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Business trip? Canida, REB spend more than \$30,000 for eight-hour beach conference

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When the Electric Cities of Alabama (ECA) holds its annual meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference in Miramar Beach, Florida next week, the Russellville Electric Board will be well represented, and well invested, in the conference.

ECA is an association of municipally owned electric utilities across Alabama that provides 'legislative and regulatory coordination' to its members, according to its website. ECA has an established mutual aid

program whereby member cities aid fellow member cities in times of emergencies.

According to records provided by the REB pursuant to an Open Records Act request, General Manager Charles Canida and the board have already spent, and will spend, a minimum of \$30,426.45 to send nine people to a two-day beach conference that includes only eight hours of actual meetings. And that total could grow significantly larger based on Canida's past spending at the Electric Cities Conference and increased per diem reimbursement

See 'REB,' Page 8

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Questions remain after arrest of Franklin County Rescue Squad president

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When the Franklin County Rescue Squad president landed in jail last week on felony theft charges, there were immediate questions as to how, and why, an organization that was not in good standing with state or local authorities continued to receive public funds through Franklin County's tobacco tax.

Those questions will lead to additional safeguards that will avoid similar problems in the future, according to the president of the Franklin County Fire and Rescue Association.

Fire departments, ambulance services and rescue squads in Franklin County receive a portion of the four

cent per item tobacco tax enacted in 1988, according to Franklin County Fire and Rescue Association President John James.

60 percent of the tobacco tax is distributed by the Franklin County Commission to the Franklin County Water Authority, James said. The remaining 40 percent is divided among Franklin County's 14 fire departments (25 percent), rescue squads (10 percent) and ambulance services (5 percent), James explained.

Those rescue squads that share 10 percent of the tobacco tax revenue include Vina, Hodges and Phil Campbell, and until earlier this year, the Franklin County Rescue Squad.


See 'QUESTIONS,' Page 7

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Robert "Bob" Leon Davis, 85, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Monday, June 27th. Interment at Bethlehem Cemetery.

Randal "Randy" Vandiver, 63, of Red Bay, passed away on Thursday, June 30th. Akins Funeral Home assisted the family.

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In remembrance...



Leeland (Lee-Ester) Fuller of Russellville, died June 14, 2022, at the age of 96. Akins Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

NW-SCC offers half-tuition scholarship to former students

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Former Northwest-Shoals Community College students who had to put their academic careers on hold will have an opportunity to finish their college degree or certification program through a new scholarship offered by the school.

The Continuing Excellence Scholarship is available to students who had a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.5, completed at least 30 credit hours at NW-SCC, are United States citizens or permanent residents, and who complete the application for the scholarship and for Federal Student Aid by August 1, 2022.

The scholarship will award half-tuition costs for students who qualify.

"We hope this will help relieve financial burdens for those who are so close to completing their degree or certificate program this fall," said NW-SCC Dean of Students, Dr. Crystal Reed.

If you meet the scholarship requirements, visit [nw-scc.edu](#) to apply. For more information, email crystal.reed@nw-scc.edu or call 256-331-5364.

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My take on this... mistakes bring laughter

One of my friends was complaining how she couldn't do anything right.

"Always making mistakes," she said.

I immediately responded 'if it wasn't for mistakes, we would never have anything to laugh about.'

Wow, what a profound thought-for me, I mean.

I've always laughed at myself when I trip and fall. Looking for my glasses when I was wearing them. Put a blouse on backwards and worn it in public.

I've had my tops and pants inside out. I noticed my pants. Well, who wouldn't notice pants inside out? My tops were a different matter.

I've worn mismatched sandals. Well, they were both white and when I get in a hurry, I don't pay as much attention. I'd usually make that discovery when someone pointed it out.

I respond that I'm doing it where I could get opinions on which one looked the best. The next time I'd know which pair to wear. It's a good way to see which one is more comfortable when standing or walking a long time.

I enjoy sending cards. My favorite kind to send are for no special occasion. Those are the ones I enjoy being sent to me too! It's so rewarding to get a phone call to let me know it came at a time it was needed the most.

I don't do it as often as I should. If you are thinking this has nothing to do with my subject of making mistakes, it will!

I sent a card to a friend and one to my aunt before. It was for a special occasion. I usually write a personal note inside my cards. Since I was doing two at once, I mailed the cards to the wrong addresses. Notice how I said 'personal.'

I would never have known, if it wasn't for a phone call from my friend. She said I'd sent her a card addressed to my aunt. Oh boy!

The personal information had been sent to the wrong person. I never heard anything from my aunt. I figure she was in shock. And totally confused. I couldn't undo it, so I just laughed.

Mistakes are a part of life. They will be made until the day we die. Well, that brought another thought to me. I've always mentioned to my sons and grandchildren that I want a comical remark on my tombstone. "I no longer make



Gail Motes

mistakes" would be a good one.

I've thought of several. I need to write down my ideas. I'll give my sons and grandchildren the choice. I know Abby would enjoy that because she had the most fun suggesting stuff.

Until that day comes, I will continue making mistakes. Life is full of them and I enjoy life!

I wish for all of you continued mistakes. That simply means I wish for you a long life!

Until later!



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John Pilati

Executive Editor

Brady Petree

E-mail: franklinfreepress@yahoo.com

Sales Representatives

John Pilati

Content Contributors

John Pilati, Brady Petree, Christian Medina, Gail Motes, Shannon, Lori Skinner

Graphic Design

Jason Hill

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What the U.S. needs to watch for next from Putin's Russia

Submitted to the FFP

While most of the world watches the Russian aggression and oppression in Ukraine, we should really be concerned about what's coming next.

Many military and government analysts surmise that Putin's next move will be towards one of the neighboring countries of Ukraine, but I believe that it will be directly against the United States.

Our Alaskan border is a vast and open area that is not easily defended with troops, naval forces or even our vast air power. A Russian strike at Alaska would be, in my opinion, a bold move reestablishing Peter the Great's Empire that Putin possibly feels like his country was 'cheated out of' when it was legally purchased by the U.S., (although no consideration, rights, monies, or privilege were extended to the Native Peoples of Alaska until many years later).

Another area of concern would be the establishment of medium to long range missile systems in Cuba. Yes, another Cuban missile crisis in the making. I do not believe Russia has directly sent missile systems to Cuba, but the 'quickest', albeit indirect route would be to the Communist country of Venezuela. Venezuela has long been antagonistic to United States' interest and in the not too recent past was quite vocal in their anti-American views.

In both of these brief points I have tried to make, the issues of oil and other natural resources aren't mentioned. These issues aren't mentioned because I am only considering the military aspects at this time.

While both of our borders remain largely unsecured, the Pentagon seems more worried about abortion rights than protecting our nation, and our elected leaders do nothing but recite talking points. We The People must be on alert as what may be to come against this great nation of ours.

Riley Winstead
Amateur military analyst

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Russellville students to receive free breakfast, lunch again this year

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

All Russellville City Schools students will once again receive free breakfast and lunch after the Russellville City Board of Education approved the NSLP Agreement for the 2022-23 school year at the board's June 30 meeting.

The NSLP (National School Lunch Program) is an entitlement program that guarantees a set reimbursement for meals or snacks served to low-income children. Russellville City Schools qualifies for the NSLP grant due to the percentage of its families living below 130 percent of the poverty level.

The board also approved the following prices for employees and visitors: Employee breakfast at all schools in the classroom will be at no charge for all RCS schools except Russellville High School, where employees will pay \$1.25.

Employee lunch at all schools will be \$4.25. Visitors will pay \$1.50 at all schools for breakfast and \$4.25 for lunch.

The Russellville City Schools Child Nutrition Program will also provide breakfast, lunch and snack to the Head Start child care center.

In other agenda items, the board:

--contracted with the following teachers for Teacher Excellence and Accountability for Mathematics and Science (TEAMS) contracts: Preliminary (One year) contracts to Darbi Crumpton, Kaleb Hood and Justin Sappington.

Advanced contracts (Three or Five years) to Lee Brownell (5) and three-year contracts to Luke Baker, Alannah Hill, Celeste McCollum, Jonathan Odom, Hunter Ray and Mallory Smith.

--approved principal contracts for Tiffany Warhurst and Alicia Stanford.

--approved facility use requests for July 28, 2022, for RHS Marching Hundred to host a rehearsal stop for Boston Crusaders Drum and Bugle Corps, on July 13-14 for RHS Marching Hundred to host a rehearsal stop for Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps and on August 24 for use of the RCS Board Room for the Alabama Rural Water Association training session.

--Personnel moves as follows:

--Resignation in Position: Gary Lee Parker, Jr., bus driver and Rachelle Carroll, RHS teacher.

--Resignation in Supplement: Anna Lisa Jackson, JV basketball and Anna Kay Holland, RHS Yearbook Sponsor.

--Employment in Position: Tanner Hall, RES Custodian, Jill Baker, RCS Nurse, Leslie Seal, RCS Mental Health Specialist, Kellie Singleton, RHS Journalism Teacher, Vickie Shook, RHS Maid, Magda Lopez, EL Aide at RHS, Randy Ozbirn, JROTC Instructor at RHS, Charlotte Hood and Heather Landers, CNP Workers at RES, Darlotte Smith and Megan Wilson, CNP Workers at RMS, Stephen Henry, Custodian/Groundskeeper at Park and Recreation Department, Dana Greenhill, Maintenance worker at Park and Recreation Department, Nicole Jensen, RMS History Teacher, Alana Hatton Parker, Business Marketing Teacher at RMS, Tina Hawkins, CNP Assistant Manager at RES, Morgan Pate, WES Teacher.

--Voluntary Transfer: Anayeli Ruiz, from EL Aide at WES to Pre-K Auxiliary Teacher at WES, Katherine Alfaro, from EL Aide at RES to teacher at RES.

--Employment in Supplement: Dalany Roberts, Head Coach Girls Soccer.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Board of Education will be Thursday, July 28, at 8 a.m., with work session Monday, July 25 at 3:30 p.m.

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 The yearly Welch reunion will be the second Saturday of July on the 9th, at the Mountain Valley Hee Haw building on Hwy. 79 in Phil Campbell, AL 35581. All Welch's and those related are welcome. We will do sandwiches, chips, desserts and drinks. Each family will bring meat, bread, chips, drinks and desserts of their choice. We will have toamto, lettuce, cheese, mayo and mustard. Please pass the word and come on out. Thank you!

 Summer Revival will be held at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 305 Bethlehem Road, Russellville, July 17-22. Sunday service 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7 p.m. Evangelist Bro. Micah Fleming. Pastor Bro. Jeff Fleming and congregation welcome everyone. Prayer meeting 20 minutes before each service. For more information, call Bro. Jeff Fleming at 256-856-5610.

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'QUESTIONS,' from page 1

The average quarterly amount distributed to each rescue squad was approximately \$800, James said, for a total of \$3,200 per year.

The Franklin County Fire and Rescue Association receives a quarterly check from the Franklin County Commission. That money is deposited into the FCFRA account and checks are then written to each fire department, rescue squad and ambulance service for its percentage.

Early this year, the Franklin County Rescue Squad was removed as an active member of the Franklin County Fire and Rescue Association prior to allegations of theft surfacing against FCRS President WM 'Pete' Brackin, Jr.

An audit of that organization revealed more than \$13,000 in public funds unaccounted for. Those monies formed the basis of the charges against Brackin, who was arrested late last month.

According to Franklin County Sheriff Shannon Oliver, the Franklin County Rescue Squad has not received one emergency call or request for assistance in more than two years. Yet the squad continued to receive quarterly tobacco tax proceeds and members continued to solicit donations through last year.

One local citizen, whose spouse was a member of the FCRS, said the time frame was closer to 3-4 years as to the last call/response made by the organization.

"They had a baby shower at the rescue squad building," the citizen, who wished to remain anonymous, said. "I tried to get the district attorney to do something about the rescue squad. They weren't answering any calls or doing anything productive, but they were still getting the money even though they weren't serving the public."

That's the issue that bothers James the most. Why were the issues with the FCRS not discovered earlier, and how can the Franklin County Fire and Rescue Association improve safeguards to make sure public funds are being used properly by all organizations who receive them?

Part of the problem is that, until early 2022, the FCRS still met the requirements for active membership in the Franklin County Fire and Rescue Association, so no action could be taken to suspend the organization.

"According to the bylaws the association put in place, to remain an active member each organization must pay its dues (to the Franklin County Fire and Rescue Association), have a representative attend two-thirds of regular meetings, be a member of good standing in the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads and be authorized by the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency," James said.

"They still sent a representative to our monthly meetings and paid their dues. There was concern from a while as to what mission their organization

had and how they were using funds, and their personnel got very minimal like everybody's, but until we were told by (Franklin County Emergency Management Agency Director Mary Hallman-Glass) they were no longer recognized as an active rescue squad, there was nothing we could do," James added.

In early 2022, the Russellville Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 304 Limestone Street, where the Franklin County Rescue Squad building is located. The main building was not ablaze. Rather, it was a shed behind the building that was on fire. Investigators discovered there had been someone living in the shed, although there were no injuries in the fire, James said.

There were questions about the amount (or lack thereof) of equipment in the FCRS building.

Glass contacted state officials and learned the Franklin County Rescue Squad was not in good standing at the state level. She then sent a letter to the Franklin County Fire and Rescue Association that stated the FCRS was no longer recognized as an active rescue squad in Franklin County.

As a result, James said, the FCRS no longer met the criteria to receive public funds, so the organization was removed from the tobacco tax distribution and its membership in the Franklin County Fire and Rescue Association was suspended.

"We knew there were questions about their mission, and and they weren't responding or assisting with calls. When we would see signs of them, there were always issues with equipment and we wondered where their money was going," James said.

"But it was all just conversation because we never got anyone to say they weren't in good standing with the state. They paid their dues and showed up at meetings."

The question, moving forward, is how to prevent this from happening again. This is the second incident of allegations of mishandling of funds that went through the Franklin County Fire and Rescue Association. The previous incident, in 2011, involved an internal theft of funds by an individual, not an organization.

James believes the Franklin County Fire and Rescue Association needs to beef up the requirements for active membership to make sure its members are actively serving the public as good stewards.

"We owe it to the people of Franklin County to come up with a means of better defining good standing, where there's a requirement that each organization meet some level of activity and actively be providing a service to which they should be entitled to funding," James said. "We're not at the point where those are all the answers, but I think that's where we're heading."

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'REB,' from page 1

from REB to conference attendees.

The beach conference spending comes just months after the Russellville Electric Board voted to raise rates on electricity more than three percent. That rate hike was recommended by Canida, who cited "declining revenue" as the reason to raise REB's rates.

A review of the agenda for the 2022 conference, to be held at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Resort and Spa, indicates there will be a total of eight hours of general session conference business over two days.

The conference begins with an opening reception Sunday, July 10, from 5:30-7 p.m.

A four-hour general session is set for Monday, July 11 from 7:30-11:30 a.m., followed by an afternoon golf outing, and four more hours of general session Tuesday, July 12, from 7:30-11:30 a.m., followed by a chartered deep sea fishing event.

A 'come and go' closing breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13 at 7:30 a.m.

Canida serves as the 2022 Chairman of the Board for Electric Cities of Alabama, so his attendance at the annual meeting is expected. In addition to Canida, all five Russellville Electric Board members will attend, along with two employees and the board attorney, according to receipts for room reservations at the Hilton Sandestin Resort and an off-site location, Hidden Dunes Beach & Tennis Resort in Destin.

The majority of those will stay five nights in a luxury three-bedroom condominium at Hidden Dunes. Of the six staying at Hidden Dunes, all have five night reservations, beginning on Saturday, July 9, and four of the six booked three-bedroom condos, all at REB ratepayer expense.

Three reservations were made at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Resort, each for four nights beginning on July 9, at a rate, tax included, of more than \$402 per night.

Additionally, REB ratepayers paid \$550 per attendee, for a total of \$4,950 just for costs of the conference registration. Additional fees apply for the golf outing (\$100) and the deep sea fishing trip (\$150) per person. In order to attend the annual beach conference, attendees must be affiliated with an active ECA member. The Russellville Electric Board paid \$8,392.10 for ECA membership dues on October 29, 2021.

In past years, Canida and the board have rented their own private chartered fishing vessel, including last year at a cost to ratepayers of \$2006.55, along with additional costs for an ice chest, snacks and drinks for the private charter.

Previous private charters made by Canida at this conference have cost as much as \$2,740, the total for the 2018 outing, again paid for by ratepayer funds.

Canida did not respond to requests for an interview so it is not known if there is a private fishing charter scheduled this year or whether any REB members will attend the golf outing.

After last year's Electric Cities of Alabama Conference, each attendee received \$824.68 in a per diem check to offset expenses including gas and meals. That amount will increase this year as a result of higher gas prices and food costs. The State of Alabama mileage reimbursement rate is now \$.625 per mile.

In each of the past seven years while at this conference, Canida has charged a meal on his REB credit card for board members, their guests and the Russellville City Council. These ratepayer-funded meals cost \$1,789.27 last July at Wolf Bay Lodge and as much as \$3,115.94 in 2018 at Marlin Grill and a staggering \$4,104.89 for one meal at Poppy's Restaurant three years earlier.

Russellville City Councilman Darren Woodruff, who last attended the ECA Conference in 2018 when he was on the Russellville Electric Board, said he did not attend last year's conference and he will not attend this year's either.

"I am not aware of any council member or the mayor planning to attend this conference," Woodruff said.

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RHS addition move-in ready for 2022-23 school year

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As he escorted a family on a tour of Russellville High School's new 41,000-square foot addition Friday morning, Russellville City Schools Superintendent of Education Heath Grimes paused to reflect on how close the massive project is to completion.

The building will undergo what Grimes hopes will be a final inspection on July 6. Once state inspectors give their approval, it will be moving day for the teachers, administrators and staff who will relocate into the new addition.

Originally set to be completed in December 2021 (by the contractor), the project took about seven months longer than expected, due in part to COVID-19 related supply chain issues with building materials.

Grimes said his goal was for the process of moving into the addition to begin before the end of the 2021-22 school year. That move is now underway as the 14-classroom building will be open and ready on August 9, the first day of classes for the 2022-23 school year.

"This is a significant milestone for our school system," Grimes said. "This new building will house 14 classrooms and two (science) labs. It meets many of the needs we had. It creates a great presence as you come off the hill on Waterloo Road and see our campus.

"We are ready to go. We're just waiting for that July 6th inspection and for them to tell us we're good," he added.

The two-story addition will house RHS administrators and office staff on the ground floor, along with an administrative wing, teacher's work area and break room, nurse's office, two counselor offices, a technology classroom and a large trophy case to house the school's many championship trophies and awards.

Access into the new addition will be limited to one main entrance, where RHS' School Resource Officer will be stationed each morning.

Doors will lock when the morning bell rings and visitors may only enter after being buzzed in by the secretary.

"All of our schools have one entrance except for the high school and that will change once we open the new addition," Grimes said.

The second floor will house two state-of-the-art labs, for chemistry and biology, and a separate science classroom.

"This was an area of need we had because chemistry and biology classes

are sharing one lab right now, and it was a bit outdated," Grimes said.

Other second floor classrooms will include art, English Second Language (ESL), Spanish and Special Education, Grimes said.

Funding for the \$12.3 million addition comes primarily from a \$10.7 million bond issue from the City of Russellville and Russellville City Schools, along with \$1.6 million from a combination of the general fund, capital outlay fund and some state bond funds.

The next phase of capital projects at RHS will involve the Career Tech Building, Grimes said.

Although there is not sufficient funding to replace the existing building, it will be renovated and four classrooms added in what is described as 'Phase Two' of the project. The building will also have an entrance that looks similar to the new addition, Grimes said.



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

The new addition to Russellville High School, above, is currently being moved into and will be ready for the first day of classes for the 2022-23 school year.

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Hamilton hired as Tharptown head football coach

Michael Rice
 Franklin Free Press

THARPTOWN - Russellville's Jacob Hamilton had a big month of June.

Not only did Hamilton marry his fiance Savannah, he also accepted a job as Tharptown High School's new head football coach.

Hamilton started coaching football at Deshler High School, where he was a linebacker coach. He served as strength and conditioning coach at Phil Campbell High School, followed by a stint on the Carbon Hill High School staff.

The 2018 Russellville High School graduate was a standout linebacker for the Golden Tigers. He earned his degree from Athens State University in 2021.

Hamilton has learned how to transition from a player to a coach. Hamilton also learned to overcome adversity when the 2018 Deshler Tigers finished...

See 'HAMILTON,' Page 14

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For the love of the game

Former RHS standout P.J. Winston was hired as the new head girls basketball coach at Covenant Christian High School and continues a family legacy deeply-rooted in basketball.

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

P.J. Winston, much like his two younger brothers, can't remember a time when two things—basketball and music—weren't a central part of his life.

Winston, the oldest of three children of Harlan "Peaches" and Linda Winston of Russellville, was named girls varsity basketball coach last week at Covenant Christian High School.

Winston will serve in a part-time capacity and will not join the school's faculty. He was an assistant coach for Covenant's 1A state championship boys basketball team last year.

There's a strong connection between the Winston family and Covenant Christian, as P.J.'s brother Bobby serves as an assistant varsity basketball coach, and will soon be taking a full-time position with the school.

Their youngest brother Siran continues his career as 'Too Tall' with the internationally acclaimed Harlam Globetrotters.

As you see, basketball is a central part of their lives, as is praise and worship singing. PJ and Bobby are fixtures in the praise and worship music at Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Leighton, where their father serves as Minister of Music.

Winston and his wife Le Joy, a teacher at Russellville Elementary School, have three children. Known most of his life as 'P.J.,' Winston's actual name is the same as his father's—Harlan Lindsey Winston. So where did the nickname PJ come from?

"One of my dad's best friends, Primus James, passed away, so PJ is a tribute in his honor, and it also fit 'Peaches Junior,' so there were two ways it came about," Winston said.

Winston inherits a program that reached the Hanceville Regional Tournament in Coach Bill Deegan's final year, so he has some talent to work with. While his coaching experience is primarily with boys basketball, Winston looks forward to the role of coaching girls, who have a better ability to learn the game, he said.

"The only big difference is when you're dealing with boys basketball, it's more of the physical side



COURTESY PHOTO

Winston, above with family, takes over a Covenant Christian girls basketball team that reached the regional tournament in Hanceville a season ago.

of the game," Winston said. "Girls pick up the game so quickly and if they love the game like these girls do, that happens fast.

"I'm going to be completely honest and an open book with my players. And I want them to be the

See 'GAME,' Page 13

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'GAME,' from page 11

same way with me. The only way to build a relationship is through trust, and that's about being open and available," he added.

A 2000 Russellville High School graduate, Winston was a standout athlete on the Golden Tiger varsity basketball team. His playing career continued at Shelton State Community College and Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, where he earned his Business Administration degree. Winston also received a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of North Alabama.

Winston attributes his love of coaching from several former coaches he played under and trained with, including Luther Tiggs, Shelton State Coach Barry Mohun and former RHS coach Glen Elmore.

"I did some training under Luther when I was playing and he helped me a lot," Winston said. "Coach Elmore was such a players' coach and you could always talk to him. And my coach at Shelton, Coach Mohun, was a big influence on me.

"I took a little bit from all three of those men about the way they coached their teams, how they motivated their players and the schemes they ran," Winston added.

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‘HAMILTON,’ from page 11

ished their regular season a disappointing 5-5. Following their 5-5 campaign, the Tigers made a run in the playoffs all the way to the state finals where they lost to UMS-Wright.

Hamilton joined the football staff at Carbon Hill High School before getting the opportunity to interview for the vacancy at Tharptown.

Hamilton said the program stood out to him because of how fast the school is growing. He sees the possibility that Tharptown could become a 3A school in the next few years.

“When I interviewed, I was very impressed with the facilities. They have been upgraded well,” Hamilton said. “This community is hungry for a successful athletic program and it all starts with football.”

Hamilton’s expectations for the job are getting to know the kids and getting them installed into his system. Hamilton said he’s looking forward to building competitiveness within his players.

“We will take this process one step at a time and build towards the future. I’m excited to be a part of that,” Hamilton said.

With Tharptown being a relatively new program, Hamilton will face some obstacles unlike other places he’s coached, but he is optimistic his passion for the game, his energy and enthusiasm, along with his ability to relate to the kids, will get them to buy in to his program and get them excited.

“Something beautiful is going to happen in Tharptown,” Hamilton said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Hamilton, above, will take over a Tharptown program still in search of its first playoff appearance after coaching stops at Carbon Hill, Phil Campbell and Deshler.

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