



**CAROL MURPHREE**  
Board of Education  
District 4  
November 8, 2022

Pd. Pol. Adv. By: Carol Murphree • 379 Keaton Gap Rd, Spruce Pine, AL, 35885

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## Ward providing info, not taking sides in landfill application process

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

With more than 31 years working for the Franklin County Solid Waste Department, Gene Ward has learned a lot about the county's landfill.

In fact, you might call him a 'garbage genius.'

And when it comes to differing opinions regarding Franklin County Land Management's application to be permitted for municipal solid waste (MSW) collection, Ward knows enough to stay out of that discussion.

Ward was promoted to Franklin

County's Solid Waste Officer in 2016. As a department head, he answers to the Franklin County Commission. But he also has a working relationship with Neil Hargett, who filed the application with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) seeking to have his landfill approved to collect MSW.

Whether Hargett is successful in the multi-step application process is an issue Ward won't be involved with. He will answer all questions and provide any information requested of him by commissioners, but

See 'LANDFILL,' Page 9

## Clarity, taste remain an issue for West Lawrence water customers

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Clarence Hamm doesn't care what's causing tap water at his eastern Franklin County home to smell and taste foul. He just wants it corrected.

Hamm, who lives a mile from the Lawrence County line on 724, is among a sizable number of Franklin County residents who purchase their water from West Lawrence Water Co-op, located in Mt. Hope. The West Lawrence cooperative purchases water from four systems: Moulton Water Works, West Morgan-East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority, Courtland Utilities and

Russellville Water and Sewer Board. The Russellville Water and Sewer Board sells water to West Lawrence Co-op through two metered sites, one on Highway 56 and one on 48. Water sold by Russellville Water and Sewer Board to West Lawrence is not the subject of customer complaints about smell or taste.

Hamm and other residents on 724 use water purchased by West Lawrence from Moulton Water Works. Taste and odor issues have been an issue with Moulton's water supply, and West Lawrence buys around 30 million gallons each month from Moulton Water Works.

Moulton officials have been dealing with concerns about the taste and

See 'WATER,' Page 9

## The Jameson

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**Elbert Allen Turner, 83, of Hickory Flat, Miss., passed away August 2. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.**

**James Robert Sterling, 88, of Muscle Shoals, passed away August 3. A private family service will take place at a later date.**

**Jimmy W. O’Kelley, 61, of Phil Campbell, passed away August 3. Pinkard assisted the family.**

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# Martinez named to ALLA 'Roll of Honor'

John Pilati  
Franklin FreePress

It's always a good thing to be named to the Honor Roll.



COURTESY PHOTO

And that's true with the Alabama Library Association (ALLA), which named Russellville Public Library Assistant Librarian Perla Martinez to the ALLA's 2022 Library Roll of Honor.

Martinez was among six recipients of the award, which recognizes significant contributions to librarianship in Alabama. The awards are presented each year at ALLA's Annual Convention, held last week in Montgomery.

Martinez served as Interim Library Director earlier this year after former Library Director Ashley Cummins relocated to

Montana. Martinez has been an important fixture in the Russellville Public Library the past five years, and she is 'invaluable' to new Library Director Joshlyn Bowen. "She works so well with our patrons and they love her," Bowen said of Martinez. "She's like family to so many of them. Perla does all our cataloging that goes into the system and she handles our IT issues and helps patrons if they need assistance using our computers.

"I don't know what I'd do without her. She's been such a help to me during my transition into this position. I'd be lost without her," Bowen added.

Martinez, who is bilingual in Spanish and English, was nominated for her continued contributions toward library services for the traditionally underserved populations in Alabama, including Russellville's sizable Hispanic population.

Russellville Mayor David Grissom said Martinez is a dedicated employee who embraces serving the public.

"We congratulate Perla for being named to the 2022 Alabama Library Association's Roll of Honor. She is someone who puts the needs of the public first and what she does for our city on a daily basis is recognized and appreciated," Grissom said.

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## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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AN APPLICATION AND JOB DESCRIPTION MAY BE PICKED UP, FAXED OR EMAILED UPON REQUEST FROM THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSION OFFICE, LOCATED AT 405 JACKSON AVENUE, MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM OR APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.FRANKLINCOUNTYAL.ORG](http://WWW.FRANKLINCOUNTYAL.ORG) UNDER THE CAREER TAB.

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# FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSION

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Barry Moore, Chairman  
Chris Wallace, District I  
Jason Miller, District II  
Joseph Baldwin, District III  
David Hester, District IV  
Leah Mansell, Administrator

July 28, 2022

RE: Franklin County Land Management Facility Expansion

To Whom It May Concern,

Under Section 22-27-48.1 of the Code of Alabama, solid waste management facilities that are seeking to make modifications to their ADEM Solid Waste Disposal Facility (SWDF) Permit, are required to obtain local host government approval. Franklin County Land Management, Inc. (Facility), is proposing to apply for a major permit modifications to their ADEM SWDF Permit No. 30-04. This permit modification will allow for the landfill to expand from an industrial landfill to a municipal solid waste landfill. A copy of this code section explaining the process has been enclosed for your information.

If you would like to review copies of the local solid waste management plan and application, you may contact Franklin County Administrator Leah Mansell at (256)332-8850 or visit the Franklin County Commission Office at 405 Jackson Avenue North, Russellville, AL 35653. You may submit written concerns to the Franklin County Commission to P.O. Box 1028, Russellville, AL 35653.

Sincerely,

Franklin County Commission

## **Section 22-27-48.1**

### **Approval process by local governing body for siting of new solid waste management facility.**

(a) This section applies to the siting of any new solid waste management facility, as defined in Section 22-27-2.

(b) The governing body of a county or municipality shall make a discretionary decision to approve or disapprove the siting of a new solid waste management facility in accordance with this section.

(c) Any person or entity seeking approval from the governing body of a county or municipality for the siting of a new solid waste management facility shall also submit to the governing body as part of its application, the application fee required under subsection (d) of Section 22-27-48 and all of the following (1) A written document addressing each of the criteria described in subsection (c) of Section 22-27-48.

(2) The applicant's experience of owning or operating other solid waste facilities.

(3) Information relating to the applicant's financial resources, including, but not limited to, any investors or corporate affiliates of the applicant.

(4) Any pending and past civil or criminal actions taken by a governmental entity against the applicant or its owners or operators, investors, or affiliates.

(5) Any other information the applicant deems relevant or that may assist the governing body in making a decision whether to approve or disapprove the application.

(d) After an applicant has submitted a complete application, including the items required in subsection (c), to the governing body of a county or municipality in which the proposed facility is to be located, the local governing body shall formally receive the application at its next regularly scheduled meeting. At this time, the public comment period begins.

(e)(1) Not more than 10 days after the formal receipt of an application, the local governing body, at the expense of the applicant, shall provide the following notice that an application for local approval of a new solid waste management facility has been received:

a. Notice to each owner whose property is adjacent to a proposed site, sent by certified mail.

b. Notice to the general public provided by all of the following means:

1. Publishing a notice in a newspaper having general circulation, if one exists, within the affected community one day per week for a two-week period.
2. Broadcasting public service announcements submitted to a radio station that has general broadcast coverage within the affected community.
3. Displaying a notice on the local governing body's website, if available.

(2) Any printed notice by letter, newspaper, or electronically on a website, shall contain at a minimum the following:

a. A description of the application and approval process as provided in this chapter.

b. A description of the criteria the governing body will consider, as provided in subsection (c) of Section 22-27-48, in determining whether to approve or disapprove the site.

c. A contact person from whom interested persons can obtain additional information and can review copies of both the local solid waste management plan and the application.

d. A description of the location where interested persons can obtain or can review copies of both the local solid waste management plan and the application, and the time frame for public hearings and involvement.

e. A description of how the public may submit written comments to the governing body.

(f)(1) Not more than 45 days after the local governing body formally receives an application, the applicant shall conduct a public awareness session in the county or municipality in which the proposed facility is to be located, during which the applicant shall provide general information on the design and operation of the proposed facility and address questions and concerns voiced by members of the affected community. The time, date, and location of the public awareness session must be approved by the local governing body. The applicant, at its own expense, shall provide notice of the public awareness session by both printed and broadcast media beginning at least 30 days prior to the session. Printed notification shall include publication in at least one newspaper having general circulation within the affected community one day per week for a two-week period. Broadcast notification shall include public service announcements on a radio station that has general broadcast coverage within the affected community. At least one representative of the local governing body shall attend each public awareness session. If any written comment or question germane to the proposed application is submitted to the applicant at the public awareness session, the applicant shall respond if practicable, in writing within 14 days to the member of the public with a copy provided to the local governing body.

(2) The applicant is solely responsible for carrying out the requirements of subdivision (1). A public awareness session is independent of and separate from a public hearing.

(g) Not more than 45 days after the date of the public awareness session, the local governing body shall hold at least one public hearing. Notice of the time and place of any public hearing shall be given by publication in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the affected community at least 30 days, but not more than 45 days, prior to the proposed date of the hearing. Content of the notice shall be consistent with the notice requirements in subsection (e). All pertinent documents shall be available for inspection during normal business hours at a location readily accessible to the public. The public may submit written comments to the local governing body at any time up to the conclusion of the last public hearing.

(h) The local governing body shall have 30 days after the public hearing to complete its review of the local solid waste management plan and, giving consideration to the criteria provided in subsection (c) of Section 22-27-48, to public input, and to other information gathered from the applicant pursuant to subsection (c), shall make a decision to approve or disapprove the siting of a new solid waste management facility. If disapproved by the governing body, the applicant may submit a new application under subsection (c).

(i) After the local governing body has granted approval of the application, the applicant shall petition the appropriate circuit court pursuant to Rule 57 of the Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure for a determination of each of the following:

(1) Whether the local governing body complied with the public comment requirements and time frames required under this section.

(2) Whether the local governing body's approval of the application is consistent with the local solid waste management plan in place pursuant to Section 22-27-47.

(3) Whether the local governing body considered the criteria provided in subsection (c) of Section 22-27-48 as presented to the body by the applicant in its application pursuant to subdivision (c)(1).

(j) The applicant shall bear all court costs, and his or her own legal expenses, relating to the filing of the petition under subsection (i).

(k) Unless the court with which a petition is filed needs additional information from the local governing body, the court shall issue a ruling not more than 60 days after the initial petition is filed; provided, however, the court may extend this date not more than 30 additional days if the court seeks additional information from the governing body.

(l) If the circuit court issues a declaratory judgment determining that the local governing body met the criteria set out in subsection (i), the applicant may seek approval by other regulatory authorities as required by law. If the circuit court issues a declaratory judgment determining that the criteria set out in subsection (i) has not been met, the matter shall be remanded to the local governing body for further consideration consistent with the requirements of this section. The local governing body or applicant shall be afforded the opportunity to mitigate any discrepancies the court finds, provided the period during which the governing body or applicant must respond may not extend more than 90 days.

(m) This section shall not apply to industrial facilities receiving wastes generated on site only or by the permittee.

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# What's Happening

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**H**omecoming at Jonesboro Baptist Church. Sunday, August 14, 2022. Worship Service 11 a.m. Cowboy Church of Franklin County Chuck Wagon Team will be preparing lunch immediately after the worship service. There will be a special Singing at 1:30 p.m., with music from the Followers. Pastor Kent Walker and Congregation welcome everyone.

**T**he Kinard and McLemore Family Reunion will be held the second Saturday in September. This year's date is September 10, 2022, at the Spruce Pine Community Center. Everyone is welcome and please bring a covered dish.

**A**merican legion Post 64 will hold its August meeting on August 11, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., at north Highlands Church of Christ in Russellville.

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# RHS alum teaching new journalism, digital marketing course

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

For many high school students, writing is a lost art.

So much of today's communication is through text messaging, which consists of abbreviated words, acronyms and sentence fragments. Many young people have never written a letter by hand.

Strong writing skills are critical, both professionally and academically, in order to be prepared for life after high school.

Russellville City Schools will offer a new class for high school students this fall, Sports and Entertainment Marketing, and it will be taught by Kellie Singleton, a 2005 Russellville High School graduate who worked as a journalist for more than five years.

Singleton will incorporate writing skills and her professional journalism experience into the class, along with teaching students how to do interviews and promoting, all as part of effective digital marketing.

And they'll have Russellville High School athletics and extracurricular activities to promote as they navigate their way through the school year.

Singleton recently moved back to Russellville with her husband David and their young son, after living in Birmingham for four years. David is pharmacy manager at the Walmart Neighborhood Market Pharmacy in Florence.

She has served as Russellville City Schools' Media Information Specialist for six years, something she will continue as part of her new job at RHS.

"This is the first time we've had a journalism and marketing class at Russellville," Singleton said. "It's brand new and we'll build the program up as we go along."

Singleton's students will learn to write in a concise, coherent manner, something college professors expect to see. Regardless of a graduate's chosen major in college, professors expect a higher level of writing than many are able to produce.

And that's exactly what Singleton was hired to do—improve the writing skills of her students through the study of digital marketing and journalism.

"Even if you don't plan to go into marketing or digital media or journalism, there are so many applicable skills that apply to any discipline, profession or career," Singleton said. "Those include communication skills and marketing. You need to realize you're constantly marketing yourself in business. Even when you think you're not, you are. The way you present yourself matters, and that includes your ability to communicate through writing.

"Learning how to articulate yourself, talk with people one-on-one and learning integrity, good character and good reputation. Those transcend journalism and marketing. Those are life skills we all need to learn," she added.

Singleton graduated from the University of North Alabama in 2009, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Professional Writing, with a Minor in Journalism.

She worked in Franklin County District Attorney Joey Rushing's office for a year after college, during her *I think I want to be a lawyer* phase.

"I read a lot of John Grisham and thought it sounded exciting. I soon realized it's not like in his books. I've loved writing since I was young. I had teachers like Donna Keeton and Deborah Nale who really encouraged my writing," Singleton said.

So her career moved in that direction, and Singleton was hired by the *Franklin County Times* in 2010. She later took a job covering the Franklin County beat for the *Times Daily*, where she stayed until December 2015.

Singleton became pregnant with her son Harrison and decided to be a stay-at-home mom, which she's done the last six years.

When RCS Superintendent of Education Heath Grimes spoke to Singleton about starting a journalism and digital marketing class, she knew that was an opportunity to pursue.

"It's just been awesome to bring a new program to students and for me to have a full-time job at my alma mater. I'm thrilled," Singleton said. "I love Russellville and it's been great to promote Russellville City Schools the last six years. I'll continue to do that and share the things I've learned with my students."

Singleton's class was established this summer, after the previous school year ended, so there was no opportunity for students to sign up for her class before they got out of school for the summer.

Singleton said students/parents should contact Jeremie Kinney, RHS guidance counselor, if they are interested in enrolling into her fall course.

Next semester, Singleton will teach a class in digital marketing. Grimes said he's thrilled to see the system offer these classes for the first time.

"Mrs. Singleton will teach journalism and do some digital marketing classes as well," Grimes said. "We hope to develop some student internships associated with her courses as well. She's done a great job as Media Information Specialist and we're excited to have her back in Russellville."



COURTESY PHOTO

David,, Harrison and Kellie Singleton



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# FCCDC awards grants to local state tournament teams

John Pilat  
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Community Development Commission met June 24, 2022, and approved a number of grants to local schools and non-profit agencies.

The commission, which includes Brad Bolton, Jeremy Campbell, Chris Wallace and Charlene Fancher, meets quarterly to review grant applications. The next meeting of the commission will be August 26, 2022, at 8:30 a.m., at the Red Bay City Hall.

Any grant request for that meeting must be received by a member of the commission on or before August 19, 2022, at noon.

With the most recent grants, more than \$2.363 million has been returned to Franklin County since the inception of the funding. The funds come from in lieu of tax payments from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The Franklin County Legislative delegation, Sen. Larry Stutts, Rep. Proncey Robertson and Rep. Jamie Kiel, each make an appointment to the commission to represent them.

Grant awards for the June 24th meeting included:

- \$500 to Russellville High School Girls Tennis for State Tournament expenses.
- \$500 to RHS Boys Tennis for State Tournament expenses.
- \$500 to RHS Boys Baseball for State Tournament expenses.
- \$500 to RHS Boys Soccer for State Tournament expenses.
- \$6,000 transfer to Future Economic Development Fund.
- \$2,500 to Russellville Middle School for replacement of helmets and shoulder pads.
- \$2,500 to RHS for update and replacement of equipment in weight room facility.

- \$1,500 to Vina High School for purchase of automated external defibrillator.
- \$1,000 to Phil Campbell Elementary School for purchase of classroom chairs.
- \$1,535 to Franklin County Archives for repair/maintenance to heating and HVAC system.
- \$500 to Phil Campbell High School volleyball for winch replacement, new volleyballs and other equipment.
- \$1,500 to Vina High School for track repair and equipment.
- \$2,500 to Red Bay High School for purchase of sound system for football field pressbox.
- \$800 to Tharptown Elementary EL Program for purchase of materials and tools.
- \$800 to RMS for EL Learners math and English classroom purchase of dry erase board, tv and mount.
- \$1,500 to Phil Campbell High School for purchase of automated external defibrillator.
- \$250 to Belgreen High School for Cheerleading Camp.
- \$250 to Tharptown Elementary School for Wildcat Cares Program.
- \$2,000 to Red Bay Police Department for purchase of 7 bullet proof vests.
- \$500 to Distinguished Young Women of NW Alabama for funding for scholarship program.
- \$500 to Town of Phil Campbell Rescue Squad for general operations and upkeep.
- \$5,000 to Red Bay Water & Gas Board for implementation of water extension project (former request with counter approval).

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## 'WATER,' from page 1

odor of water from the Sinking Creek Reservoir, the city's primary water source, since last year.

Although Moulton Water Works officials have given assurances the water is safe to drink, the unpleasant smell and taste leave residents like Hamm skeptical at best.

"This has been going on for a year now. We can't drink our water. Even if you bathe in it, it stinks," Hamm said. "We've having to pay a water bill when we can't even use it other than to wash in. We have to buy gallons of water from the store and I'm spending in a month what I pay for my water bill, which is around \$60."

Hamm said he has concerns about his family drinking or cooking with the water.

"Sometimes, it's brownish in color, but it always taste and smells funky," Hamm said. "I've been living here around six or seven years, but this has only been a problem a year or so.

"There are people on Facebook talking about eating at Moulton restaurants and they couldn't drink tea or coffee because the water is so nasty. I've tried calling (Moulton Water Works) myself and they only have excuses that they're working on it. It doesn't take a year to get something done on this. I want to get to the bottom of it. Either knock something off our water bill or get it fixed," he added.

Kevin Martin, General Manager of West Lawrence Water Co-op, said his system has nothing to do with the water treatment process. But Hamm said when he contacted Moulton Water Works officials, they won't give him any answers because he's not a customer of theirs.

Martin, who also receives water from Moulton at his home, acknowledged the problem with its smell and taste, but said that has improved recently after Moulton Water Works began treating the water with copper sulfate.

"It was terrible two months ago but seems to be improved now," Martin said. "But I couldn't even drink it at one time, but it's definitely improved. We were getting calls right and left but it's gotten better."

A Consumer Confidence Report, or CCR, for West Lawrence Water Co-op is available to view and download at . Click on the Water Quality Report link on the left side for the most recent CCR.

Moulton city officials have stressed that the water is safe for drinking and there is nothing dangerous about it. They attribute the problem to algal blooms and cell breakdowns as a result of 'lake turnover.'

For many lakes deeper than 20 feet, there are thermally stratified layers of water that form in summer months. These layers prevent the lake from mixing and aerating. As a result, warmer and less dense water floats on top of cooler, denser water at the bottom.

This warmer water can contain algal blooms that can cause an 'earthy' taste and smell.

In the case of Moulton's water, officials began treating the water with hydrogen peroxide. And they began adding copper sulfate to the lake in May. Additionally, the city will have a team of Auburn University scientists test water samples over a four-month period.

Meanwhile, Moulton officials recommend refrigerating tap water in a pitcher overnight or boiling it before drinking and/or adding lemon to mask the smell.

Hamm says he's tried those ideas, and the result? It still stinks.

"Honestly, we're really scared to drink it. I don't know what's in it. Every time I call up there they say they're working on it and they're sorry, but their water is that way, too," Hamm said.

*Update: When contacted by the FFP on August 5, 2022, Hamm said the quality and taste of his water had 'dramatically' improved in recent days.*



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## 'LANDFILL,' from page 1

Ward won't be involved in the decision-making process.

"If (Probate) Judge (Barry) Moore, or the county commission or any member of the public asks for information about the Franklin County Landfill, I do my best to answer their questions," Ward said. "But I don't have anything to do with any of that application process."

Ward visited last week with the FFP to answer questions about the Franklin County Landfill, in particular the county's transfer station. Municipal solid waste is transported to the county landfill where it is temporarily stored in large trailers in the transfer station. Those trailers are hauled daily to Morris Farms Landfill in Hillsboro, where the garbage is deposited.

Franklin County charges \$39/ton for household waste delivered to its transfer station. The county is charged \$30.48/ton taken to Hillsboro to be deposited in a MSW-approved landfill.

With a myriad of costs, including labor, backhoe maintenance, fuel and upkeep on equipment, etc., Ward described the county's transfer station as 'about a break-even situation.'

Ward said each trailer holds 82,500 pounds of MSW, and most days four trailers are taken from the Franklin County Landfill to Hillsboro. That's approximately 330,000 pounds of garbage each day.

Morris Farms contracts with MBI Trucking of Huntsville, which employs the drivers who tarp the trailers and haul the garbage to Lawrence County.

Most landfills aren't permitted to collect MSW, and the majority don't have transfer stations that allow for temporary storage of household waste pending transport.

Franklin County's transfer station services residents in Franklin County, the Cities of Russellville, Red Bay, Phil Campbell, Hackleburg, Marion County's Solid Waste Department, and large businesses/industries including Pilgrim's, Love's and Gates and Sunshine Mills in Red Bay.

While there's already a mountain of MSW coming through the Franklin County Landfill, some residents are concerned about the environmental impacts of allowing Hargett's landfill, located on Welch Cemetery Road south of Alabama 24 West, to permanently accept municipal solid, household and industrial waste.

ADEM requires landfills collecting municipal solid waste to meet a litany of engineering requirements, groundwater testing and monitoring and installation of a liner to collect leachate, one of the biggest concerns from landfill opponents.

Leachate is water that has percolated through a landfill and extracts and deposits potentially environmentally harmful substances in the process. If leachate seeps into the ground below the buried waste, it can have devastating environmental effects.

Ward said ADEM's leachate protection requirements are extensive.

"First there's a clay liner, then a polymer that's installed on top of that. Nothing will get out if the pit's properly installed," Ward said.

Proponents of Franklin Land Management's application point out the extensive, state-of-the-art engineering and environmental designs that must be implemented, along with site investigations and construction quality control to avoid leachate leakage or excessive methane emissions.

The latter is an issue Ward is currently dealing with at the Franklin County Landfill.

With 22-26 acres of buried garbage from the days when the county landfill received MSW with few of today's environmental requirements, there are 15 vent pipes that monitor methane emissions in a 10-foot trench around the old site.

ADEM officials regularly monitor those vents to determine the level of methane emission. Methane is generated as organic waste decomposes. Excessive methane releases are particularly damaging to the environment.

Two of the county landfills monitoring wells produced methane concentrations beyond the allowable limits when tested last December.

Once county officials were notified of the results, they were required to submit to ADEM a remedial plan to return to compliance.

The county hired Southern Environmental Engineering, Inc., to prepare a remedial action plan to remedy the excessive methane levels at the two wells.

That plan includes installation of a vacuum pump system attached to the existing gas collection trench.

"We have a timetable and expect the plan to be complete this month," Ward said. "The new vacuum pump system will pull out the methane. These vent pipes are regularly tested, as are the groundwater test sites throughout the landfill."

A report from ADEM's Compliance and Enforcement Section, Solid Waste Branch, dated December 22, 2021, indicated that a ventilation trench was "previously installed near gas monitoring wells MP-22 and MP-23 as a corrective action for previous (methane) exceedances."

The report directed the county to "evaluate" its previous corrective measures and propose a revised remedial action to address the most recent exceedances of methane.

That plan was completed by Southern Environmental Engineering and Ward said they will complete the remedial measures once they receive approval from ADEM.



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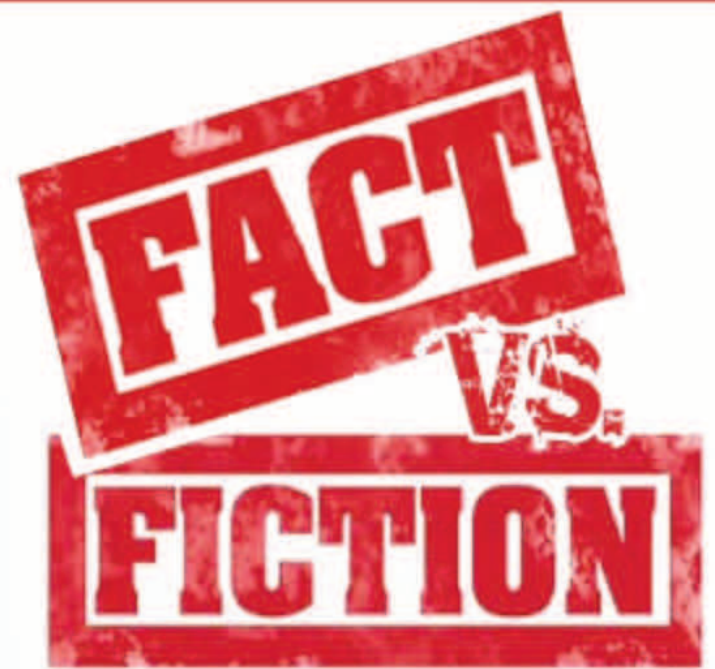
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**FACT:** ADEM will not grant FCLM's permit until EXTENSIVE site investigations and engineering evaluations are completed. If approved, the permit also requires continuous environmental monitoring and regular ADEM inspections.

**FACT:** Municipal solid waste landfills must have state-of-the-art containment systems that control water and air emissions. Modern MSW landfills are engineered and designed to protect human health and our environment.

**FACT:** A modern state-of-the-art landfill is a benefit to existing industries and those considering locating in Franklin County.

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## New faces, new leaders must emerge to continue Wildcats' volleyball success

Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press

As the days wind down until the start of Tharptown High School's volleyball season, Coach Kamri Fleming said it's getting difficult to contain her excitement.

The excitement felt by Fleming comes with some high expectations for her program. Fleming has led the Wildcat volleyball program for three years, and her team has won at least 14 games two of the past three seasons.

The Wildcats underwent some attrition after last season, losing a large senior class including Jaiden Gaston, who signed a volleyball scholarship with Pearl River Community College in Mississippi. Most of those seniors started, so this year's team will be talented, but inexperienced.

"We have one true starter returning this year and that is Karrah Nichols, who is in the eighth grade," Fleming said. "In the beginning, it's going to be shaky because we have kids learning positions they've never played before."

Fleming said the team's success this year will also depend on whether her team leaders live up to the challenge throughout the season.

"We're not going to have any standout players, but we'll work as a team to be successful. We have some ninth graders who have blossomed and have blown me away with how well they've improved," Fleming said.

One of those freshmen, Alyssa Fischer, will be the starting center for the Wildcats. This year's roster includes Malia McCullar, Kyndall Morgan, Amerie Villalobos, Angie Chavez, Destin Martin, Alyssa Dalrymple, Grace Beard and Nalleli Guzman, as listed on .

Fleming appreciates the support her program has received the past three seasons, and she hopes this year's team will enjoy that same level.

"Our community has really turned out the last three years. It wasn't as supportive when I was in school but now it has flipped and we have a great crowd every home game," Fleming said.

## Brown, Langston to build programs with local talent

Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press

When Beville State Community College reinstated athletics in 2016, school administrators didn't have to look far to find a new softball coach.

They turned to Angel Brown, a Beville State graduate and former softball player, to jump start the program.

And that's exactly what Brown will do as Northwest-Shoals Community College's new softball coach. Ditto for baseball coach David Langston, who served as the Patriots' head baseball coach for 10 years. Langston played on the school's first baseball team, in 1993, and returned to coach from 2001-2011.

As they build their respective programs, each coach will rely on contributions from locally-recruited athletes, the lifeblood of community college campuses.

"We certainly want players from around here, but we also want a mix," Langston said. "At the end of the day, we're going to get the best players for our program."

The Patriots' softball roster includes Taylor Cameron (Tharptown High School), Jade Roberson (Phil Campbell High School) and Madison Vandiver (Belgreen High School).

"Of our 19 girls here for the upcoming season, only three of those are having to relocate to the area," Brown said.

Langston's roster will also include a number of players from Franklin County who have already verbally committed to NW-SCC for next season.

The return of athletics at NW-SCC was announced last year. Brown and Langston were introduced as new head coaches in March. As they worked hastily to build rosters for the 2022-23 season, NW-SCC officials began a major upgrade in their athletic facilities, starting with the baseball and softball fields on the Shoals campus.

"The lengthy part is completed," Langston said. "They've prepped the (baseball) field and installed a drainage system on both fields. The turf is currently being laid on both fields now."

Weather permitting, both fields should be finished within the next month, the coaches said.

Both NW-SCC's baseball and softball programs will play exhibition games this fall. And the slate of opponents the Patriots will face includes four-year universities, like the University of North Alabama and Mississippi State University.

"It's a great experience for the players to see those campuses and have the opportunity to meet other coaches, and a great way for us to get a look at all our players," Brown said.

Brown most recently served on the coaching



COURTESY PHOTO

staff of the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She also was an assistant at West Alabama University. She has worked extensively coaching travel softball organizations in the Birmingham area.

"Being selected as the head softball coach for the Patriots is an answered prayer that allows me to continue to positively impact the lives of young athletes through servant leadership," Brown said at a press conference introducing her as coach.

Langston has more than a quarter century of coaching experience, most recently as part of Chris Heaps' staff at Russellville High School. In his previous 10 seasons as NW-SCC baseball coach, Langston's teams posted a record of 327-160, including five Alabama Community College Conference championships.

More than 70 of his NW-SCC players signed baseball scholarships to four-year colleges. Langston described his return to NW-SCC as an emotional experience.

"Being a player on the first team in 1993 and coaching here from 2001-2011, it makes Northwest-Shoals feel like home," Langston said. "I know the positive impact this baseball program had on me and many other players over the years."

"I look forward to recruiting some of the top athletes from this area and representing NW-SCC on and off the field," Langston said when he was hired.

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# There's no place like home: Anthony commits to NW-SCC

Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press

Phil Campbell High School senior Bryant Anthony decided five years ago he wanted to play college baseball. But he never thought it would be at Northwest-Shoals Community College.

And there was good reason for that, since the school disbanded its athletic program after the 2011 season.

When NW-SCC officials announced the reinstatement of baseball and softball beginning with the 2022-23 school year, that gave Anthony the opportunity to continue his education, and his baseball career, close to home.

Anthony announced last week he has verbally committed to Coach David Langston's program. He will enroll in the fall of 2023 at NW-SCC.

"I've played baseball since I learned to walk," Anthony said. "Once I made it to seventh grade, I realized I wanted to play college baseball. And with (NW-SCC) just 30 minutes away from my hometown, that is a big plus. Having my school paid for and getting to play baseball at the next level is just a dream come true."

Anthony, who plays catcher for the Bobcats, was impressed by how much Langston has done with a new program, and he wanted to be part of what is being built at Northwest-Shoals.

"Coach Langston has done an amazing job in getting the program back up and running, and the facilities are going to be amazing. To be a part of the first group that will be able to do something with those facilities is pretty special," Anthony said.

Anthony posted an impressive .345 batting average last season, with an on-base percentage of .554, which means more than half of Anthony's at-bats end up with him reaching base.

He finished the 2022 season with 37 hits (including two home runs), 18 runs batted in, 55 runs scored and he drew an impressive total of 45 walks. Anthony will be counted on to be a senior leader for Coach Jonathan Raper's Bobcats next spring.

Anthony will join a list of at least 10 Franklin County and/or Russellville City Schools students who have verbally committed to the Patriots.

"I'm really excited and one of the main reasons I committed early was to take some of that pressure off for my senior year," Anthony said. "This is something I've worked for since I was in seventh grade and to have already committed going into my senior season, that allows me to focus on other things."

After he received the offer to play for NW-SCC, Anthony celebrated by taking batting practice that evening with his teammate, Bryant Hyde.

"I truly think that was the best round of batting practice I've ever taken in my entire life. It was just like a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders," Anthony said.



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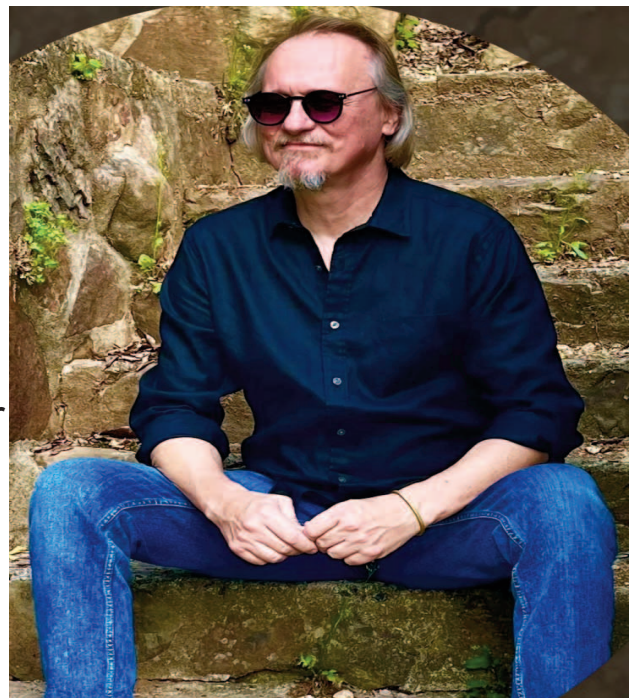
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# Kelly, The Burnells set for Thursday album release event in Muscle Shoals

John Pilati  
Franklin Free  
Press



One of Russellville High School's talented alums is coming home, if only for a night of music.

Mark Kelly, RHS Class of 1980, and his six-member band *The Burnells* will host an album release party Thursday, August 11 at Champy's Restaurant in Muscle Shoals.

The band finished its second album, *Turn to Now*, earlier this year. The album was recorded at Muscle Shoals' Wishbone Studios, with the legendary Billy Lawson producing it. Other musical heavyweights who contributed include Spooner Oldham, Travis Wammack and accomplished horn player Brad Guin.

Jamie Copeland, RHS Class of 1981, also contributed to the recent album and will be a guest keyboardist at Thursday's show.

Champy's is located at 120 Second Street in Muscle Shoals.

For more information on the Burnells, visit [www.theburnellsmusic.com](http://www.theburnellsmusic.com).

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Know what's below. **811** 811 Before you dig.



# The Franklin County Commission Wants Us to be the South's Garbage Dump!



**Tax Revenue For Trashing Our County Is Leadership Failure  
Municipal, Household & Industrial Wastes are NOT Economic Development  
County Residents Didn't Vote For This Commissioners!  
Stop Them and Neal Hargett's Landfill Expansion**

Ask yourself and the County Commission these 10 Questions:

Where are the detailed environmental, health and safety impact studies for all to see?  
Shouldn't the Commission and County Voters see that before the Commission votes?  
Why isn't the Commission building a county controlled Franklin-County-Only Landfill?  
Where's the Commission's own independent engineering firm and financial model?  
Why is the Commission only considering the sole Neal Hargett proposal?  
Doesn't the law require such a huge project to be competitively bid?  
Are the special agreements implied between Hargett and the Commission legal?  
The Commission & Hargett worked this 2 years but the voters get 90 days. Why?  
Shouldn't a life altering decision like this be on a ballot for all the voters to decide?  
Where was this project on the County's 5 year Strategic Plan? (They don't have one.)

The Commission isn't doing its homework, providing full disclosure or giving County Voters the information or time to seriously consider this disastrous landfill expansion. What's the rush? There is no immediate threat or need to how the county trash is handled now. This smells as bad as the expanded landfill will.

Write, call and see your County Commissioners. Tell them to do their job and stop the Hargett Landfill Expansion before it destroys Franklin County forever. Our quality and way of life depend on it.

Join our Facebook Group Page: [SAVE FRANKLIN COUNTY ALABAMA, Stop Hargett's Landfill Expansion.](#)  
**Paid for by Very Concerned Citizens of Franklin County.**