



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

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

### FreedomFiber celebrates first residential, business subscribers in Franklin County

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

**Dead!**  
Although she wasn't on the agenda, Katernia Cole-Coffey had a one-word contribution to Friday morning's ceremony that celebrated the first Franklin County business and residential subscribers of fiber internet services from Tombigbee Communications' FreedomFiber.

As Rep. Jamie Kiel spoke about the contributions of the Franklin County Broadband Task Force, chaired by Cole-Coffey, Kiel was reminded of something he's heard her say

repeatedly. Kiel started the mantra, and from the crowd, Cole-Coffey finished it:

"A project without funding is....Dead!"

FreedomFiber's Franklin County build out is ongoing. Eventually, it will encompass all of Alabama Power's and Franklin Electric Cooperative's service areas, but as company officials acknowledged Friday, they're not there yet, and no time frame was offered with specific dates.

Residents wanting to sign up for FreedomFiber and/or check availability at their address can visit

See 'BROADBAND,' Page 5

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### Forever Family: Smith volunteering on former player Barnwell's Phil Campbell football staff

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Bill Smith wasn't looking to come out of retirement.

After four decades as a teacher, football coach and mentor to student athletes across northwest Alabama, Smith's retirement in 2015 was well-deserved and final, or so he thought.

When Smith received a call last season from his former player and current Phil Campbell head football coach Kevin Barnwell, he was asked to come and help the Bobcats implement the wishbone offense into their repertoire. Barnwell wanted more diversity in Phil Campbell's offense, so he turned to one of the best foot-

ball minds he's ever known for help.

"We wanted to add that to our package, so I reached out to Coach Smith to see if he'd help us install the wishbone," Barnwell said. "Luckily for us, he said yes and he's been with us ever since."

Smith began his second season as a volunteer assistant coach for Phil Campbell this month. He was on the sidelines Friday as the Bobcats rolled over Hackleburg 36-8, in a game where Smith previously served as head coach for both teams.

And that won't be the last time for that to happen this season, as the Bobcats will face Red Bay October 28 Smith's head coaching career began in 1975, at Mount Hope High

See 'SMITH,' Page 4

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**Joyce Batchelor Whitehead, 81, of  
Russellville passed away on Friday Aug,  
19th. Interment will be held at Franklin  
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**Johnnie Ray Bendall, 74, of Russellville,  
passed away Monday August 15th. Spry  
Memorial Chapel assisted the family.**

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# Seay 'blessed' to open detailing business at airport

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

When it comes to buying real estate, the common mantra is location, location and location.

Russellville businessman Brandon Seay certainly followed that age-old adage when he chose a location for his business, Aviator's Detailing. For a business that provides detailing services for aircraft, you can't be in a better location than an airport.

So when Seay was offered the chance to lease a building/hangar at the Russellville Airport, it didn't take him long to say YES!

Prior to securing the airport site, Seay operated Aviator's Detailing as a mobile business. When he moved into the Russellville Airport, the impact on his work was predictably significant.

"Our business increased substantially once we got a location, and I'll forever be grateful for that," Seay said. "I appreciate Jason and Emily Evans for giving me this opportunity."

Jason and Emily Evans own and operate Go Vertical Aviation (flight instruction) at the Russellville Airport. The airport is managed by Explore Aviation. Aviator's Detailing provides professional quality detailing on aircraft, cars, trucks SUVs, boats, trailers and anything else a customer wants detailed or ceramic coated.

Services range from vehicle washing and detailing all the way up to an Executive Flying package that offers year-round protection and shine for aircrafts. Aviator's Detailing has full-service vehicle packages, paint conditioning and auto compounding treatments as well. A menu of services is available at [www.aviatorsdetailing.com](http://www.aviatorsdetailing.com).

Seay left his job at Long-Lewis Ford to run Aviator's Detailing full-time. The 2007 Russellville High School graduate has always been fascinated with aircraft, and he was introduced into the aviation community when he took flying lessons from Evans in 2020.

"I've always loved aircraft. I wanted to join the Air Force after high school but I met my wife (Jessica) and we got together, so that idea was put on the back burner," Seay said.

The couple have three children, and each member of the family shares the love of aviation.

While he was taking flying lessons, Seay noticed there was an opportunity for aviation detailing in the area. He started detailing airplanes on a part-time basis and posting photos of his work on social media. Seay started to get requests from aircraft owners at nearby airports who wanted their planes detailed, and that's how flying lessons turned into a new career.

Aviator's Detailing became part of the Ceramic Pro's of America team two years ago as a certified installer of the high-end protective coatings. The Ceramic Pro treatments come with a lifetime warranty.

Seay is working toward his pilot's license, and his business continues to grow, which allowed Seay to hire his longtime friend Austin Purdy full-time.

"The Lord has blessed us very much. We were able to hire Austin, and we're doing what we love and still be around aircraft," Seay said. "My wife supported me and helped me make the decision to do this and we've been blessed."

Interestingly, M22, the hangar that houses Seay's business, was the same hangar where he detailed his first aircraft a few years ago.

Aviator's Detailing offers free pick-up and return of vehicles and boats within a 25-mile range for detailing, and a 100-mile range for ceramic coating. Call 256-436-0465 to schedule a service.



Aviator's Detailing recently held a grand opening at the company's airport site.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

### **Corrections Officer/Dispatcher(s) for Franklin County Sheriff's Office and Jail**

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](#).

Franklin County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the employment or provision of services.

## Franklin Free Press

113 Washington Ave. NW  
Russellville, AL 35653  
256-332-0255

The Franklin Free Press is published weekly by Pilati Investments, Inc.

Our publication is mailed to our readers at no charge.

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

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# 'SMITH,' from page 1

School. He would move on to Hackleburg, Red Bay, Phil Campbell, Sulligent, Vina and Tharptown High Schools over the next 39 years. Barnwell, along with another Phil Campbell volunteer assistant, David Palmer, both played for Smith at Hackleburg. Volunteer assistant Randy Pike was on Smith's Red Bay Tigers teams in his three seasons there.

Both Barnwell and Palmer describe Smith not only as a great mentor and person, but also a great football mind, particularly on offense. "Coach Smith is really legendary to us," Palmer said. "He knows so much football and he's such a great motivator besides the fact that he knows so much about the game. Offensively, he always had a great reputation."

Having coached at small schools including Hackleburg, Vina, Mount Hope and Tharptown, Smith realized first-hand the lack of financial resources available. Head coaches at these rural county schools have to be creative when it comes to building their programs. And that can be a learning experience for players and coaches alike.

Smith's 1975 Mount Hope team was the first in school history. A standout player at Russellville High School, Smith was part of a program that won back-to-back state championships in 1966 and 1967. He was used to winning, and Smith had the opportunity to join Coach Wayne Ray's Russellville staff as middle school head coach. But the opportunity to build a new program as a high school head coach led him to Mount Hope.

There wasn't much winning during Smith's three years at Mount Hope, but the experience stayed with Smith for a lifetime.

"I learned some things at Mount Hope that all coaches need to learn—you're going to lose some games and it's something you can't help," Smith said. "I was used to winning but we were taking basically a junior high team of 7th and 8th graders and competing at the varsity level."

"Those kids gave all they had and I wouldn't trade my time there for anything," he added.

Smith enjoys being on the Phil Campbell staff, but he's not looking for a long-term coaching position.

"I didn't think I'd go back this year. Last year, I had some back problems and pain in my hip. But I got that taken care of and I'm moving better and really enjoy being on the field Friday nights," Smith said.

And being on the football field each Friday night has been a part of Smith's life as long as he can remember.

"Since the fifth grade I was either a manager, player or coach. So it was hard walking off the football field when I'd been there so long," Smith said of his retirement in 2015.

Barnwell reaches out each off-season for advice from his coaching mentors, including former Russellville High School coaches Don Cox and Perry Swindall. And he places Smith right there with them at the top of the list.

"In the off-season I like to call these older coaches and pick their brains. How did you do this or that?," Barnwell said. "Bill Smith is one of the best around and he had to do it himself. At a small school like Hackleburg there are not a lot of assistant coaches. He handled all the day-to-day operations of running a program himself."

Barnwell's staff includes five assistant coaches and three volunteer assistants. His players see how much their coaches respect Coach Smith, so they, in turn, develop their own respect for the former All-State punter/kicker.

He has a great relationship with the kids," Palmer said of Smith. "They all love and respect him and see how much we respect him. He's just a teacher and a good ole ball coach. His skill set and personality make him a great coach and that never goes away."

Smith remains close with many of his former players and that's a primary reason he agreed to be part of Barnwell's staff.

"I still enjoy coaching and interacting with the kids. But I wouldn't be doing this if it wasn't for one of my former players being the coach," Smith said. "We're all family and I enjoy it. We've got a tough schedule this year but our kids are tough."

Speaking of tough, Smith could be tough on his players when they needed it. Palmer, along with Franklin Free Press Sports Editor Michael Rice, who played for Smith at Tharptown, hold the unenviable distinction of being the only two players to ever change a play sent in from Smith on the sideline.

Ironically, both changes came in games against Phil Campbell, Palmer's in 1985 and Rice's almost 30 years later. And both changed plays turned out to be disastrous, as Phil Campbell went on to win both games.

Palmer was quarterback of the 1985 Panthers' offense, which was deep in Phil Campbell territory in the second half of a tight game. On third down, Smith sent Eric Senkbeil onto the field with a play action pass called for. Palmer had other ideas.

"I felt pretty confident we didn't need to run that play, so I changed it to a quarterback sneak," Palmer said. "They stopped me and after the play was over, Coach Smith called time out and was headed toward the huddle with one of those looks that was not all that inviting."

"Eric (Senkbeil) met him halfway out telling him he brought in the right play. There were not a lot of pleasantries passed from Coach Smith to me that night. He made me aware of his disdain with my decision making and made me aware that wasn't how it worked. I got the message loud and clear. I'm not sure why I did it. I'd never done anything like that before and certainly never did it again," he added.

Franklin County Superintendent of Education Greg Hamilton, who coached with Smith during his 10 seasons at Vina High School, is glad to have Smith on the sideline as well.

"I have a long standing working and personal relationship with Coach Smith. I coached with him many years at Vina and can still run those plays in my head," Hamilton said. "It's something to see the way he coaches. Not only can he help those younger coaches, he can help the older coaches as well."



COURTESY PHOTO

Smith, with Samuel Swinney at the Bobcats' season opening game at Hackleburg.

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

# 'BROADBAND,' from page 1

www.freedomfiber.com.

Local rural broadband efforts began more than a decade ago, when then-Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow formed the Franklin County Broadband Task Force to explore avenues to bring affordable, reliable last-mile internet service to rural Franklin County.

For several years, the task force met with large national internet providers, asking them to come to Franklin County and build out the infrastructure needed to allow rural residents to have the same connectivity available to the companies' city subscribers.

Each effort ended the same—with the word NO!

The need was there. The effort was there. But the funding mechanism for a rural broadband build out wasn't there, and that didn't change for several more years.

A state law provides broadband authority in Franklin County to the Franklin County Water Service Authority. In

2020, the Water Authority entered an agreement with Tombigbee Electric Cooperative/Communications, which operates FreedomFiber, and Franklin Electric Cooperative regarding fiber-optic broadband service for the entire 8,000-meter membership of Franklin Electric.

This agreement, along with FreedomFiber's 2019 partnership with Alabama Power to provide fiber-optic broadband to their Franklin County customers, would essentially encompass the entire county, subject to one big condition: FreedomFiber would have to secure grant funding to pay the approximate \$12 million for the buildout.

The hope was for FreedomFiber to receive funding through the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction for the areas in Franklin County it proposed to serve.

Again, the 'big fish' in the sea of internet providers provided an obstacle and there were concerns that the needed funds would never come.

That's where Franklin County's federal and state delegation came in. Through Congressman Robert Aderholt's support of the Reconnect America Program, and Kiel's efforts to obtain grant funding through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), more than half the needed funds were now sourced. Those funds covered the eastern and southern portions of Franklin County.

The Franklin County Commission's commitment of \$5 million in American Rescue Plan funds will provide another piece to be able to cover the county.

Those funds have been pledged for FreedomFiber's build out, but have not been distributed yet.

Kiel said there may be additional grant funding available through ADECA that would provide up to \$5 million additional monies that would be used for completion of the county broadband build out.

Franklin County Board of Education Member Ralton Baker's trucking business, R. Baker Trucking, Inc., was the county's first business to go online with FreedomFiber. Baker said it's been a struggle the past decade to run his business without reliable internet service.

"What we have now with FreedomFiber is fast, reliable and we couldn't run our business without it," Baker said.

Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore said the commission remains committed to its \$5 million pledge, and he believes there's not a more impactful way those funds could be spent.

"We agreed as a County Commission to do our part because we want broadband across Franklin County. We want to see every last home that wants internet to have it," Moore said.



COURTESY PHOTO

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## Canida warns of TVA fuel cost adjustments, higher fall utility bills

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Customers served by the Russellville Electric Board can expect even higher utility bills, as REB Manager Charles Canida told board members that fuel cost adjustments from the Tennessee Valley Authority are expected to increase in the coming months.

Canida said he attended a meeting with TVA officials earlier this month and was told fuel cost adjustments by TVA had increased and "may increase even more in the future." Canida said September fuel cost adjustments are expected to decrease slightly, but that will be followed by increased adjustments later in the year.

Fuel cost adjustments are passed down to local power companies who buy electricity from TVA. These costs are what TVA pays for natural gas, coal and/or other power purchases required to generate electricity. When these fuel cost adjustments increase, that cost is passed down to ratepayers, and that results in higher electric bills.

The news comes just one month after a 3.1 percent rate hike unanimously approved by the Russellville Electric Board in January took effect July 1, 2022.

That rate increase was the result of Canida telling the board that REB was experiencing 'declining revenue.'

Even with 'declining revenue' and increased rates for customers, Canida and the board enjoyed a five-night trip to Sandestin, Fla., last month for an eight-hour conference. Although the total amount spent on that trip is not yet available, Canida made more than \$35,000 in advance charges ahead of the beach conference. In recent years, Canida has used ratepayer funds to charter a private fishing boat and to pay for lavish meals, in one instance more than \$3,000 for one meal.

In the only other action taken at the REB's August 16 meeting, board members approved Canida's recommendation to purchase a skid steer attachment at a cost of \$5,512.80.

Although the FFP has previously made numerous requests pursuant to Alabama's Open Meeting Law to be notified of the time and place of board meetings, along with a copy of the agenda, Canida and/or his staff failed to provide any notice to the FFP, which is in violation of Alabama law.

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

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# What's Happening

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- EVENTS OF INTEREST • FAMILY REUNIONS • PLAYS • CHURCH GATHERINGS • EDUCATIONAL • CLUB MEETINGS**
- 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.
  - T**he 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 Moshui 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.
  - M**y Father's House Ministries will hold a Holy Ghost Fire Power Camp Meeting September 11-16, 2022. Sunday start time 5 p.m., Monday and Friday 6:30 p.m., and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. The church is located at 104 East Lawrence St., Russellville. Evangelist will be Joel Ali. Guest Pastors include Nick McSpadden Tuesday 10:30 a.m., and Wayne Black, Wednesday 10:30 a.m. There will be different praise and worship teams each day. For more information or a ride, call 256-460-1376. Hosted by Pastor Pearl Shelton & Pastor James Williams

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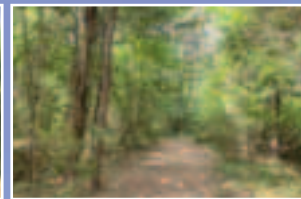
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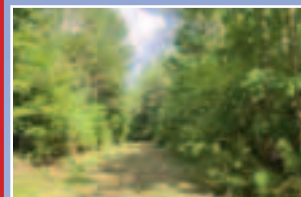
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## Phil Campbell councilman resigns

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Phil Campbell City Councilman Jeremy Kastberg has resigned from office, the Franklin Free Press has learned.

Kastberg delivered his written resignation to Phil Campbell City Hall on August 17 and submitted it to Town Clerk Jenny Burks. Kastberg's resignation is effective immediately.

Kastberg was serving his first term as a member of the Phil Campbell City Council. He defeated Danny Brown in the 2020 municipal election.

When contacted Wednesday afternoon, Kastberg said his resignation was based on "a career choice that requires me to be out of town more."

Kastberg has a son who attends Phil Campbell High School, so he plans to remain in Phil Campbell, but said that could change based on work demands.

Kastberg was direct when asked what his lasting impressions of being involved in city government would be.

"I guess I'd say eye-opening," Kastberg said.

The Code of Alabama Section 11-44G-1(a)(1) outlines the procedure for a Class 8 municipality (less than 5,999 residents) with a vacancy on the city council. The vacancy shall be filled by the city council at the next regular meeting or any subsequent meeting.

The person appointed shall complete the balance of the term, which runs into 2025.

If the council does not appoint a citizen to fill the vacancy within 60 days, each existing council member and the mayor may each submit a name to the government for appointment. If the governor fails to make an appointment from any of the submitted names within 90 days, the Judge of Probate shall call a special election to fill the vacancy, according to 11-44G-1(a)(1).

Kastberg was not present for the council meeting on August 16, according to Mayor Mike McQuery. McQuery said Wednesday he was not aware of Kastberg's resignation and he had no indication that Kastberg planned to step down.

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## RCS third, fourth graders enjoy Liberty Learning Foundation event

Kate Grissom  
Student Writer  
RCS Media Group

This past Friday, second graders at West Elementary and third graders at Russellville Elementary attended the "Super Citizen Program" put on by the Liberty Learning Foundation. This program taught students about the importance of being

a good citizen and how they can all make a difference in their community. The Liberty Learning Foundation is a non-profit organization with the mission of empowering younger generations by teaching them civic and character concepts to build a brighter future for the country. To help reinforce this mission, the Foundation created the "Super Citizen Program" for elementary students that features a real life "Lady Liberty" character named Libby who teaches students about being a "super citizen." The Statue of Liberty is a key symbol used in the Liberty Learning Foundation programs



PHOTO BY JARED DAVIS

because of what she stands for for all citizens.

The program starts with an introduction to Libby and then moves on to explain the "New Colossus," which is the poem on the bottom of the Statue of Liberty. However, it's pointed out that most people do not know what the "New Colossus" says. It explains how the Statue of Liberty is seen as a beacon of hope for all who enter America, no matter their race, color, or creed.

The students were then taught three key concepts: citizenship, community, and appreciation. Students were first introduced to their title as a citizen, which Libby said is important because it gives rights and freedoms to those students, which is something not all children can enjoy.

The second and third graders were then told how they can have an impact on their community. The students learned they are all valuable members of different communities and that helping out makes a good community for them to be a part of. Then the program focused on the importance of appreciation. Students were taught to show appreciation for others, and the program specifically mentioned taking the time to honor local heroes. The program came to a close with Libby reminding students they are the next generation of Americans and encouraged them to be a super citizen. The students were visibly excited as they left the RCS Auditorium, which is something Russellville City Schools Superintendent Dr. Heath Grimes was glad to see. Grimes brought the program to RCS in 2015 and has kept the Liberty Learning Foundation coming back ever since because of how important he believes these lessons are.

Grimes talked about his main concern for the future of the country and explained how teaching the younger generations will have a great impact on leadership in the future.

"Our country is starving for good citizenship," Grimes said. "This program is a great way to keep young students engaged, while also helping them learn concepts of liberty, freedom, and hope. It's great each year to see all of these students, no matter their background or where they're from, singing and being excited about being a good citizen. It inspires me to want to be a better citizen."

Brett Johnson, executive director of the Liberty Learning Foundation, explained the goal of the program and how the Foundation's creation came about because of a perceived need for students to fully grasp these concepts.

"Civics is not taught like it used to be," Johnson said. "The reason the foundation mentioned there are different programs for different age groups so each generation of students can have the opportunity to learn about citizenship. Seventh graders at Russellville Middle School will have their own Liberty Learning Foundation program to complete this year as well, which will focus on community service."

He also mentioned a goal of the program is to "get students ready for adulthood" and teach them about the importance of the rights they have.

The Liberty Learning Foundation started in Alabama in 2010 and has grown since. Johnson said it is "extremely successful" statewide, and the foundation has plans on growing nationally.

The program is sponsored locally by G&G Steel, Inc., CB&S Bank, Pilgrims Pride, the City of Russellville, Russellville Electric Board, Russellville Gas Board, Russellville Water Board, Franklin County Community Development Commission, Bank Independent, Rep. Jamie Kiel, Alabama Department of Education, AlaTrade Foods, Alfa, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, Malone Family Foundation, Regions Bank, and Screentech.

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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 416.28 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.

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.  
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 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 Pounds.  
 Units located at 900 Scotty Moore Drive: 27 Judy Taylor, 64 Faith Spriggs.

# Madden named RHS principal

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

One of Russellville's very own is coming home, as the Russellville City Board of Education unanimously approved the hiring of Dr. Jeremy Madden as Russellville High School's new principal. The board approved the recommendation of Superintendent Heath Grimes at a meeting held Monday afternoon. Madden posted a letter on social media late Monday thanking the Fayette County School District for allowing him the privilege of being FCHS Principal the past 10 years. Madden succeeds Jason Goodwin, who was promoted to a central office position as Administrative Assistant 'A' earlier this month.

After Goodwin's move to the central office, Grimes said preference would be given to in-system candidates along with RHS graduates. Three candidates applied, which included two in-system personnel and Madden, a 1993 RHS graduate. Madden graduated from the University of North Alabama where he received a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. He also earned his Master's and ED.S., degrees in administration from UNA. He completed his PhD from the University of Alabama in 2015. Madden served as Fayette County High School Principal since 2011. Prior to becoming principal, he was an elementary teacher and assistant principal. Madden also serves as an adjunct professor for the College of Education at the University of Alabama. He is married to the former Dwan Smith of Fayette. "He's had a lot of success at a school system that may not have as much instructional support as the system we have here, and he took that school into the U.S. News and World Report's Top 25 Alabama high schools," Grimes said. "Jeremy came highly recommended, with several state and local elected officials being very high on him. So with 11 years' experience as a high school principal, with his success and local support, that's the choice we made," Grimes added. Madden said Fayette County High School has a 'bright future' ahead with its young faculty and staff now in place. "My family and I thank you for the honor of being your high school principal. I took more pride in leading FCHS than you could ever imagine," Madden said in his letter to Fayette County Schools officials.



COURTESY PHOTO

# Letter to the Editor:

I have been going to the North Alabama State fair for many years and I have really enjoyed the shows, vendors, some of the rides, and the exhibit halls especially.

I am amazed by all of the wonderful pieces people have done over the years. I have been entering my art and crafts ever since I was a young child. It gave me a chance to show my talents and skills in friendly competition. Even a chance to win some ribbons and a little money. However that is not the case of this year and for the last two years.

In 2020, we were hit by the deadly COVID-19 and many events had to be canceled, including the North Alabama State Fair. I figured in that time, I could make some new art and crafts for the exhibit hall for the next year. In 2021, the Board of Directors decided to open the fair, but not the exhibit halls and canceled the other events. Disappointed, I understood the situation. However, during that time, I was going through the loss of my dad to COVID-19. I was not in the best of state and would not have the heart to go the Fair anyway. I stored my art and crafts and waited for the next year. Now, it is 2022. Life has mostly turned to normal and certain limitations have been lifted. However, that is not the case for the North Alabama State Fair. Once again, the Board of Directors have decided to open the fair, but not open the exhibit halls. The other contests and events have also been canceled. Well to me, THAT IS NOT FAIR AT ALL!

The livestock, vendors, rides and shows are all game, but not the exhibit halls. I have waited over two years to enter my art and crafts for the upcoming fair. I understand that we are still in tough times, but that is no excuse for this decision. It's not fair that other people get to enter in certain contests and the rest of us cannot do anything. I am very disappointed and very angry at the Board of Directors for this decision.

Why should I waste my time and money going to the Fair if I cannot enjoy all of it? Why not try an online exhibit hall or wear masks only inside the building.

Other Fairs like the Fair in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee are going all out, but the North Alabama State Fair is not taking a chance. I also fear that the Board of Directors will eventually get rid of the exhibits once and for all. And why? Because it is too much work and nobody wants to deal with it. Besides me, there are many other people who will not be able to enter their art and crafts. They enjoy getting together in friendly competition and get a chance to see everyone hard work, both young and old.

We all enjoy going to the Fair, but it would not be any fun if you cannot see all of it. So for now, I am boycotting the North Alabama State Fair until the exhibit halls are ( if ever) open again.

But I ask, please let this State Fair be fair again and not unfair.

Adam Henry  
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## Wildcats win 28-14 in Hamilton's coaching debut

*Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press*

The Tharptown Wildcats opened their season Friday night with a 28-14 victory over the Shoals Christian Flames.

Both schools underwent coaching changes over the last two years, including head coaching changes.

Jacob Hamilton is in his first year as the Tharptown Wildcats head football coach. The coaching hire was announced in July and Hamilton has had one month to prepare the Wildcats for the season.

Hamilton had two weeks to pull kids out of the hallways after school started and convince them to be part of the team. That recruiting effort was effective, as the Wildcats had 46 players on the sidelines Friday night.

On Friday, fans had an opportunity to see what the program might look like over the next few years with Hamilton as head coach.

An early fumble by the Wildcats would give the Flames a 7-0 lead in the first quarter. Dawson Higgins, a junior, responded with a touchdown to tie the ballgame. Tharptown handled the early adversity and built a 20-7 halftime lead.

"At halftime we had a lot of players down after a few turnovers. I had to remind our guys we're up 20 to 7," Hamilton said.

It was an intense evening for the new Tharptown coach, who broke his headset in a moment of frustration in the second half.

The Wildcats gave up one second half touchdown to the Flames. That would be the last time the Flames saw the end zone.

Tharptown's defense responded with a scoop and score by junior Jeremy Vasquez, who had a

See 'WILDCATS,' Page 14

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## RMS football team, 60 players strong, ready for season opener vs. Deshler

*Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press*

Corey Flanagan has been busy over the last few weeks preparing the Russellville Middle School football team for its upcoming season.

The Golden Tigers are coming off three years of success and looking to repeat a North Alabama Middle School Conference championship. Flanagan is in his second year as RMS head coach.

Russellville has won its conference championship three years in a row. The conference championship is played between the winner of East Alabama and West Alabama divisions.

Interest is high among RMS students who want to be part of the 2022 team. This year the Golden Tigers have 60 players on the roster.

"Last year we had 47 kids and still finished with a very good season. However, this number of kids works well for our system," Flanagan said.

Last year, Russellville started a 5th and 6th grade team.

"Our kids now have the opportunity to have four years of contact football that's structured. The 5th and 6th grade program will complement the 7th and 8th grade program. The 7th and 8th grade's program job is to prepare the kids for Coach Ritter's program and that next level. It's almost like a minor league program," Flanagan said.

Coach Chris Boatwright is the head coach for the 5th and 6th grade team and also coaches the quarterbacks on the 7th and 8th grade team.

"Coach Boatwright is always busy and a hard worker. We're all thankful for Coach Ritter starting the 5th and 6th grade program," Flanagan said.

This year Flanagan said he has a mix of returning talent and some new faces out who will be key players for the Golden Tigers.

"Our quarterback will be Tripp Cleveland. He's an 8th grader who got his chance to start in the last frame of the season last year because of an injury," Flanagan said.

Cleveland will be a big part of the Golden Tigers

offensive along with Taurus Davis and Keifer Hallmark in the backfield.

"Out on the perimeter, we have Chase Phifer and Karson Fletcher," Flanagan said.

On the other side of the ball, Defensive Line Coach Kyle Taylor has done a great job preparing his unit, Flanagan said.

Uriel Alonzo will be one of the guys the Golden Tigers rely on in the trenches.



**COURTESY PHOTO**

"We call Alonzo the Energizer bunny. He doesn't say a lot but in practice and games he's always wide open," Flanagan said.

Daniel Aycock will be a starting linebacker this year.

"Aycock is one of the hardest working, most coachable kids I've ever coached. He's always full speed and very versatile," Flanagan said.

Defensive Coordinator Jermaine Groce is excited about his secondary. Phifer, not only a wide receiver, will start in the secondary on defense.

The Golden Tigers open up their season this Thursday, August 25, at 6 p.m., with a home game against the Deshler Tigers.

Other scheduled opponents include: Sheffield (August 30), Moulton Middle School (Sept. 6), Brewer (Sept. 13), West Morgan (Sept. 20), with conference semifinals set for September 27 and conference finals October 4.

## Have a Sports Story?

Email it to us at [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com)  
256.332.0255

# 'WILDCATS,' from Page 13

stand out game. Vasquez has never played football until this year. The Wildcats led 28-14 and that would be the final score. "Defensively we did a great job flying to the ball and offensively, we did not have everyone healthy due to some late cramping, but we still performed well. The effort was absolutely there," Hamilton said. "We had a lot of guys who had never played football before who stepped up and contributed to the team including Edwin Villa and Dylan Valdez on defense," Hamilton added. Vasquez finished the game with nine rushes for 73 yards, and nine tackles, 4.5 sacks, and a defensive scoop and score. Tharptown will face the Phillips Bears this week. Hamilton's team avoided any major injuries, save one headset. But the cramping issues late in the game will be addressed before Friday. "We might be sponsored by Pedialyte next week," Hamilton joked.

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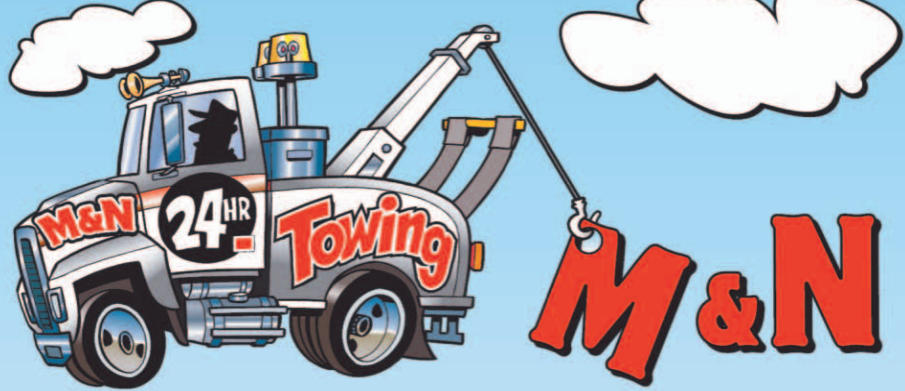
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# Notice of Public Hearing

## 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:

- Allow for the construction and operation of Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Units as defined by ADEM Admin Code 335-13-1-.03(89).
- 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.
- Expansion of the facility's service area to include all cities and counties in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.
- Increase to the facility's maximum average daily volume to 1,000 tons per day.
- 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 [lmansell@hiwaay.net](mailto:lmansell@hiwaay.net) 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.



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**BEAT BAILEY IS BACK!** Submit your picks to us each week in one of two ways: Fill out the entry form on this page and mail it to us at 113 Washington Ave. NW, Russellville, AL 35653, or email your picks to us along with your name and number at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. Picks sent in by mail for Week 4 must be postmarked by Friday, September 2, and picks submitted by email for Week 1 must be received by Saturday, September 3 at 10 a.m. Each week, the contestant who correctly picks the most games will win a free T-shirt and the chance to pick in the grand-prize final-week contest. If multiple contestants correctly pick the same number of games in a given week, the tiebreaker score will be used to determine a winner. Contestants are only eligible to win the weekly contest once. No multiple winners allowed. ONE entry per telephone number. Thanks for playing, and good luck!

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Memphis at Mississippi State	Mississippi State	_____
Louisville at Syracuse	Louisville	_____
Boise State at Oregon State	Boise State	_____
Florida State at LSU	LSU	_____
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## **Bobcats overcome early mistake, roll Hackleburg 36-8**

*John Pilati*  
*Franklin Free Press*

Phil Campbell's Friday night season opener at Hackleburg was a reminder to players, and coaches, that high school football is a 48-minute game. And regardless of how it starts, what counts is how a team finishes.

Coach Kevin Barnwell's team went to 1-0 with a 36-8 win over rival Hackleburg. Although the score might not reflect it, the first quarter belonged to the Panthers, as Hackleburg scored following a shanked quick kick that Barnwell regretted the moment he called for it.

"We had a fourth-and-one and I made a bonehead call. We decided to do a quick kick, but we shanked it and gave them a short field," Barnwell said. "They took the next few plays to score and went up 8-0, but no one on our sidelines panicked. And we went on to score 36 unanswered points, including 22 in the second quarter."

It's situations like the first quarter quick kick where Barnwell said having 40-year coaching veteran Bill Smith on his staff makes a big difference.

"Bill is such a calming force. We didn't let one play create a panic and the presence of a guy like Coach Smith is a big reason for that. We knew our game plan and we stuck with it," Barnwell said.

Bobcat quarterback Kyle Pace ran for a 17-yard touchdown 10 seconds into the second quarter. Pace also scored on a QB run on the two-point try, which tied the game 8-8.

Pace finished with 96 yards on 10 carries. He was 6-7 passing with 135 yards and three touchdowns. Noah Raper pounded the Hackleburg defense for 138 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries. Bryant Hyde led the receiving corps, with four receptions for 114 yards and two touchdowns.

After the early second quarter touchdown, the Bobcat offense didn't take long to score again, as Pace found Hyde for a 43-yard score. Raper's two-point conversion run was good, and the Bobcats led 16-8 with 9:32 left in the half.

With 2:12 to go in the second quarter, the Pace-to-Hyde connection hooked up for a 47-yard touchdown, and Phil Campbell carried a 22-8 lead into the locker room.

Second half scores came from Raper on a 10-yard run, and a 15-yard TD pass from Pace to Robbie Robinson. Isaac Hill finished the scoring with his two-point conversion run.

Defensively, the Bobcats held Hackleburg to 176 yards of offense and only nine first downs. Phil Campbell also forced three turnovers.

Mason Weeks, Jeitt Traywick and Braxten Goodson led the team with five tackles each.

Phil Campbell amassed 479 yards of offense, including 334 rushing yards.

The one negative? The Bobcats eye-popping total of 16 penalties for 160 yards came as the concession stand wasn't the only thing serving up some home cooking, according to some Phil Campbell fans.

The Bobcats travel to Lamar County this Friday for the Bulldogs' season opener, a non-region matchup.

Barnwell plans to keep opposing coaches guessing with their game plans designed to stop Phil Campbell's offense, a strategy that worked against Hackleburg, according to Smith.

"We started in the bone and moved the ball well but we had quite a lot of penalties," Smith said. "We went from the bone to the spread and they didn't adjust too well so that opened up some things for us.

"Coaches are seeing now that you can't get away from the run in football. You've got to be physical, and that's how we played last Friday," Smith added.



Dr. Brandon Jewell

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# A Message from Jackie Richardson on the Landfill Expansion

My dear friends of Franklin County,

You and I are blessed to be citizens of Franklin County, Alabama. I was born here in 1939. I love this county!

God has blessed us with a beautiful county full of forests, clean water, lakes, streams, and a 1000-acre aquifer in Belgreen. The Dismals

Canyon is one of the grandest preserved national landmarks in the U.S..

I am deeply saddened to hear about the proposal of expanding the Hargett Landfill in the county of my birth. The Franklin County Commissioners must reject this.

With my passion for our county's pure natural beauty, and sharing that with our youth, it's hard to understand how any Commissioner would even consider destroying that for any amount of money.

Please use your courage and stand up to stop this assault on Franklin County! Tell the Commissioners to vote NO!

Jackie H. Richardson  
Rustic Youth Camp  
Belgreen Alabama

Write/Call/Visit the Franklin County Commissioners at:

Franklin County Commission, P.O. Box 1028, Russellville, AL 35653 256 332-8850

Attend the Public Hearing Thursday, September 22nd, 5 PM - 9 PM at the AW Todd Center

Speak at the Hearing: Email Leah Mansell (lmansell@hiway.net); Say you will speak against this!

Join our Facebook Group Page: SAVE FRANKLIN COUNTY ALABAMA, Stop Hargett's Landfill Expansion

Paid for by VERY Concerned Citizens of Franklin County