

CAROL MURPHREE

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

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

Public hearing on landfill expansion set for September 22nd

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

The Franklin County Commission has set the date for a public hearing to receive citizen input on Franklin County Land Management's application to modify its permit to collect municipal solid waste.

The public hearing will be Thursday, September 22, from 5-9 p.m., at the A.W. Todd Centre in downtown Russellville. All citizens are welcome to attend. The commission unanimously approved that place and time at its August 15, 2022, business meeting.

Citizens who wish to address the commission at the September 22 meeting will be allowed five minutes each, and they must sign up to be placed on the agenda by emailing their request to Franklin County Administrator Leah Mansell at , by 4:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 21.

Speakers will be scheduled on a 'first come, first serve' basis. Email requests should include the person's name and whether they plan to speak for or against the application.

Neil and Diane Hargett are the owners of FCLM, which operates a

See 'LANDFILL,' Page 5

The Jameson

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Goodwin tabbed for central office administrative assistant position

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

When Jason Goodwin was hired as Russellville High School principal in 2016, he followed Tim Guinn into that position.

Six years later, as Goodwin again succeeds Guinn, this time as Russellville City Schools' Administrative Assistant 'A,' Superintendent Heath Grimes hopes the results will be just as they were the first time.

The Russellville City Board of Education approved Grimes' recommendation to promote Goodwin at a special meeting held August 9.

Goodwin will start his new job as

Administrative Assistant 'A' on September 1, 2022. It's a position (Assistant Superintendent) vacated by Guinn when he left earlier this year to become Superintendent of Satsuma City Schools.

Goodwin was selected from three applicants (two in-system employees and one out-of-system applicant). The newly-created vacancy in the RHS principal position will be posted for 14 days, beginning August 9.

Goodwin was hired as RHS Assistant Principal in 2015. After a year serving under then-RHS Principal Guinn, Goodwin was promoted six years ago. During that time, the system has received state recognition for academic growth,

See 'GOODWIN,' Page 5

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Betty Stringfellow, 88, of Haleyville passed away Tuesday August 9th. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

Jewell Quinn, age 99 of Haleyville passed away Tuesday August 9th. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net! Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoon panels, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.



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I am going to do some bragging on my son Zack this week.

For those of you who went to Phil Campbell Bobcat varsity football games last season, new things were happening.

A new voice was heard and music was being played over the loud speaker. It caught the attention of the players immediately. The Bobcat team looked up in the sky and at each other. Finally, they turned toward the press box with big smiles on their faces and gave a thumbs up!

The fans in the bleachers had a mixture of smiles and perplexed expressions on their faces.

Zack's idea was in action. The end results were unsure, but it was too late to turn back now. The end of the game would tell all.

He has already been asked by coaches, players and fans if he would be back this year. It's one thing to do something you enjoy, but an even higher sense of joy to make others happy.

When he first told me about the idea of playing music, I was torn between excited and skeptical. I didn't know how it would go because most people dislike change. Determined to take the chance, he began his song selection. I had never considered how time-consuming a task it would entail.

He wanted to select songs for the players, the young and older fans, so that was the beginning of his idea in motion. He listened closely to each song to omit the songs with profanity. That was a big challenge in itself. Most of the songs have at least one word of profanity in them.

Well, guess what? He missed one word in one song. The good part was he was listening—right? A man went to the press box and told him about the word in the song and kindly asked if he would omit that song from his playlist.

Zack had such respect for the way he handled that situation. I don't know who that man was, but the kindness and respect he showed my son will never be forgotten.



Gail Motes

Another football season is ready to begin. Zack has been working on his playlist. Hopefully, a few more will enjoy the songs and music this year. I don't know half the words, or, even, all the words to some songs he plays, but I enjoy the beat.

A coach from another school was impressed with the music. He wanted Zack to come play music at their home games. It was a compliment to be asked, but no amount of money could take Zack from where his heart is.

His idea started on its way to success last year.

Chances are this year, it will continue to be even more successful.

After all, it won't be an unexpected change.

I did notice a lot of Bobcat fans who had begun singing along to the music, swaying to the rhythm, clapping their hands and enjoying themselves.

Zack's awesomeness inspires me. I'm so proud to be his mother.

Well, I hope to see you at the home games. Away games do their own thing.

You probably won't have a problem finding me. I'll be the one standing longer, smiling bigger, and hollering louder. After all, that is my son! Everyone stay safe!



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The Franklin County Commission is accepting applications for the following position(s):

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Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until 5:00 PM on Friday, August 26, 2022.

An application and job description may be picked up, faxed or emailed upon request from the Franklin County Commission Office, located at 405 N Jackson Avenue, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM or applications are available at under the Careers tab.

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landfill on Welch Cemetery Road near the rock cut on Highway 24 West. FCLM filed its application for modification with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management earlier this year.

In February, commissioners entered into a non-binding letter of intent with FCLM that allowed the application to move forward into the public comment and hearing process.

Debate among opponents and proponents of the landfill expansion has intensified, both on social media and in person.

Opponents cite environmental concerns about allowing household waste to be permanently disposed of in a location near Franklin County's Bear Creek Lakes. Additionally, with Hargett seeking a permit to collect MSW (municipal solid waste) from Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi, they have concerns about the volume of MSW that could end up in Franklin County.

Advocates for the modification cite the significant financial savings that Franklin County and its municipalities would enjoy with a local landfill permitted to accept MSW.

That waste is shipped from a transfer station at the Franklin County Landfill (where it is temporarily stored in 82,500-pound capacity trailers) to Morris Farms Landfill in Hillsboro. That transport cost is incurred by the county and other entities that use the transfer station. And those costs are passed down to the citizens when paying their garbage bills.

Additionally, they maintain that ADEM's strict guidelines for leachate collection and removal provide safeguards that are proven to minimize environmental concerns in modern landfills.

Alabama Code 22-27-48(f) requires the local government, in this case the Franklin County Commission, to hold at least one public hearing, with notice by newspaper given between 30-45 days in advance.

Franklin County resident Scott Mugno, whose wife created a group page for opponents of the modification on social media, urged the commission to schedule multiple hearings to allow every citizen who wants to be heard on the issue to do so.

"We need a second hearing. All of you have had two years to work on this. We get one evening, so why not allow extra time or have a second meeting?," Mugno said. "Nothing prohibits you from having two hearings to allow all the people of Franklin County to be heard. This is a restriction of their freedom of speech if you don't let them speak."

Mugno also requested that citizens who don't have Internet access be able to call the Franklin County Commission Office to request being placed on the agenda by telephone.

Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore said he preferred the email process so there would be documentation that matches up with the agenda for the September 22 meeting.

"If you don't have Internet access, we ask that you contact someone who does to send your request to speak by email," Moore said. "Sending an email provides clear documentation as to who requested to speak and it can be compared to the list of speakers at the public hearing."

Citizens have the right to obtain written information related to FCLM's application and can review copies of the local plan and the proposal under consideration.

This can be done by calling Mansell at 256-332-8850 or by visiting the Franklin County Courthouse Commission Office at 405 Jackson Ave. North.

Citizens wishing to submit written concerns may do so by mailing them to Franklin County Commission, P.O. Box 1028, Russellville, Al., 35653.

If the commission votes to approve FCLM's application, the next step in the process will be with ADEM, which will subsequently approve or deny the application.

Should commissioners vote not to accept the proposal, the application process would end at that time.

Section 22-27-48(f) requires the local governing body to either approve or deny the modification proposal within 90 days of receiving it. Failure to act on a proposal within 90 days of receiving it shall constitute approval by the local governing body, according to Alabama law.

including emphasis on bridging the language gap for many of the Hispanic students who begin school without English proficiency.

"If you look at the accolades Russellville High School has received from around the state, we've been able to accelerate and move forward under Dr. Goodwin's leadership," Grimes said. "He's made some difficult decisions that had to be made that some people didn't always celebrate, and he stands up for what's right for our students. Those things make him not only a good high school principal, but also a good candidate to be Administrative Assistant as well."

Grimes said his preference is for the new RHS principal to be either an in-system promotion or a RHS graduate wanting to return to his or her hometown school.

"It's important to hire Russellville people for the tradition and their understanding and involvement in the community," Grimes said. "We want to let our people know, if you do a good job, we'll have a place for you here. But it's also important not to hire someone just because they're from Russellville."

"If all things are equal, that should be a deciding factor. But we do those individuals, our community and our schools a disservice if that's the determining factor," he added. Goodwin said the opportunity to advance in the school system and community he calls home was like a dream come true.

"When my family moved to Russellville in 2015, we made the commitment that Russellville would be our forever home," Goodwin said. "My children have grown up in this community, started school in this system and know nothing other than black and gold. As a result, I am dedicated to overcoming any challenges that arise in this new position."

Goodwin is a graduate of the University of North Alabama, with a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education/Chemistry. He earned his Master's and Ed.S from UNA, and his Doctorate from the University of West Alabama. He and his wife Cassie have two sons.

The Administrative Assistant 'A' position includes responsibility for several essential roles in the school system, including safety/emergency planning, operations and handling the majority of employee, parental or student disputes or issues.

"It has been a tremendous honor working with such a dedicated staff that cares immensely for our students. The hardest part of my decision was the feeling of leaving the building with the greatest staff and greatest student body in the entire state," Goodwin said.

"Moving forward, I am dedicated to handling various responsibilities as needed with an increased focus on safety, our school information system (PowerSchool) and any other responsibilities where my abilities will benefit Russellville City Schools," he added.

- Other personnel moves approved by the board included:
- Employment in Position: Elisha Myers, Career Coach RHS.
- Resignation in Position: Erika Devaney, EL Aide West Elementary School.
- Temporary Employment in Position: Emitt Green, Nathan Brockway and Elliott Green, part-time student workers for RCS

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

The 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.

The Cowboy Church of Franklin County will hold a Yard Sale on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 7-2 at the church, located at 25100 HWY 24 in Russellville. The sale will take place rain or shine. Proceeds will be used to benefit missions.

You are invited to a free Gospel Concert on Sunday, August 28, at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame, 617 U.S. 72 in Tuscumbia, at 3 p.m., to launch Winning Worship Radio WKAX 1500AM, in celebration with Pastor Moshu T. Knox's birthday. Music, food, vendors and more! Scheduled performers include Keith WonderBoy Johnson, Alphonzo Bowen, Sunday Best Keyla Richardson, Vintage Soul, Canton Jones, Orr Sisters, Paul Porter, and Pastor Shane D. Rainer & Fresh Wind.

You are invited to stop by the Helping Our Pets Everyday (HOPE of Franklin County) booth at this weekend's Franklin County Watermelon Festival. Volunteers will be on hand Friday and Saturday with fresh water for all dogs walking by. They will be collecting donations to be used for veterinary bills for stray and rescue dogs. If you make a donation of \$5 or more, you will be entered into a drawing with a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate from Sweet T's Meat and Greet or a 60-minute massage at Creative Image Salon.

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SPORTS

8.17.22

New faces, new leaders critical for Belgreen VB

*Michael Rice
Franklin Free Press*

Susie Tverberg is looking to build back the Belgreen Bulldogs volleyball team after losing three seniors from last year's 14-14 team.

Gone are Kaley Chandler, Nora Castillo and Madison Vandiver, so the Bulldogs will need new leadership on the court to match or surpass last year's 1A North Regional appearance.

This summer the Bulldogs had a week of practice to help prepare for a plethora of play dates. The team was tasked with finding a new leader to succeed Chandler, who contributed both with her leadership and overall talent on the court.

Tverberg has high hopes for senior Noelle Willingham and her 8th grade sister Lilliana Willingham, who last season showed promising signs of being varsity ready.

Tverberg has noticed how much stronger and faster she's become over one summer.

"Willingham will be a good blocker and will get some kills in this year," Tverberg said.

One freshman who will have a big impact on the team is Carson Hovater.

"Hovater really works hard at what she does. She plays club volleyball and attends lessons on her own time," Tverberg said.

The Bulldog varsity roster also includes Morgan Vandiver, Hannah Borden, Natalie Willingham, Makayla Willingham, Bryn Scott, Isabella Tate and Alayna Tate.

Tverberg is in her fourth season at Belgreen. Although she lost key seniors last year, she has a history of success with the program.

In the last three years, Tverberg's teams have advanced to the regionals every year and to the Sweet 16 one season.

The Bulldogs will look to have repeated success this year starting with their first game against Shoals Christian on Thursday, August 18.

Grissom first test for talented Golden Tigers



*Michael Rice
Franklin Free Press*

PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

The Russellville Golden Tigers have been in full swing all summer and have been preparing for weekly battles on the football field this fall.

"We had a great summer. There was a lot of enthusiasm and great attendance," said RHS football coach John Ritter. "This summer we focused on attention to detail. Our guys rose to the challenge."

The Golden Tigers have a senior class who leads by example. One of those seniors is running back Conner Warhurst. Warhurst is a hard hat guy who is not so much of a vocal leader, but more so leads by his actions.

"Our seniors really hold guys accountable at practice," Ritter said.

The Golden Tigers have a lot of ability to make plays on both sides of the ball and coming up this Friday, the Golden Tigers will have their first test against Grissom High School.

"Grissom is such a similar team as us. They're a 3-4 base and they run the spread," Ritter said. "We'll line up our best against their best and see which Tiger comes out on top."

Instead of Ritter worrying about a week one

Class 7A opponent in Grissom, he's focused on how the Golden Tigers perform each week.

"The biggest challenge is for us every week is how we handle adversity. We're going into this game the same way we go into every week. We are looking to handle any mistakes we make and overcome them," Ritter said.

It doesn't hurt to have a great quarterback to help lead a team and Ritter hopes he has just that in Harrison Burch, a junior transfer from Nolensville High School in Tennessee. Burch will be starting for the Golden Tigers Friday night.

"Burch is a vocal leader. Even though he's a junior, he's done a really good job of finding his niche on this team. Burch is always grabbing people after practice to throw with him. The players are seeing how much work he's put in and that makes everyone want to work harder," Ritter said.

The Golden Tigers face off against the Grissom Tigers Friday, August 19th in Huntsville. You can tune into to WGOL-100.7 FM to hear live play-by-play.

"As long as we focus on Russellville and pay attention to detail, and we minimize mistakes, then the opponent is irrelevant," Ritter said.

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Stockard remembered as golfing legend

Submitted

The golfing community is mourning the loss of one of its own following the passing of long-time golf pro Jud Stockard on Sunday, August 7, 2022.

Stockard, 74, was a golfing legend in this area and respected far and wide for his love of the game, his impressive talent and the many friendships he made during the years he spent as the golf pro at Twin Pines Country Club, where he was one of the founding owners.

Stockard was a PGA Professional and the 1979 State Amateur Golf Champion. He came to love the game of golf at a young age. Stockard was able to play golf at the collegiate level at the University of North Alabama in Florence, where he was named an All-American.

Because of his success during his college years, Stockard had the honor of being the first golfer in UNA history to be inducted into the UNA Athletic Hall of Fame when he was inducted in 1994. He was also inducted into the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

Even though he received many accolades over the years, one of the highlights of Stockard's golfing career was getting to play a round of golf with Jack Nicklaus at Turtle Point Yacht and Country Club. He lost to Nicklaus by just one stroke on the 18th hole that day, and it was one of his fondest memories and something he was always very proud of.

Stockard was a friend to many in this area and he will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him. Russellville City Councilman Darren Woodruff regularly played with Stockard, and described him as 'the best golfer I've ever seen who wasn't on TV.'

"Jud was a dear friend and the heart of Twin Pines Country Club. He will be dearly missed," Woodruff said.

A visitation and memorial service was held for Jud Stockard last Saturday at Greenview Memorial Park and Funeral Home in Florence.



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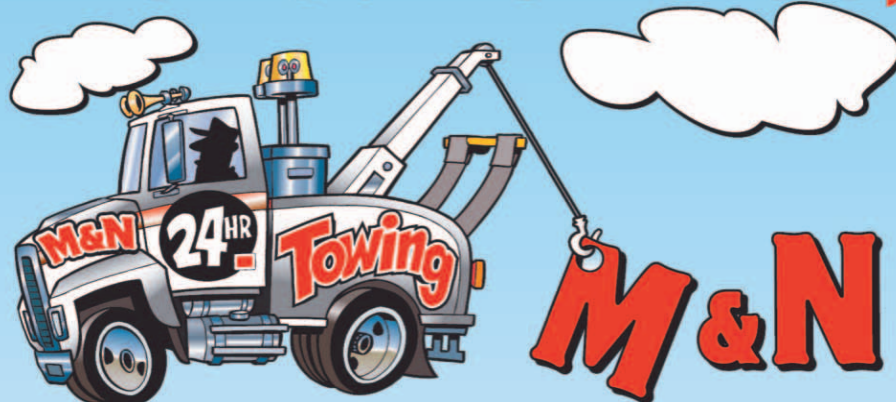
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ress@yahoo.com.

Notice of Public Hearing

Franklin County Land Management Expansion Request

Franklin County Land Management, Inc. (FCLM) submitted an application on July 18, 2022, seeking Local Host Government Approval from the Franklin County Commission so that FCLM can seek a modification to their existing Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Solid Waste Disposal Facility Permit No. 30-04.

Under Section 22-27-48 of the Code of Alabama, solid waste management facilities that are seeking to make certain modifications to their ADEM Solid Waste Disposal Facility Permit, are required to first obtain local host governmental approval.

The primary objectives of the FCLM permit modification are the following:

- 0 Allow for the construction and operation of Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Units as defined by ADEM Admin Code 335-13-1-.03(89).
- 0 Allow for the acceptance and disposal of municipal solid wastes, industrial wastes, construction and demolition debris and other waste types authorized by the ADEM Division 13 regulations for disposal in a municipal solid waste landfill.
- 0 Expansion of the facility's service area to include all cities and counties in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.
- 0 Increase to the facility's maximum average daily volume to 1,000 tons per day.
- 0 Increase the facility's acreage for waste disposal from 45 acres to a maximum of 467 acres.

Franklin County Land Management, Inc. prepared this application to evaluate the compliance of this facility expansion with Alabama Code Title 22 Health, Mental Health, and Environmental Control 22-27-48, as well as Section 9.0 of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management Plan.

The Franklin County Commission has performed a review of the application and has made a preliminary determination that it is relevant and consistent with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management Plan and in compliance with Alabama Code 22-27-48.

Having made these preliminary determinations, the Franklin County Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held on **Thursday, September 22, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the A.W. Todd Centre**, 201 Washington Avenue SW, Russellville, AL 35653. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear and consider public comments about this proposed application. Persons commenting will be allowed 5 minutes to speak. Persons wishing to speak should email Leah Mansell at leah.mansell@fclm.com by 4:30 PM on September 21, 2022 to be added to the agenda. The speakers will be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis.

A copy of this application and the Franklin County Solid Waste Management Plan can be reviewed by contacting Franklin County Administrator Leah Mansell at (256)332-8850 or visit the Franklin County Commission office at 405 Jackson Avenue North, Russellville, AL 35653 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday.

2 LAND AUCTIONS

9:AM Saturday, August 27th

— Osborn Hill Rd., Littleville, Alabama —

22 Acres+/- Partially wooded property
Great property for Building, Recreational, or Investment



Both properties will be selling from the Littleville Location!
Online Bidding is available at www.shanealbright.com

— Located on White Pike, Cherokee, Alabama —

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Sheriff's Sale

By virtue of an execution issued out of the Circuit Court of Franklin County, Alabama, and to me directed whereby I am commanded to make the amount of a certain judgment recently obtained against James T. Mathhues aka Tyler Mathhues in favor of Redstone Federal Credit Union out of the goods, chattels, land and tenements of the said James T. Mathhues aka Tyler Mathhues. I have levied on the following property, to wit:

A parcel of land being a part of the Southeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 18, Township 6 South, Range 10 West, Franklin County, Alabama and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a 4 inch cedar post fence corner locally known and accepted as the Northwest corner of the Southeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 18, Township 6 South, Range 10 West, Franklin County, Alabama; thence along the north line of said Southeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 18 and along a wire fence S88°42'25"E a distance of 905.47 feet to a point on the centerline of an unpaved portion of Stockton Road; thence continue along said north line and wire fence S88°42'25"E a distance of 362.15 feet to a 10 inch wood post fence corner; thence leaving said north line and along a wire fence S02°26'07"W a distance of 708.83 feet to the intersection of said fence and the centerline extension of a gravel driveway; thence leaving said intersection S02°21'17"W a distance of 632.49 feet to a 4 inch cedar post fence corner on the locally known and accepted south line of said Southeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 18; thence along said south line and along a wire fence N88°29'52"W a distance of 301.98 feet to a 6 inch treated wood post fence corner; thence leaving said south line and along a wire fence N00°45'38"W a distance of 128.26 feet to an iron pin set capped "WILLIAM H ALEXANDER III PLS 33944" on said fence being the Point of Beginning; thence leaving said fence N88°39'47"W a distance of 459.95 feet to an iron pin set capped "WILLIAM H ALEXANDER III PLS 33944" on the easterly right of way line of Stockton Road (50' right of way); thence N88°39'47"W a distance of 26.98 feet to a point on the centerline of said road; thence along the centerline of said road N23°05'59"E a distance of 159.20 feet to a point on the centerline of said road; thence continue along said centerline N21°58'56"E a distance of 56.26 feet to a point on the centerline of said road; thence leaving the centerline of said road S65°39'19"E a distance of 25.02 feet to an iron pin set capped "WILLIAM H ALEXANDER III PLS 33944" on the easterly right of way line of said road; thence leaving said right of way S65°39'19"E a distance of 116.28 feet to an iron pin set capped "WILLIAM H ALEXANDER III PLS 33944" on a wire fence; thence along said fence S00°45'38"E a distance of 27.69 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Said parcel of land contains 1.24 acres +/- and is subject to one half the right of way for Stockton Road along the west side thereof; any right of ways, easements or restrictions existing on site.

North Highlands Church of Christ
in partnership with Food Bank of North Alabama

FREE Every 3rd Saturday of each month
Sat., Aug 20th

9:00am-11:00am
North Highlands Church of Christ Fellowship Hall

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat Matthew 25:35"

Together with the appurtenances thereunto belonging.

Therefore, according to said command, I shall expose for sale at public auction, all the right, title and interest of the above named James T Mathhues aka Tyler Mathhues on the 12th day of September 2022, at 10:00 A.M. on the Franklin County Courthouse steps.

This property will be sold on the above date unless this civil case has been settled. For information regarding this sale you may call 256-332-8811.

Dated this August 9, 2022.

Shannon Oliver
Sheriff of Franklin County

Dates to Publish in the Franklin Free Press: August 17, 24, and 31, 2022.

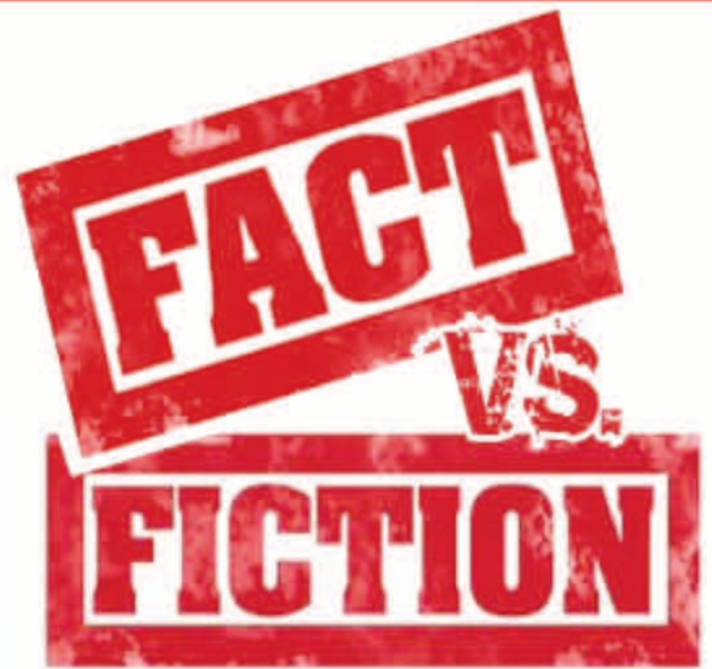
cc: Franklin County Courthouse

PUBLIC AUCTION
Town Hill Mini Storage 14254 Hwy. 43, Russellville, Al.

Notice is hereby given that on September 3, 2022, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., units will be sold by sealed bid. Tenant may satisfy their indebtedness prior to the time of sale. Will be able to inspect units and bid on this date. All units have misc., items, furniture and boxes.

Units located at 14254 Hwy. 43: 8 & 11 Cheryl Nix, 53 Stephanie Moore, 66 Jerry Wooten and 121 Keith Lane.
Units located at 524 St. Clair St: 12 Andrea Taylor, 18 Kinsley Ponders.
Units located at 900 Scotty Moore Drive: 27 Judy Taylor, 64 Faith Spriggs.

**In the Coming Weeks, You
Will See and Hear a Lot of
Claims About Landfills.
So Let's Distinguish
Between:**



Franklin County Land Management, Inc. (FCLM) has applied for a permit with the Alabama Dept. of Environmental Management (ADEM) to modify its existing landfill permit, to allow the collection and disposal of municipal solid wastes. This is a lengthy and thorough application process, with each step requiring ADEM approval. The current step involves a period of public comment, followed by a public hearing, before the Franklin County Commission decides whether to approve FCLM's proposed expansion. Even with commission approval, several steps remain before any ADEM permit would be issued.

FACT: The application process began for Franklin County Land Management in February 2022. Opponents of the application have waged a war of misinformation on social media, including false claims that the Franklin County Commission is “not giving us specific detailed information” on the proposed landfill location. The truth is FCLM's application and plan is public record. The Franklin County Commission ran large ads in local newspapers inviting any citizen to “review copies of the local solid waste management plan and application.” Approval of this application will result in significant financial savings to Franklin County and local municipalities. Nothing about this is being 'hidden' from the citizens of Franklin County. This is a false allegation designed to create public suspicion.

FACT: There is no truth to claims that FCLM's application in any way included the County Commission's knowledge or approval. The same people who praised our commission for funding broadband expansion now accuse the commission of “coming up with this landfill idea.” Our commissioners and Probate Judge are elected to make decisions they believe best for the citizens of Franklin County. It is insulting to them, and to the people they represent, to suggest any 'secret or back room' deals were made regarding this issue. It's another false allegation designed to create public suspicion.

Please Consider the Facts! More to Come...

41st Annual
Franklin County

Watermelon Festival Guide

Russellville:
Watermelon
Capital of
Alabama

August 19-20, 2022

Music, Food & Crafts!

Rides for Kids • 5K Run

Car, Truck, Tractor

and Motorcycle Show

Watermelon Contests

Friday

5:45 p.m. Opening Ceremony

National Anthem – Cassandra James

6:00 p.m. Cody Bowen

7:00 p.m. Joseph Baldwin

Band

8:30 p.m. Velcro Pygmies

Saturday

7:00 p.m. Car & Truck Show

7:30 p.m. Watermelon 5k

and Fun Run

10:00 p.m. Character Guests

11:00 p.m. Watermelon in the

Park – Cutting & Contests

6:00 p.m. Tremayne

6:00 p.m. Light Up

the Night Car Show

7:00 p.m. REWIND

of the Shoals

8:30 p.m. Thompson Square



TOP TWENTY
EVENTS

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2022 Watermelon Pageant Results By Age Divisions:



0-11 Months: Queen, Jasie Johnson, 1st Alt., Gabby Singletary and 2nd Alt., Joselyn Barnes. Photogenic; Joselyn Barnes. Hair: Genesis Childers. Dress: Gabby Singletary. Smile: Jasie Johnson.



1 Year: Queen, Emberlynn Mills. 1st Alt. Evvie Gist. 2nd Alt. Jailee Garrett. Photogenic: Callie Glover. Hair: Evvie Gist. Dress: Jailee Garrett. Smile: Everly Martinez.

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Russellville...
Watermelon...
See You There!**



**David Reed
GRISSOM
MAYOR**

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**SHANNON
OLIVER
SHERIFF**

Probate Judge
Barry Moore

*Welcomes
 You...*



*...to the 41st Annual
 Franklin County
 Watermelon Festival*



2 Years: Queen, Elizabeth Marecle. 1st Alt. Eliana Bahena. 2nd Alt. Luna Moon. Photogenic: Margarete Fortune. Hair: Luna Moon. Dress: Josie Boyles. Smile: Elizabeth Marecle.



3-4 Years: Queen, Shaylee Hall. 1st Alt. Everleigh Simmons. 2nd Alt. Ruby Harper. Photogenic: Elizabeth Miller. Hair: Ruby Harper. Dress: Elizabeth Miller. Smile: Everleigh Simmons.

**Always a
 Slice of Fun!**

Enjoy this year's Watermelon Festival.



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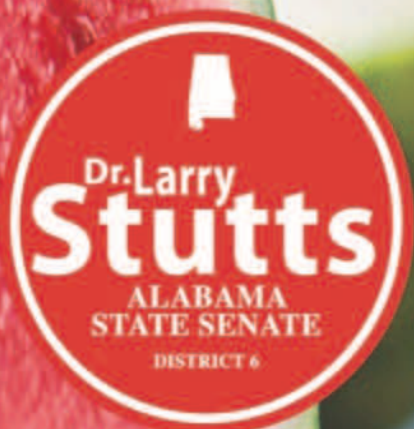
And don't forget to check us out online at www.franklinfreepress.net



5-6 Years: Queen, Claudia Wilson. 1st Alt. Jacie-Mae Myrick. 2nd Alt. Sophie Sharp. Photogenic: Campbell Wright. Hair: Sophie Sharp. Dress: Claudia Wilson. Smile: Alaina Isabell.

WELCOME TO THE 41st ANNUAL *Franklin County* WATERMELON FESTIVAL

See you there!



for Senate, P.O. Box 1012, Tuscumbia, AL 35674



7-9 Years: Queen, Maddie Welborn. 1st Alt. Alyssa Thomas. 2nd Alt. Alaina Riley. Photogenic: Kayleigh Walton. Hair: Zoey Shook. Dress: Arlee Roberts. Smile: Alyssa Thomas.



10-13 Years: Queen, Bailee Campbell. 1st Alt. Raegan Myrick. 2nd Alt. Avery Robinson. Photogenic: Bailee Campbell. Hair: Bailee Campbell. Dress: Bailee Campbell. Smile: Addy Ruiz

Welcome to the **2022** Watermelon Festival!
from the

extension

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Kristina Rossin, Admin. Assoc. II

Shirley Jimenez, EFNPEP Agent
Austin Blankenship, 4H Foundation Regional Ext. Agent
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[franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com)

Festival a 'labor of love' for Medley, chamber staff and directors

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When country husband and wife duo Thompson Square take the stage Saturday night, maybe Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Director Cassie Medley can take a seat, relax and enjoy the music. Maybe...

Medley, her staff and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors put in hundreds (thousands?) of hours planning and coordinating the popular two-day festival each third weekend in August. And their work continues through Friday and Saturday as they supervise, troubleshoot and occasionally audible schedules in the event of rain.

The 41st annual Franklin County Watermelon Festival is this Friday and Saturday, August 19 and 20, in downtown Russellville. What began as the idea of Russellville merchant Bobby Bolton has turned into a showcase in the Southeast among festival goers.

There is no admission to the Watermelon Festival and no cost to enjoy the two evenings of great music, including a mix of local as well as national talent.

The Franklin County Watermelon Festival is more than what you see on North Jackson Avenue though. There's the annual Watermelon Pageant, with Sophie Hill being named the 2022 Franklin County Watermelon Queen, a car and truck show, tractor show, a 5K and one-mile run and a kids' area with rides and games.

And there's always free watermelon! This year, there will be free watermelon slices available by the main stage both Friday and Saturday evenings, as well as free slices in the park behind Russellville First Baptist Church on Saturday morning.

You can watch the judging of several watermelon-themed contests, including the largest melon, most unusual melon, best tasting, best dressed melon and a seed spitting contest.

The opening ceremony will feature Hill cutting the ceremonial first watermelon before Cody Bowen takes the stage at 6 p.m., Friday.

For more information on this year's event, visit www.franklincountychamber.org, and don't forget to wear your Watermelon Festival t-shirt this weekend!

14-17 Years:
Queen,
Lauren
Sutherland.
1st Alt. Lara
Gunderman.
2nd Alt.
Raegen
Misner.
Photogenic:
Lauren
Sutherland.
Hair: Carson
Hovater.
Dress:
Reagan
Misner.
Smile: Harlee
Fisher.

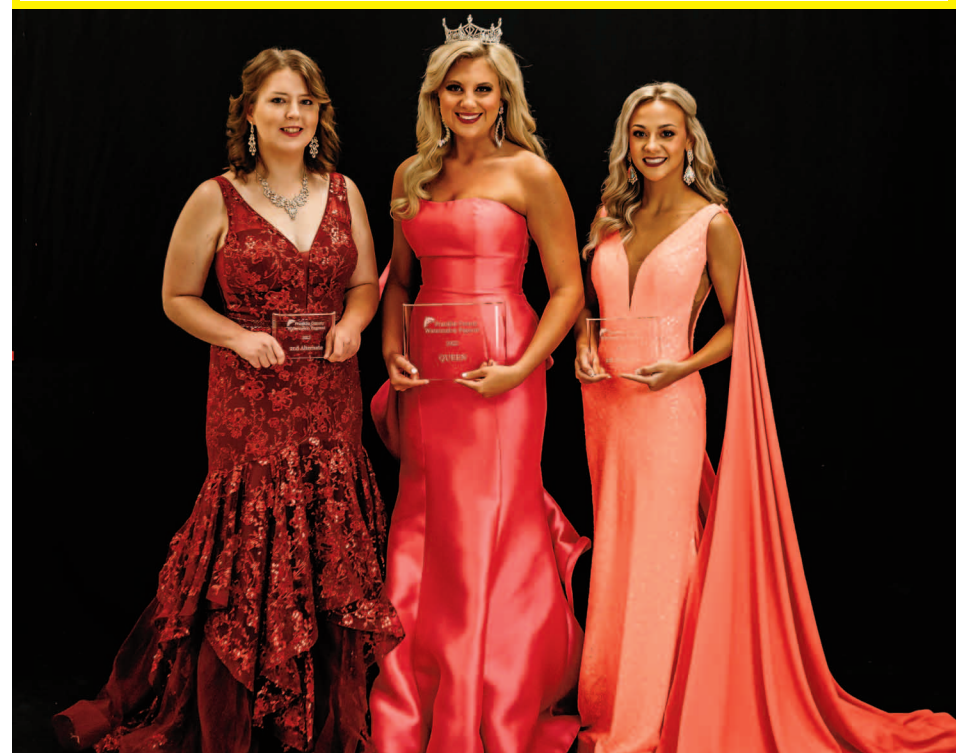


Don't forget to visit us online at
www.franklinfreepress.net!
Contact us at 256-332-0255 or
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Welcome to the 41st Annual
Franklin County Watermelon
Festival

Jamie
KIEL
STATE HOUSE

Paid for by Jamie Kiel Campaign 14696 Highway 43 Russellville, AL 36653



A Queen And Her Court...The 2022 Franklin County Watermelon Queen is Sophie Hill, center. Keslie Allen, right was named First Alternate. Shelby McKinney, left, was named Second Alternate. Allen was named Most Photogenic. McKinney won Prettiest Hair. Hill won Prettiest Dress and Allen was named Prettiest Smile.



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Watermelon Festival

Music, Food & Crafts!

Rides for Kids • 5K Run
Car, Truck, Tractor & Motorcycle Show

Watermelon Contests
Friday, August 19

5:45 p.m. Opening Ceremony

6:00 p.m. Cody Bowen

7:00 p.m. Joseph Baldwin Band

8:30 p.m. Velcro Pygmies

Saturday

6:00 p.m. Tremayne

7:00 p.m. Rewind of the Shoals

8:30 p.m. Thompson Square



Russellville

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



The City of Russellville welcomes you to The 2022 Franklin County Watermelon Festival! We are proud to be a part of The Watermelon Capital of Alabama!



**If we may assist you during your stay in Russellville, please call:
Russellville City Hall 256.332.6060
Russellville Police Dept.
256.332.2230**



Our Franklin County...



Hargett Landfill's Franklin County...



Hargett's mega multi-state solid, household, hazardous and industrial waste landfill WILL pollute, contaminate and poison everything in Franklin County. ALL LANDFILLS LEAK and spread contamination for miles! The landfill industry itself says so.

No one in Franklin County is safe from this proposed landfill. Don't believe the misinformation from Neal Hargett and his bias engineering firm and few supporters. They get the big money. **We get the forever mess - toxins, leachate, greenhouse gases and rotting garbage smell.**

FARMERS need unpolluted aquifers and water tables and their fields and soil free of toxic contaminants.

TOWN RESIDENTS & WORKERS need their lakes and natural beauty uncontaminated for weekend family enjoyment.

FISHERMEN & HUNTERS need uncontaminated lakes and woodlands as well as fish and deer for their sport.

ALL RESIDENTS need an unpolluted environment, clean fresh air and safe clean roads for our families and future.

WRITE/CALL/VISIT Your County Commissioners at:
Franklin County Commission, P.O. Box 1028, Russellville, AL 35653 256 332-8850

You **MUST** Attend the Public Hearing at the AW Todd Center, Thursday, September 22nd, 6 PM. **Wear RED!**

Join our Facebook Group Page: [SAVE FRANKLIN COUNTY ALABAMA, Stop Hargett's Landfill Expansion](#)

Paid for by Very Concerned Citizens of Franklin County