



**CAROL MURPHREE**

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

Pol. Adv. By: Carol Murphree • 879 Keaton Gap Rd, Spruce Pine, AL, 35885

## Landfill expansion application a political hot-potato

*John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press*

When it comes to political survival in Franklin County, garbage is a dirty word if you look at historical precedent.

So the timing of an application filed by Franklin County Land Management, Inc., seeking to modify its permit with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to include collection and disposal of municipal solid waste, couldn't come at a worse time, at least politically speaking.

The four county commission seats

and the Probate Judge seat all will appear on 2024 ballots. If the modification request is approved by the Franklin County Commission, it's still not final. But the application process would move to ADEM, which would have the final decision whether to approve it.

Commissioners must decide whether expanding Neil Hargett's landfill is in the best interests of Franklin County by weighing the pros and cons, as they see them, all while a watchful voting public awaits their decision.

Politics is never easy. There's

See 'LANDFILL,' Page 4

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## Celebration of Life for Busler set for Saturday at Russellville FUMC

*John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press*

For more than 35 years, Rev. Clinton Busler served the needs of his congregations as a Methodist minister.



When Busler passed away on September 8, 2021, COVID-19 protocols recommended against large gatherings like funerals or visitation. Instead, the family had a small gravesite service and announced there would be a Celebration of Life

to be held at a later date.

As his family nears the one year anniversary of Rev. Buster's passing, the time for that celebration has arrived.

There will be a visitation and reception in memory of Busler on Saturday, September 10, from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m., in the Russellville First United Methodist Church Ministry Center. A service will follow at 11 a.m., in the sanctuary.

Busler was a United Methodist Minister from 1965-1999. After he 'retired,' Busler served as Associate Minister at Russellville FUMC, until the time of his death.

Busler remained active calling on families of church members in times

See 'BUSLER,' Page 4

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**Fayoma Jane Lawler, age 89, of Russellville,  
passed away Tuesday, August 23rd. Spry  
Memorial Chapel assisted the family.**

**Van Vinson Hester passed away Friday, August  
26th. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.**

**Girtha Bentley Kuykendall, 83, of Red Bay  
passed August 26th. Akins Funeral Home  
assisted the family.**

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



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## No Fair: Reader takes issue with no exhibits at North Alabama State Fair

Dear 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  
Muscle Shoals



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### Franklin Free Press

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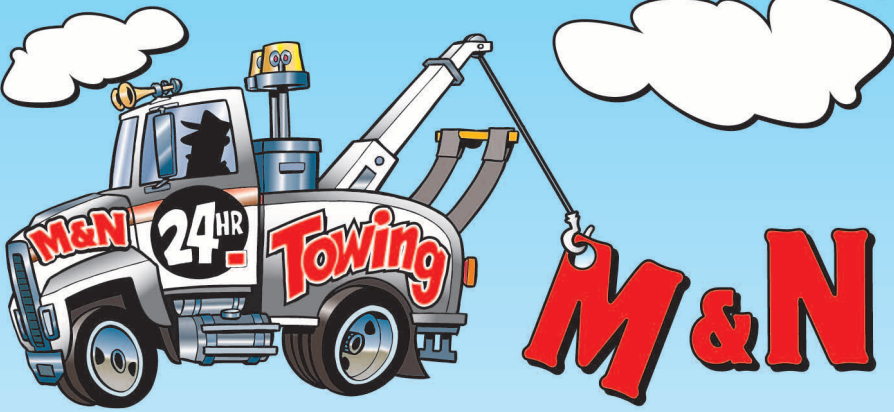
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# 'BUSLER,' from page 1

of celebration and sadness. His caring heart and calming voice reassured others going through life trials.

Busler and his wife Mary Ann have five children, sons Joel (Linda) and Kevin (Nicole), and daughters Karen Caperton (Damion), Sharon Bevis (Larry) and Alison Pierce, and 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Busler was a Florence native who graduated from Coffee High School, Florence State College and Emory University with a Masters of Divinity degree.

He was also a veteran of the United States Navy, having served during the Korean War Era aboard the U.S.S. Preserver.

The Busler family looks forward to reuniting with the many friends and neighbors of their father's this Saturday. Everyone is invited.

# 'LANDFILL,' from page 1

never a good time for a controversial decision, particularly when it deals with solid waste. Just ask prior Franklin County commissioners about that.

In the early 1990s, Franklin County Probate Judge Larry Jackson and the Franklin County Commission decided to be proactive with the State of Alabama's Solid Waste Disposal Act.

Residents were no longer permitted to burn or dispose of their garbage, and everyone was provided garbage pick-up, whether they wanted it or not.

It was an attempt by those in office, they believed, to comply with federal and state laws that gave county commissions legal authority to provide pick-up of solid wastes.

Franklin County residents, many of whom had burned or dumped their garbage for decades, didn't take the new regulations well, and the subsequent election cycle proved that.

All this even though the Solid Waste Disposal Act expressly forbid the uncontrolled and unsupervised dumping or burning of solid waste. In order to comply with the law, each household had to pay a mandatory garbage bill each month. But many Franklin County residents objected and refused to pay their garbage bills. Some 30 years later, there are residents who have never paid their monthly bill. Delinquent solid waste accounts are turned over for collection to a private company, which receives a percentage of any payments it collects as the company's fee.

But the county still remains responsible for picking up and disposing of their municipal solid waste, or MSW, even if a bill remains unpaid.

This is done by transporting the garbage to a transfer station at the Franklin County Landfill, where it goes into an 82,500-pound capacity trailer and is hauled to Morris Farms Landfill in Hillsboro, the nearest MSW-authorized landfill.

With Franklin County having the only transfer station in the area, it's used by other counties and cities, and approximately 330,000 pounds of MSW are deposited into and transported from the landfill each day.

In 2010, Franklin County voters overwhelmingly approved the Franklin County Sewage Amendment, with more than 87% of voters in support. The amendment put an immediate halt to any treated human sewage biosolids being applied to land as fertilizer or soil.

A plant near Leighton that treated and transported the waste to farms across Northwest Alabama soon shut down after facing a lawsuit from Franklin County and similar amendments in neighboring counties that would ban the use of the biosolids waste.

Hargett's application does not request permit modifications to collect hazardous waste or human waste. Instead, he requests approval for construction and operation of a Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, along with expansion of the landfill's service area to include all of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Franklin County Land Management's current service area includes all 67 Alabama counties, three Mississippi counties and three Tennessee counties. Its permit allows collection of construction and demolition waste, and non-MSW waste generated by Innovative Hearth Products in Russellville, including refractory brick, waste concrete, fiber panels, logs and dust.

The modification application also seeks an increase in the maximum average daily volume of waste from 250 tons per day to 1,000 tons per day.

The commission must vote to approve or reject FCLM's modification application within 30 days from the public hearing thereon, which is set for September 22, 2022, at 5 p.m., at the A.W. Todd Centre. If the commission fails to act within 30 days, the petition is deemed to have been approved under Alabama law.

There is more than sufficient information for commissioners to review in making their decision. Unfortunately, there's plenty of misinformation out there as well. Sorting through it and deciding based on public input and information in the permit modification packet, as well as any independent testing or analysis, is what the commission must do.

Deciding what's in the county's best interests, and not the best interests of their political careers, is not always easy for elected officials. In this case, though, commissioners must wade through an intense public pressure campaign launched by opponents of the landfill expansion to find the truths about what is being requested and what impact approving or rejecting it will have for our county's future.

And they must follow Alabama law, as it dictates the application process, and the county commission's responsibilities. If they fail to do so, that could result in legal challenges to any action the commission takes.

In the late 1980s, the Franklin County Commission attempted to halt operations at Hargett's landfill and the matter ended up in federal court, where a judge ruled in Hargett's favor and issued a permanent injunction against Franklin County preventing any actions that would interrupt operations of the landfill. The county was also ordered to pay \$7,500 to Hargett for attorney's fees incurred in bringing the action.

Whether Hargett would initiate legal action in the event his application is denied is an unknown. If that denial is based on misapplication of the law, though, the situation becomes vastly different.

That's why commissioners, Moore, County Attorney Roger Bedford, Jr., and FCLM's attorney Bob Rogers are all using caution and care to comply with state law as they navigate through what can be a complicated process, to say the least.

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# RCS students enjoy Super Citizen Program

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 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.



PHOTO BY JARED DAVIS

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 started is to teach people how to be a good citizen."

Johnson 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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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.

**Y**ou are invited to a free Gospel Concert on Sunday, August 28, at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame, 617 U.S. 72 in Tusculumbia, 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.

**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.

**T**he Sons of Confederate Veterans Lt. Col John W /harris Jr, Camp #1833 will meet Thursday, September 1st, at 6:00PM at Russellville Rec Center on Ash Ave in Russellville. Camp #1833 meets the 1st Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For more information call 2563242317. Everyone is welcome!

**L**ifeSouth Community Blood Center will host a blood drive at Russellville Hospital on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.. LifeSouth is the primary supplier of blood products to Russellville Hospital. Please contact Deborah Lindsey to schedule an appointment at 256-332-8676 or by email at deborah.lindsey@russellvillehospital.org. Please be sure to bring your photo ID when you donate. Everyone who signs up to donate will receive a free T-shirt, an appetizer card from Texas Roadhouse, a free cookie dough card from Papa Murphy's and a free meal ticket from Russellville Hospital. All donors will receive a free cholesterol screening. We will also be giving away DOOR PRIZES!

**T**he Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts in Red Bay, AL announces auditions for it's first production of the 2022-23 season, Murder Me Murder Me Not, by William Springer and directed by Molly Thorn. Auditions will be held Sunday September 18, 2022 at 2:00 PM and Monday September 19, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Weatherford Centre in Red Bay, AL. The cast consists of 3 men and 3 women, with older teenagers that can play older parts. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the book. The dates of the production are November 10-13 and tickets will go on sale Monday October 31, 2022 at the Weatherford Centre in Red Bay. For more information contact Scotty Kennedy at 256-356-8758 or scottydk@att.net. You can also get information of group sales by contacting Beth Hammock at 256-668-0045. The BTCPA provides good, clean entertainment that are almost always comedies that are perfect for senior citizen, church, and any other group that likes to travel for good food and entertainment. Dinner theatre is available to groups and others usually on Thursday nights.

**T**he Cahaba Shriners Temple 2nd Annual Car Show will take place on Saturday, September 10, in Huntsville. Doors open 8 a.m. \$20 entry, prizes 50/50. The event location is 1226 Blake Bottom Road in Huntsville. Motorcycles, Jeeps, Vintage Car/Truck Best of Show, Kids Pick, and food and drinks. Proceeds benefit Cahaba Shrine. For more information, call 256-851-7400.

**C**ahaba Shriners will host a Kids Fishing Rodeo, Saturday, Sept. 24, at 1226 Blake Bottom Road in Huntsville, from 12-3:30 p.m. A hot dog lunch will be provided. First place trophy for Big Fish, and first place trophy for little fish! Kids 14 and under will receive a free Fishing Rodeo t-shirt, rod and reel with tackle box. Free family fun! Come join us!

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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 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

Letters to the editor may be sent to franklin-freepress@yahoo.com.

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## Tanner next for Wildcats

Michael Rice  
 Franklin Free Press

After a season-opening win, Tharptown lost its first game of the season to the Phillips Bears, 37-22.

"Phillips was a very physical team and they flew to the ball well. Their defense got off of blocks well and they just ultimately played with a chip on their shoulder," Tharptown head football coach Jacob Hamilton said.

On offense the Wildcats struggled in the first half being outscored 19-0.

"We turned the ball over a lot and there were some penalties that cost us," Hamilton said.

After halftime the Wildcats were successful finding the scoreboard but never enough to catch up to the Bears. Tharptown trailed 31-6 in the third quarter, but outscored Phillips 16-6 to keep the margin close.

Dawson Higgins had touchdown runs of two yards and 59 yards for Tharptown.

"After the half, we tried to get things going and anytime we had a little momentum going we'd throw a pick or we'd get a penalty," Hamilton said.

Offensively the Wildcats threw three interceptions, and turnovers do not win ball games.

But Hamilton was proud of his team for not shutting down after a difficult first half.

"Our guys didn't quit. They kept fighting and I am proud of that," Hamilton said.

Next up for Tharptown is a home game against Tanner, a team the Wildcats haven't faced since 2019, when Tanner won 39-3. This will be the third meeting between the two teams, with the Rattlers winning both.

**"Our guys didn't quit. They kept fighting and I am proud of that."**

**— Tharptown coach Jacob Hamilton**

## Bobcats' toughness no longer a secret

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

Phil Campbell varsity football coach Kevin Barnwell knows his team is tough.

After a game like Friday's 30-24 win over Lamar County, the rest of the world is finding out the same thing.

The Bobcats overcame a double digit deficit in the third quarter, and scored 22 unanswered to take a 30-18 lead with 4:37 left in the game. The Bulldogs scored with 2:11 remaining to cut it to 30-24, but the Bobcats recovered an onside kick and were able to run out the clock to improve to 2-0.

"Tonight further verified the resilience of our kids. I said before the season I wasn't worried about having kids who will quit," Barnwell said. "These guys now have been with me since they were young. They've stuck it out and a win like this just verifies to the community who they are."

"Admittedly, I'm not the easiest guy to play for. But I feel this is how we have to win games—through our toughness. So we try to be tough on them in workouts and practices. This is the fun part—to get to reap the benefits of a game like that," he added.

Barnwell gave the example of that toughness that came in the game's final seconds, with his team facing a 4th and one at Lamar County's 48, with 1:01 left in a 30-24 game.

The Bobcats came to the line of scrimmage needing two yards to run out the clock. Quarterback Kyle Pace checked to a sneak, but Barnwell called a time out to discuss the crucial call.

Assistant coach Bill Smith said if they would run into the 'C gap,' outside the tackle, it would be a touchdown. So Pace had made the right audible, calling for a QB keeper, and that's what happened. The result? Two yard gain. First and 10. Ballgame.

"It wasn't a touchdown, but we got the first down and it was just as good as a TD," Barnwell said. "I love having kids like Kyle who are not afraid of the moment and Kyle definitely isn't afraid of the moment."

Pace carried 13 times for 37 yards and one touchdown. He was 3-8 passing for 78 yards with a TD and an interception.

Most of those yards came on the game's second play, as Pace hit Braxten Goodson for a 74-yard touchdown strike. Noah Raper converted the two-point run and Phil Campbell led 8-0 with 10:58 left

in the first.

The Bulldogs answered with a 13-play, 77-yard scoring drive that ate up 5:58. Lamar County's two-point try failed, and it was 8-6 Phil Campbell.

A touchdown on the final play of the first quarter gave Lamar County a 12-8 lead, which remained into halftime.

Second half Phil Campbell touchdowns came on a 45-yard run by Raper (14 carries, 123 yards), a 25-yard score from Bryant Hyde (5 carries, 45 yards) and a one-yard Pace run in the fourth.

After the game, his team wasn't the only one that left B a r n w e l l impressed.

"Lamar County is a very good, very physical team. Their offensive line is really strong, so it speaks well of our kids how resilient they were after being punched in the mouth," Barnwell said. "Are you willing to stand four quarters and our kids did that. I'm proud for them finally getting some rewards for what they've done."

Jeitt Traywick led the Bobcats with 10 tackles, including 2.5 for losses. Mason Weeks and Hyde combined for 15 tackles against the physical Bulldog offense.

The game was scheduled to be a home contest for Lamar County, but a blown transformer at the Bulldogs' stadium early last week led the coaches to swap home games this year and next. Phil Campbell will travel to Vernon in 2023 in return for hosting Friday's game.

The Bobcats will host Elkmont Friday, with kickoff set for 7 p.m. The Red Devils' 20-16 win over Brindlee Mountain evened their record at 1-1, after an a season opening loss to Sheffield.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

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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.





Bailey finished all of her picks and still had time to take a nap. Don't sleep on your chance to BEAT BAILEY!!

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Rutgers at Boston College	Boston College	_____
Oregon at Georgia	Georgia	_____
Cincinnati at Arkansas	Arkansas	_____
Utah at Florida	Florida	_____
Notre Dame at Ohio State	Ohio State	_____
Memphis at Mississippi State	Mississippi State	_____
Louisville at Syracuse	Louisville	_____
Boise State at Oregon State	Boise State	_____
Florida State at LSU	LSU	_____
<b>Tiebreaker Score:</b>	Florida State _____	LSU _____
<b>Your Name:</b>	_____	_____
<b>Phone number:</b>	_____	_____

**'New' season begins with region play for RHS**

Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Golden Tigers' early season has not gone as planned with the team now at 0-2. But those two losses can be quickly forgotten if the Golden Tigers can win their first Class 5A, Region 8 game this Friday against Lawrence County. Both early losses were non-region games, and part of a challenging non-region schedule Coach John Ritter created, with 7A Grissom, traditional rival and power Deshler, 6A Athens and

The first game of the season kicked off with the Grissom Tigers. The game was played at Grissom and ended in a 34 to 21 loss. "Grissom had very competitive kids that got after us, and we have the same," Russellville coach John Ritter said.

With it being the first game of the year mistakes were something Ritter expected. And there were plenty of them against Grissom, but Ritter said he's got reason to be optimistic as well. "Grissom has a great front. We were not able to make enough plays to win the game. I saw a lot of errors, but I also saw a lot of positives and I'd say if we can build on the positives we'll be very successful going forward," Ritter said.

Among those positives, junior Malachi Duncan had a great game on defense. On the other side of the ball, wide receiver Randall Johnson had a strong game with three huge plays, one of those resulting in a 66-yard touchdown.

One of the main reasons the game did not go the Golden Tigers' way was their defense. The defense saw Grissom take 78 snaps, a number too high for Ritter's liking. "We couldn't get off the field on 3rd down and our offense struggled on 3rd down," Ritter said.

The Golden Tigers then moved on to week two to face the Deshler Tigers. Both teams were in a scoreless stalemate until Russellville quarterback Harrison Burch hit Banks Langston for a 30-yard touchdown. That would be the last time the Golden Tigers found the end zone for the night, as Deshler went on beat Russellville 14-7.

The Golden Tigers haven't started off with a 0-2 record since 2018. Russellville will face a 1-1 Lawrence County team this Friday in the Golden Tigers' regional opener. The Red Devils defeated Danville two weeks ago, then were routed 55-0 by Guntersville last Friday.

The Lawrence County game is the first of three consecutive Region 8 contests for Russellville, with a road trip to West Point (September 9) and a home contest with East Limestone (September 16).

Although it's not the start Ritter and his team wanted, if they take care of business this week, it would be the first of three very winnable games that could set the table for a run at a region championship.





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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@hiwaay.net](mailto:lmansell@hiwaay.net)); Say you will speak against this!

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# FOOTBALL

FRANKLIN FREE PRESS



Russellville Golden Tigers  
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Tharptown Wildcats  
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Red Bay Tigers  
Page 23



Phil Campbell Bobcats  
Page 25



Vina Red Devils  
Page 26





# Golden Tigers seeking fresh start with Region 8 opener vs. Lawrence County

Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press

## Russellville Football Schedule 2022

8/19 at Grissom  
8/26 at Deshler  
9/2 vs. Lawrence County  
9/9 at West Point  
9/16 vs. East Limestone  
9/23 vs. Mars Hill Bible  
9/30 vs. Brewer  
10/7 BYE Week  
10/14 at Ardmore  
10/21 at Fairview  
10/28 vs. Athens

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"Grissom had very competitive kids that got after us, and we have the same," Russellville coach John Ritter said.

With it being the first game of the year mistakes were something Ritter expected. And there were plenty of them against Grissom, but Ritter said he's got reason to be optimistic as well.

"Grissom has a great front. We were not able to make enough plays to win the game. I saw a lot of errors, but I also saw a lot of positives and I'd say if we can build on the positives we'll be very successful going forward," Ritter said.

Among those positives, junior Malachi Duncan had a great game on defense.

On the other side of the ball, wide receiver Randall Johnson had a strong game with three huge plays, one of those resulting in a 66-yard touchdown.

One of the main reasons the game did not go the Golden Tigers' way was their defense. The defense saw Grissom take 78 snaps, a number too high for Ritter's liking.

"We couldn't get off the field on 3rd down and our offense struggled on 3rd

down," Ritter said.

The Golden Tigers then moved on to week two to face the Deshler Tigers. Both teams were in a scoreless stalemate until Russellville quarterback Harrison Burch hit Banks Langston for a 30-yard touchdown. That would be the last time the Golden Tigers found the end zone for the night, as Deshler went on to beat Russellville 14-7.

The Golden Tigers haven't started off with a 0-2 record since 2018. Russellville will face a 1-1 Lawrence County team this Friday in the Golden Tigers' regional opener. The Red Devils defeated Danville two weeks ago, then were routed 55-0 by Guntersville last Friday.

The Lawrence County game is the first of three consecutive Region 8 contests for Russellville, with a road trip to West Point (September 9) and a home contest with East Limestone (September 16).

Although it's not the start Ritter and his team wanted, if they take care of business this week, it would be the first of three very winnable games that could set the table for a run at a region championship.

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Front Row, from left: Kim Clonts, Greg Trapp, Heath Grimes.**

## *Russellville City Schools 2022-23 Calendar*

Labor Day Sept. 5

Homecoming—Half Day Sept 30

Fall Break Oct. 7-10

Veterans' Day Nov. 11

Thanksgiving Nov. 21-25

Student Half Day Dec. 16

Christmas Break Dec. 19 - Jan. 4

President's Day Feb. 20

Spring Break Apr. 3-7

Half Day/Last Day May 26

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# Starting anew: New coaches, new players lead Wildcats into 2022 campaign

Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press

The Tharptown Wildcats have a number of new faces for the 2022 season, including their new head coach.

Franklin County native Jacob Hamilton has been fast at work readying the Wildcats for their 2022 season. They kicked off their season with a 28-14 win over the Shoals Christian Flames.

Hamilton took over the program and with little less than a month to prepare the Wildcats for regular season play. His young team includes only three seniors, Rogelio Francisco, Joel Perez and Marcus Jeffreys. Perez returned a Shoals Christian fumble for a 30-yard touchdown to help his team build a 12-7 lead after one quarter.

When school started in early August, Hamilton hit the hallways to recruit kids.

"We were practicing in the summer with 25 players. After the first week of school we had 46 players practicing," Hamilton said.

On the offensive side, junior Hunter Reynolds will lead the Wildcats at the quarterback position. Reynolds will also be on the opposite side of the ball playing cornerback. Reynolds showed his versatility in the Wildcats' season opener, as he ran for an eight-yard touchdown.

When Reynolds passes, junior Dylan Dolley will be the Wildcats' primary weapon this fall. Dolley is a 6'2", 250-pound tight end.

"He's a boss. He has the right attitude to get stronger in the weight room," Hamilton said.

Hamilton will count on contributions from Dawson Higgins on the ground. Higgins had a team high 121 yards against Shoals Christian on 20 carries, with a touchdown. On the defensive side, the Wildcats have a youth movement. Josh Maggerise, freshman, will be called on to step up at one of the

## Tharptown Football Schedule 2022

8/19 vs. Shoals Christian

8/26 at Phillips

9/2 vs. Tanner

9/9 at Hatton

9/16 at Lexington

9/23 at Cherokee

9/30 vs Red Bay (HC)

10/6 BYE

10/13 at Sheffield

10/21 at Falkville

10/28 vs. Whitesburg Christian

corner spots. At linebacker, Jackson Clement, a junior, is one player Hamilton is counting on.

"He's a hard-nosed kid. He loves contact and when we get him playing downhill he'll make noise at that linebacker position," Hamilton said.

Junior Jeremy Vasquez scored on an 18-yard fumble return in week zero to catch the eye of coaches as well.

The Wildcats are still putting the pieces together after a season-opening win, as they continue to figure out what kind of team they'll be. The Wildcats doubled their roster in one week before their first game against Shoals Christian.

Tharptown's new Class 2A, Region 8 includes Falkville, Hatton, Lexington, Red Bay, Sheffield, Tanner and Lindsay Lane. Lindsay Lane was forced to forfeit its 2022 football season when the school did not have enough players to field a team.

This Friday the Wildcats will face off against the Tanner Rattlers, in the third matchup between the two teams.

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*Spirit of Hodges - October 9*

*Spruce Pine Day - October 16*

*Trunk or Treat - October 30*

*Holly Day at the Todd Centre - December 4*

*Other Attractions*

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# Red Bay off to 1-0 start

Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press

The Red Bay Tigers are led by varsity football coach Heath Childers. Childers is excited for what's to come for his team as he enters his second year in charge of the program.

"Summer workouts went great, we had at least 95% turnout every-day," Childers said.

The Tigers are coming off a 2-7 season and looking to put Red Bay back on the map.

"We lost a couple of good seniors last year. One of those was Eli Luster. Luckily last year, we had a small senior class so we're returning a lot of our athletes," Childers said.

The Tigers also have new faces who transferred in over the summer. One of those faces is Russellville native Reed Hamilton who plays left tackle. Hamilton is a sophomore who will be counted on to protect quarterback Gage Edgmon.

Edgmon, a junior, is another player who Childers will count on to improve the Tigers' offensive production.

"Last year everyone saw our very basic wing T offense. We didn't have a lot of time in the offense when I got hired. We'll have the look like last year, but a huge difference in our blocking system and our kids are able to get in more formations," Childers said.

As the season approached, Childers knew the Tigers' first

opponent, the Hamilton Aggies, were going to be tough. Hamilton defeated Red Bay 40-24 last season.

"We're not going out on the field with 45 or 50 players. I'm proud of all our players. We're gonna go out with the 25 players that

## Red Bay Football 2022

8/19 vs. Hamilton  
8/26 Bye Week  
9/2 vs. Lexington  
9/9 at Sheffield  
9/16 vs. Hackleburg  
9/23 vs. Belmont  
9/30 at Tharptown  
10/7 at Falkville  
10/14 vs. Tanner  
10/21 at Hatton  
10/28 vs. Phil Campbell

**"We're not going out on the field with 45 or 50 players. I'm proud of all our players. We're gonna go out with the 25 players that showed up and put the work in." — Red Bay Coach Heath Childers**

showed up and put the work in," Childers said.

"Hamilton is a great team and they execute well. They'll be able to rest players more than we're going to be able to," Childers added.

Red Bay avenged last year's loss with a 22-20 win over the Aggies on August 19.

The Tigers had a bye week last Friday. This Friday the Tigers will take on the Lexington Golden Bears at home. It's another opportunity to get some payback for last year's 34-6 Lexington win.

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

And don't forget to check us out online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!

## Good Luck to All Franklin County Teams!



From left: Commissioners Chris Wallace, Jason Miller, Joseph Baldwin and David Hester. Seated: Probate Judge Barry Moore.

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# A guessing game: Bobcats' multiple formations keep defenses on edge

Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press

"There's no sense in trying to fit a square peg into a round hole. We love the simplicity of the wishbone offense."

Last year, Phil Campbell varsity football coach Kevin Barnwell sought out Franklin County coaching legend Bill Smith to help implement the wishbone offense. Smith had success all throughout the 1980s and ran the offense that Barnwell wanted to bring back.

"I called Bill last year to see if he would come out and help us install a couple things and he's been with me ever since," Barnwell said.

The Bobcats still run their spread and trips formations, the more modern offenses, to remain versatile. It's all about keeping an opponent guessing what they might see next.

"It's almost like a pitcher in baseball. You throw a fastball then a change up and then a slider. If something's not working, we can find something to stick in and that's why have these various things we can throw at teams," Barnwell said.

<b>8/19 at Hackleburg</b>
<b>8/26 at Lamar County</b>
<b>9/1 vs. Elkmont</b>
<b>9/9 at Colbert County</b>
<b>9/23 vs. Carbon Hill</b>
<b>9/30 vs. Lauderdale County</b>
<b>10/7 at Mars Hill</b>
<b>10/14 vs. Colbert Heights</b>
<b>10/21 at Clements</b>
<b>10/28 at Red Bay</b>

Phil Campbell rolled in its season opener, a 36-8 road win over rival Hackleburg. Five Bobcats scored touchdowns, as Phil Campbell erased an early 8-0 deficit with 36 unanswered points.

One of those touchdowns came when quarterback Kyle Pace connected with Robbie Robinson for a 15-yard touchdown in the second half. Robinson, a wide receiver, is a transfer from Brooks High School. He will be counted on to help fill those receiver slots in the Bobcats' offense, along with Braxten Goodson and Bryant Hyde, who had four receptions for 114 yards and two touchdowns against the Panthers.

Senior Gage Baker started last year as the running back but was moved to right guard to bring needed strength to the offensive line. Baker was successful on the line, but this year Barnwell has moved him to fullback.

"Baker is a big strong kid who can run. We really like him because we feel like he's a tough matchup for middle linebackers. We're trying to make the fullbacks great again," Barnwell joked.

Also in the backfield are Noel Raper and Sage Raper who will have a lot of touches this season, Barnwell said.

At quarterback, if Pace's week one performance is a prelude to a full season, the Bobcats should post some impressive numbers. Pace was 6 of 7 for 135 yards and three touchdowns in the Bobcats' opener, and he ran nine times for 96 yards and another score.

This year on defense the Bobcats are looking for players to fill positions where seniors started last season, including at the corner positions and the rogue striker position.

Mason Weeks has come in this fall and played well for the Bobcats as he learns the defense, Barnwell said. Weeks is a 10th grader who is in a starting role.

Another asset for Phil Campbell doesn't play on Friday nights, but his contribution is significant during games. Barnwell's former Hackleburg teammate and lifelong friend David Palmer serves as Defensive Coordinator for the Bobcats. Palmer walked on to the University of Alabama team and played for the Crimson Tide in the 1980s. Palmer and assistant coach Randy Pike serve as volunteers on the Phil Campbell staff.

"Without Palmer I'm playing 'Whack-A-Mole' at Chuck E. Cheese, and he helps me focus on other things. He loves the game and he loves the kids," Barnwell said.

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## Committed: Staff of Vina graduates, players share mutual love of school, FB program

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The bond between football players and their coaches is not unlike family, particularly in a small community like Vina.

With a smaller school and coaching staff, young athletes learn quickly whether their coaches believe in them and want to be there, or whether it's just one stop along the coaching trail.

No such questions have to be asked by the Vina Red Devils football team. Coach Luke Childers has been on the Vina faculty for 11 years, teaching Elementary Resource classes and coaching football, basketball and track. Childers is in his second stint as the Red Devils' head coach, and this season will be his sixth overall. He is a 2006 Vina High School graduate. His assistants, Randy Barnes and Cody Renfrow, are also Vina alumni.

Vina Football Schedule 2022	
8/26:	at Addison
9/02:	BYE Week
9/09:	vs. Shoals Christian (Homecoming)
9/16:	at Woodville
9/23:	vs. Curry (Senior Night)
9/30:	at Phillips
10/07:	at Cherokee
10/14:	vs. Meek
10/21:	vs. Hackleburg
10/28:	vs. Waterloo

"I think with our coaches having graduated from here, it builds more trust between our players and staff," Childers said. "They know we're here because we want to be here. This is our community, so it definitely brings us closer together."

The Vina roster includes 23 players, and is loaded with young talent. Conner Davidson, Wyatt Kennedy and Jace Johnson are the lone seniors. There are five freshmen and one eighth-grader on the varsity roster, so Childers' young team will gain plenty of on-field experience in 2022.

"We've talked with our seniors about being leaders on and off the field. It's more important when you're a young team," Childers said. "We only have three seniors and one of them is a transfer. Their job is to show what needs to be done on, and off, the field. That's what we've been preaching all off season."

With Kennedy, Vina has an experienced quarterback Childers can trust. Add that to a talented receiving corps of Davidson, Christian Purser and Cai Lawler, and it's enough to turn a ground-and-pound coach into one who will rely on passing more than ever.

"We'll definitely try and pass a lot this year. With Wyatt, he's started a few years so we feel good with him, and we've got depth at receiver, so we'll run more of the spread since that's what fits in with the kids. We'll definitely open it up," Childers said.

When the Red Devils hand the ball off, it will most likely be to junior Bailey Scott. "He ran a little for us last year, so he's got some experience," Childers said. "We also have Trevor Baker, a sophomore, who's a bigger kid we can go to when we focus on power running. With those two, it's three yards and a cloud of dust. Just fall forward."

Defensively, Childers says his team is better equipped to stop the run. "We have a couple guys up front in Jace Johnson and Kaleb McCuen who transferred in. We're counting on them to make a lot of tackles. And we've got some experience with Bailey Scott and (Conner) Davidson at safety as well," Childers said.

Vina's new 1A Region 8 alignment includes Addison, the Red Devils' week one opponent, Shoals Christian, Phillips, Cherokee, Meek, Hackleburg and Waterloo.

Non-region games include a road contest at Woodville and a home game against Curry.

The Red Devils did not play last weekend, something Childers would not prefer. But there are advantages both ways, he explained.

"It does help to have time to prepare another week. But you always like to get your first game under your belt," Childers said. "You get those nerves out of the way. I would have loved to play 'week zero.' You always have butterflies when the season starts, but you get them out of the way earlier."

Regardless of wins or losses, 2022 will be a true team effort for Vina, right down to the youngest player, eighth-grader Jamison Brown.

"He's hurt this week but will be back for Homecoming (against Shoals Christian). He'll get some playing time at defensive end," Childers said.

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## 2022-23 Important Dates

Sept 5: Labor Day  
Oct 14: School 1/2 Day  
Oct 17-18: Fall Break  
Nov 11: Veteran's Day  
Nov 21-25: Thanksgiving  
Dec 16: School 1/2 Day  
Dec 19-Jan 6: Christmas

Jan 9-11: Teacher In-Service Day  
Jan 12: Students Return  
Jan 16: Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Feb. 20: President's Day  
April 3-7: Spring Break  
May 25-26: Graduations