looking forward to making the move to Tuscaloosa.

"I'm pretty excited about it. It's not a big emotional thing for me. But when I'm in the dorm and my parents are driving off to go back home it might be a different story," Ergle said. "I'll meet my roommate and start from there. I'm excited about it."

Whatever doors open for Ergle professionally and personally, she'll always have her parents to thank for those opportunities.

"They get all the credit. They always made sure I had everything I needed to go for any goal I wanted," Ergle said. "They've been a really good support system for me in every way and every thing I've accomplished."



Emma Ergle

## 'ESTRADA,' from page 23

That experience, which saw Estrada join hundreds of top students across Alabama, allowed her to network with other students while developing her public speaking skills and self-confidence.

"When I first got there, I was a little confused and didn't know what to expect, so I just hoped for the best," Estrada said. "It was a great honor to be chosen to represent Belgreen High School. I made some great friends I still talk with to this day and I learned about government. We ran our own city and I ran for an office. Girls State brings out the best in you, helps your public speaking and it's just a really great program."

As she reflects on her 12 years at Belgreen, Estrada said there are three teachers who stand out to her among the many outstanding teachers she had.

"Lisa Miller, my first grade teacher. She was always my biggest supporter other than my parents. She came to my graduation. She was always there to encourage me," Estrada said. "Mr. (Ryan) Champion, he gave amazing advice. He teaches well but he gave us so much life advice and I'll use that in the future."

"And I'll always appreciate Teresa Whitten, my English teacher. She's a really great supporter and taught me things I didn't think I'd learn in class that I can take into life. She's always a positive person and going into her class every day was really fun," she added.

It's a different world going from the halls of Belgreen High School to a university with 39,000 undergraduates, but Estrada is ready.

"It's going to be different for sure but I'm a very social person and Belgreen taught me some life skills I'm going to use. I'm excited and I'm ready for this next part of my life," Estrada said.

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

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Abby Best  
Daisy Bowling  
Haley Bryant  
Nathaniel Carabez  
William Carden  
Makenzie Coffman  
Dakotah Cole  
Charity Cook  
Dalton Cornelius  
Georgia Crochet  
Joshua Cuevas  
Harley Cummings  
Davona Dodge  
Austin Douthit  
Emily Duncan  
Emma Ergle  
Billy Franks  
Alissa Fretwell  
Chloe Fuller  
Dalton Gassier  
Jackson Garrard

Abby Garrison  
Makayla Gillilan  
Blain Goodson  
Andrew Green  
Grace-Lyn Habada  
John Herring  
Micheal Hollimon  
Rachel Hutcheson  
Seth Hutcheson  
Connor Jackson  
Dylan Leindecker  
Raylan Lowe  
Ruby Mauro-Torres  
Audrianna  
McCarley  
Melonie McCarley  
Brandon McCleese  
Rachel McCleese  
Killian McGlaughn  
Oscar Molina  
Joseph Moreno  
Hope Morgan  
Joshua Morgan  
Karina Navarro

Braxton Nix  
Haylli Parrish  
Isabella Pinkard  
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Alayna Ponders  
McKenzie  
Ponders  
Michael Pratt  
Hanna Presley  
Arturo Rangel  
Chloe Raper  
Kristin Raper  
Jade Roberson  
Matthew Rode  
Chloe Scott  
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# Red Bay High School Class of 2022 Valedictorian: Isabella West

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Through her four years at Red Bay High School, Isabella West didn't have to deal with overbearing parents or teachers setting lofty academic goals.

They didn't have to, because West did enough of that herself.

The Red Bay High School Class of 2022 Valedictorian has always been her own worst critic. Whether school, sports or anything else, West said she's always been hard on herself, something she plans to change as she moves into the next level of her education.

"I always wanted to be Valedictorian," West said. "I knew school was one thing I'm really good at, so I said that's what I want to do and made it a goal. In college, though, I have no expectations other than I just want to get through nursing school, graduate and get a job. I'm not trying to be the best of anything, just the best I can be."

The daughter of Jeremy and Kena West of Red Bay, Isabella (Bella) was a six-year member of the Red Bay girls basketball program, a track and field athlete, a member of HOSA (Future Health Professionals), BETA Club and a Junior Leadership participant.

The COVID-19 pandemic prevented her Junior Leadership class from doing some of its annual projects, so students were asked to complete their service hours on their own. West accomplished that through helping teachers before school setting up classrooms or cleaning classrooms after school.

West will enroll this fall at Itawamba Community College, with plans to take her basic required courses before she transfers to the University of North Alabama or moves on to ICC's Nursing Program. She plans to become a Registered Nurse, following her mother's career path.

"My mom is a nurse and one of my teachers (Laken Raper) used to be a nurse at Children's Hospital in Birmingham," West said. "I heard her talk about her job and she and my mom inspired me to become a nurse. I love helping people, especially kids."

A Red Bay native, West said the town's neighbor-helping-neighbor lifestyle also permeates into the school.

"The small town atmosphere where everyone knows everyone is something I liked," West said. "Our teachers were willing to help students more because they've known us our whole lives. The best things about our community also are part of our school."

West said two teachers she'll always appreciate include Leah Torisky (science) and Shay Pounds (math, retired).

"They both pushed me to do more, become a better person and I'll always be thankful for that," West said.

Once her education is complete, West said she'd like to live close to home, but she'll go where the best career opportunity presents itself. She's looking

forward to the college experience beyond Red Bay.

"One of the best things about living here is you're always around people you know and who know you. You see people at school and out around town and you know about their entire lives," West said.

"But I haven't had life experiences outside Red Bay and I know things are different out of our little town," she added.

In addition to being a top student and a varsity athlete, West has also worked for at Big Star in Red Bay for two years.

"She's a very determined young lady and she does a great job with our customers," said Hal Keeton, Big Star owner. "She's dependable and came to work even during basketball season for some of the undesirable shifts like Saturday night or early Sunday morning."

"She's a great employee and she'll still be with us for a while when she starts at ICC," Keeton added.

West admits she kept a busy schedule, but she still found time to enjoy hanging out with her boyfriend, Connor Sides, reading and watching Netflix.

"It's hard during basketball season, but you can always find some time in between school and work. I find things I want to do and can relax and enjoy," West said.

When asked about her secret to academic success, West said there's really nothing secret about it at all.

"I make flash cards to study with when there's something I'm having trouble with. You just have to stay disciplined in school. I'm always hard on myself to do well and push myself to be the best," West said.



Isabella West

## RED BAY Class of 2022

Makenna Ables

Taylor Allison

Mason Bates

Joshua Blanton

Chloe Casey

Carson Corum

Jaycee Davis

Mary Davis

Jacob Dillingham

Morgan Easterling

Sarah Eaton

Audrey Ehler

Nathan Elrod

Emily Enis

Phillip Faulkner

Emma Fischer

Makenzi Gasaway

Landon Glover

Bryson Hacker

Klice Haley

Charlton Huffman

Coby Jackson

Preston Kelton

Anna Kennedy

Avery Klose - Salutatorian

Destinee Lancaster

Dawson Lanphear

John Lindsay

Elijah Luster

Emma McCollister

Connor McNeil

Samuel Moore

Hayden Nichols

Kyndell Ozbirn

Alyssa Parker

Hunter Pounds

Aiden Quinn

Andrew Ray

Kinzie Robbins

Annaliese Rogers

Hayden Seahorn

Justin Segura Morales

Austin Self

Caleb Stacy

Owen Terry

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Isabella West - Valedictorian

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## Congratulations, Graduates!





# Tharptown High School Class of 2022 Valedictorian: Gracie Montgomery

Brady Petree  
Franklin Free Press

Gracie Montgomery comes from a long line of successful Tharptown Wildcats. Her parents Traci and Mickey Montgomery both attended Tharptown, back when it was only a junior high school, and two of her siblings are already Tharptown alumni. Not to mention her sister Autumn Montgomery who will be graduating in a few years as a Wildcat as well.

And as for those two aforementioned siblings who preceded her in walking across the stage in their royal blue cap and gowns, they finished their academic careers as the salutatorians of their respective classes.

Mason Montgomery (class of 2013) and Les Montgomery (class of 2019) both had stellar careers in the classroom at Tharptown, but their younger sister Gracie was able to take her academic career a step further in her senior year.

When she walked across the graduation stage, Gracie stood atop the class academic standings as she was the Tharptown class of 2022 Valedictorian.

"It's something that I've always wanted to do. My parents always pushed me to maintain my grades and try to maintain a 90 or above in every class. So I just worked hard and got the grades I needed to get," Montgomery said. "It's a big accomplishment for my family as well. To be able to graduate at the top of my class, it's just an honor. To have all my siblings except for one graduate from Tharptown and my parents to also attend Tharptown, it's just really special."

Now that her time as a Wildcat is finished, Montgomery will now transition to Calhoun Community College where she received a cross country scholarship. While there, she plans on pursuing a degree in dental hygiene with hopes of attending dental school later on.

While some students fresh out of high school might be at somewhat of a crossroads when it comes to what to major in.

But as for Montgomery, her path has been very clear for a long time.

And her explanation as to where her interest in dental hygiene gives a keen insight into why she might want to go into that field.

"I've always had some kind of fascination with teeth and I've actually pulled my sister's teeth when hers were ready to be pulled," Montgomery said. "I've always loved going to the dentist and I love my dentist's office and the people there. And it really just seems like that's my field I need to go into."

Like most students, Montgomery had a few teachers along the way that helped inspire her and also helped push her towards her goals in high school.

"Mrs. Nesser was one of the teachers that I had that I loved. I took some college classes this past year and while I didn't have her in an actual class, she still helped me with my essays and so would coach Horton as well," Montgomery said. "Mrs. Franklin is another teacher that helped me get to where I am. Because we were so far behind in math and she did a great job in catching us back up to where we needed to be and she did a great job and everyone loved her, including myself."

While in high school, Montgomery kept quite a busy schedule.

In addition to serving as the senior leader of the Lady Wildcat basketball team and running cross country, she was also heavily involved in other extracurriculars. She was the president of the Tharptown chapter of the National Honor Society, senior class president, a Tharptown ambassador, and she also was a vital member of the THS track team as well.

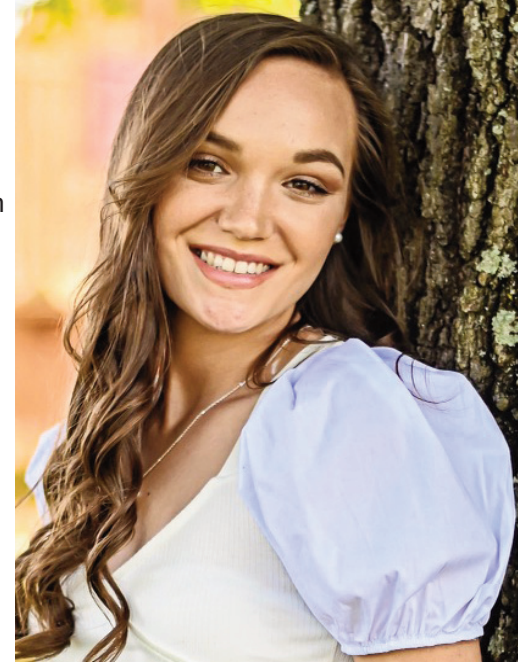
In addition to her cross country scholarship to Calhoun Community College, Montgomery also earned the Dr. Sayed Scholarship as well as a Franklin County Cattlemen's Association Scholarship.

As she heads off towards a new path post-high school, Montgomery will carry a multitude of things she learned in high school with her into college.

But one of the more important things she will take with her perhaps, is her competitive spirit that willed her to excelling in the classroom and on the court.

And while that fire will more than likely always be there, Montgomery has also made sure to lend a helping hand when and where it's needed in the classroom.

"I always compete to have the highest average, test score or whatever it may be. But at the same time, I love helping others too," Montgomery said. "I did a lot of tutoring, along with my friend Taylor, with some of my classmates and we would see very different scores after the tutoring and I loved seeing those results and just helping my fellow classmates and that's something I hope to do moving forward."



**Gracie Montgomery**

## THARPTOWN Class of 2022

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jaret Abarca-Pastor     | Brandon Myers              |
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| Tyler Amos              | Andy Serafin Nava          |
| Courney Ballard         | Abigail Neal               |
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| Bernardo Castillo       | Allyson Poss               |
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| Nikolas Chaney          | Angel Ramos Ortiz          |
| Isaiah Clark            | Joshua Riley               |
| David Compton           | Iker Rubio                 |
| Allana Cook             | Carron Sears               |
| Preston Daily           | Blek Slepecki              |
| Gunner Daugherty        | Katie Smith                |
| Colton Fisher           | Katlyn Smith               |
| Christian Franco        | Manuela Velasquez Solis    |
| Anthony Galvan          | Leslie Staggs              |
| Aleea Gaston            | Truman Stanley             |
| Jaiden Gaston           | Austin Sutton              |
| Andrew Huston           | Faith Swims                |
| Debora Francisco Juan   | Autumn Tharp               |
| Nathan Liebhart         | Xachary Uptain             |
| Joshua Lopez            | Luis Chavez Valdez         |
| Angel Martin            | Christian Vazquez          |
| Jason Sandoval Martinez | Zackery Wallace            |
| Christopher Mears       | Evan Wells                 |
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# Vina High School Class of 2022 Valedictorian: Hailey Cantrell

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Her mother was Vina High School Valedictorian for the Class of 1988. Her sister was Vina's Valedictorian for the Class of 2017. So it's not a shocker that Hailey Cantrell finished as Valedictorian for the Vina High School Class of 2022. Talk about good genes.

"We always heard we had to make A's when we were little or we knew we'd get in trouble when we got home," Cantrell said. "My parents (Chris and Denieta Cantrell) always pushed me when I was young and I hated that growing up.

"But now as I look back, I'm so thankful they pushed me to do my best. Otherwise, I wouldn't have taken school as seriously or cared as much and I wouldn't be where I am now," she added.

Cantrell will start at Northwest-Shoals Community College this fall. She will be part of the college's Cosmetology program and after she completes that, Cantrell plans to transfer to the University of North Alabama and pursue a degree in Business.

Her career goal is specific—she wants to open her own salon and be her own boss. Cantrell even has a plan where she wants to locate her business.

"I'd really like to move to Madison or Huntsville. Those areas are constantly growing and being from a small town, I'd love to be in a place like Madison that is expanding every day," Cantrell said.

It's not that the Vina native dislikes her hometown—she wouldn't trade the experience of growing up in Vina for anything. But her business plan calls for a location in a metropolitan area. That's why she hopes to open in Huntsville or Madison, Alabama's fastest growing city.

Cantrell has worked part-time at Vina City Hall the past three years. In a town where everyone knows everyone, Cantrell has learned through her job there are always a few 'everyones' you don't know until they come into City Hall to pay their water and gas bills.

"It's really allowed me to meet all these other people and got me out of my comfort zone by learning to talk to everybody and by being nice and friendly, you learn so much about other people," Cantrell said.

Cantrell not only shined as a student at Vina High School, she was a talented three-sport athlete. Since seventh grade, Cantrell was part of Vina's track, softball and basketball teams. And she was a cheerleader, member of BETA Club, FBLA, Junior Civitan and a Junior Leadership participant her junior year.

Cantrell earned a Valedictorian Scholarship to NW-SCC, which takes care of

all tuition expenses. She also received the Sunshine Homes Scholarship, Tri-State Educational Foundation Scholarship, Kiwanis Club of Russellville Scholarship, Vina BETA Club Scholarship, a Franklin County Cattleman's Association Scholarship and a scholarship from Future Teachers of Alabama.

Cantrell recently walked the stage with 30 of her classmates to receive their diplomas. Vina's Class of 2022 had 31 graduates, the largest number in several years. Cantrell grew up with many of these students. They're more than classmates. They're truly family.

"You know almost everything about each other. About 20 of us grew up together. You see the same faces every day. It can get a little annoying sometimes, but it also creates an absolutely unbreakable bond. These are people I will miss very much and who will always be special to me," Cantrell said.

Another person Cantrell will always appreciate is Sarah Jane Hattaway, her English teacher, who reminded her students each day how special they are and how special their school and hometown are.

"She always told us don't let anyone tell you you can't do something because you're from Vina," Cantrell said. "Some people tend to look down on you and she always let us know not to let people tell you that. It meant a lot and she was a big part of making me who I am."

Although COVID-19 had a dramatic impact on Cantrell's high school career, there was one silver lining that resulted from the pandemic. It may have helped Cantrell pass her Geometry class, the one subject she struggled with in high school.

"It was definitely my most challenging class. I tried to get help and had three tutors but that didn't seem to help either," Cantrell said. "The year COVID hit, that probably saved me because I was really struggling in that class. When we got out of school we were sent home with books and online work and I could teach myself my own way and that really helped me get through it."

As she moves forward with her education and her life, Cantrell will be used to explaining to people she meets where her hometown is.

"I always say it's a very small town with no red lights and one big intersection. You usually have to tell them where it is by mentioning Russellville or Red Bay," Cantrell said.

"When they ask about my school, I tell them it's small. We have 31 kids in my class and that's the biggest senior class in five years. I also share with them the closeness of our class and how everybody is really like one big family," she added.

And that's a family Cantrell will always be proud to be a part of, no matter how far she gets from home.



**Hailey Cantrell**



## VINA Class of 2022

Trenton Alack  
Daniel Athey  
Blaine Batey  
Chris Blevins  
Bricen Burney  
Hailey Cantrell: Valedictorian  
Tim Dotson  
Hunter Emerson  
Malachi Fletcher  
Seth Fowler  
Donald Garrett  
Matti Kirk  
Cayden Lawler - Salutatorian  
Kaylie Lawler  
Destiny Lynch-Dognibene  
Tristen Martello

Hayden McKinney  
Abbie Petree  
Skylar Pettey  
Jordan Puckett  
Japheth Scott  
Nex Scott  
Lacey Scott  
Sarah Scott  
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Nick Umfress  
Kaylee Upton  
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Fancee Wells



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