

CAROL MURPHREE

Board of Education
District 4
November 8, 2022

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Russellville city employees receive raise, family insurance supplement

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When the Russellville City Council unanimously approved a four-step pay raise for all full-time city employees at its September 5th meeting, it was a significant step toward making job openings at the city more attractive to applicants.

The four-step raise, which takes effect October 1st, amounts to more than a 12.5% increase in salaries. Part-time city employees also received a 12.56 % raise effective October 1st.

Russellville Police Chief Chris

Hargett told Mayor David Grissom and the council how appreciative he was for the raise and how it will impact the city's ability to attract qualified candidates for police officer positions.

"On behalf of the employees of the Russellville Police Department and other city employees, we appreciate the hard work our mayor and city council put in to be able to give these raises," Hargett said. "This is a tremendous step in the right direction like nothing that has been done before."

"It seems like every month at coun-

See 'RAISES,' Page 3

Franklin BOE approves record \$56.8 million budget

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Board of Education approved a \$56.8 million budget for fiscal year 2022-23 at the board's September 13th meeting.

That represents the largest-ever budget for the system, significantly surpassing last year's \$42.8 million threshold. The increase primarily results from education pay raises and funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act being included in the budget.

With anticipated revenues of \$57.66 million, and a \$878,835 surplus from other funding sources, the budget leaves a surplus of \$1.7 mil-

lion for FY 2022-23.

The largest funding increase comes from federal funds, including monies received pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Federal revenues were \$6.19 million in last year's budget, compared to an anticipated \$19.12 million in FY 2022-23.

Alabama law requires each public school system to maintain a general fund balance of at least one month's operating expenses, approximately \$2.7 million for Franklin County Schools. The system will have more than \$1.1 million on top of that required amount in its ending fund balance on September 30, 2023,

See 'BUDGET' Page 8

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Michael Shane Sutherland, 67, of Phil Campbell, passed away September 17, 2022. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

Frances Ophelia Welborn, 83, of Phil Campbell, passed away September 14, 2022. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

Hubert J. Garrison, 82, of Russellville, passed away September 16, 2022. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Barbara Ann Seal Clement, 77, of Russellville, passed away September 14, 2022. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Sammy C. Stults Sr., 78, of Russellville, AL. passed away September 16, 2022. Akins Funeral Home assisted the family.

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



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'RAISES,' from page 1

cil meetings we're in here asking you to post job openings for the police department," he added.

In addition to the four-step raises, all full-time employees who are signed up for family insurance coverage will receive a \$400 supplement toward that coverage beginning October 1st. That amount is more than half the monthly cost of family coverage for city employees.

Mayor David Grissom said the raises and insurance supplements were something the council worked on for a long time. Grissom said the city was able to include the raises in the budget as the result of increased sales tax revenue and additional in-lieu of tax payments received from the Russellville Electric Board.

"It is unfortunate we were not able to provide this well-deserved raise last year because the Russellville Electric Board significantly underpaid its in-lieu of tax payment to the city. Their financial mismanagement prevented city employees from receiving a raise one year earlier."

**--Darren Woodruff
District 2 Councilman**

"This is something we worked on for some time in our general fund budget," Grissom said. "We're thankful we can do this for our employees. I thank the city council for being in support of this, and we thank Belinda (Miller), Shirley (McSpadden) and Danny (McDowell) for their help in making this happen."

Each year, the Russellville Electric Board pays to the city an in-lieu of tax payment that is based on the value of REB's assets. When work was completed on REB's second substation (on Walnut Gate Road) several years ago, REB Manager Charles Canida failed to increase the board's payment to the City of Russellville, even though the REB added a multi-million dollar substation to its assets.

Canida later blamed the failure to pay more than \$210,000 of funds due to the city on 'an accounting error.' Canida did not elaborate on whose error it was.

The board paid a lump sum amount for the arrearage but did not pay any interest on the amount owed, even though it was paid more than a year late. That didn't sit well with Russellville City Councilman Darren Woodruff.

"I'm extremely pleased that the mayor and city council have been able to give our employees a four-step raise and a substantial supplement toward paying for their family medical coverage," Woodruff said.

"This has been a goal of ours since the beginning of this term. It is very unfortunate that we were not able to provide this well-deserved raise last year because the Russellville Electric Board significantly underpaid its in-lieu of tax payment to the city. Their financial mismanagement prevented city employees from receiving a raise one year earlier," he added.

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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The Franklin Free Press strives for excellence and accuracy, and we will be pleased to correct any error in our newspaper. To request a correction or clarification, call or e-mail our office.

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RV Water & Sewer Board receives \$40,000 energy-efficient ADECA grant

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Water and Sewer Board recently received a \$40,000 energy-efficient upgrade grant administered through the Alabama Department of Community and Economic Affairs (ADECA).

Gov. Kay Ivey and ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell announced the grant in March 2022. More than \$564,000 in energy-efficient grants were awarded to support projects that will mean more energy-efficient usage for municipalities and wastewater treatment facilities.

The grants were administered by ADECA using funds allocated by the United States Department of Energy as part of the State Energy Program.

Russellville Water and Sewer Board Manager Eric Hill said the funds were used on a recently completed project that reduces power consumption and included an upgraded energy efficient pump used in the wastewater treatment process.

The variable frequency drives control the flow of sewage through the pumps and help the treatment plant achieve the required flow. The improvements were made at the Radford "Joe" Murray Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The annual savings from the variable frequency drive alone will exceed \$14,000. Additionally, the pump upgrade will reduce run time and save more than \$2,000 per year in additional energy costs.

In addition to the \$40,000 grant, the project included in-kind labor from the Russellville Water and Sewer Board wastewater staff and electrician, bringing the project total to \$54,296.

"The board will recover its costs in less than one year, and will continue to reduce its energy cost in the future," Hill said.

The Russellville Water and Sewer Board and Hill expressed their appreciation to Rep. Jamie Kiel, Engineer Rod Hawkins, Gov. Kay Ivey, Kenneth Boswell and the ADECA staff for making the project a success.

Kiel said there is a double benefit from these funds, both helping keep water safer and cleaner while saving on energy costs.

"It is very important to both me and Gov. Ivey that our water system is safe and reliable," Kiel said. "This grant will not only do that, but it will also save rate payers money by reducing energy costs associated with keeping our water clean.

"I am appreciative to Eric Hill for his work to apply for and to obtain this grant," he added.



From left: Lynn Jones, Rodney Cox, Rep. Jamie Kiel, Eric Hill, John Seal and Kelby James.

Miranda Decker, M.D.

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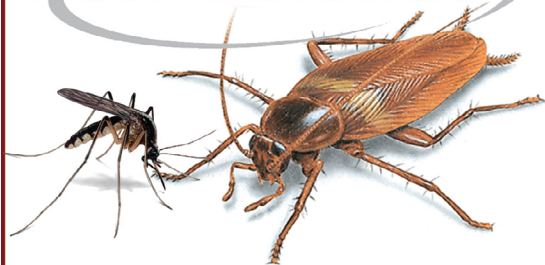
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Hutcheson earns state Career Tech award

Jason Collum
The Red Bay News

RED BAY | After 30 years of teaching home economics classes at Red Bay, Sherry Hutcheson decided it was time to leave the classroom for retirement at the end of the school year in May. That has not meant life has slowed for her any, though. Quite the opposite, the summer has been a busy one for Hutcheson, who was honored in July with a statewide award for her contributions in the classroom.

Hutcheson received the overall Lifetime Achievement Award on July 20 in Mobile from the Alabama Association for Career and Technical Education. The award was a surprise for Hutcheson, who believed she was only attending the ceremony for a different honor.

"I knew I was getting the Family Consumer Science Lifetime Achievement Award, but I did not know I was getting the overall Career Tech award," Hutcheson said.

Hutcheson was nominated by friend and Jacksonville State University instructor Kim Mitchell. Mitchell told Hutcheson around the first of June she was nominated for the Family Consumer Science award. Mitchell had Hutcheson submit some paperwork for the award, but then came back needing more.

"She said, 'I need you to fill out some more papers,' so I went back and filled them out," Hutcheson said. "I didn't know until I got down there that I got the overall Alabama Career Tech award."

Receiving the award capped a busy summer for Hutcheson. She and her husband, Toby, and Red Bay High School assistant principal, Dr. Jacqueline Parsons, designed and painted a bright, colorful mural featuring characters from the Peanuts comic strip on the side of a building at the Red Bay Elementary playground. And she's not finished yet as she and Parsons will be painting a new concrete Tiger sculpture that has been mounted on a concrete base outside the school cafeteria. Between these projects and family responsibilities, Hutcheson has not had much time to figure out what retirement looks like.

"Mrs. Parsons keeps finding things for me to do," Hutcheson said.

Service to the school

While at Red Bay, Hutcheson helped for 16 years on chairing the annual prom committee. Barbara Cashion first got Hutcheson involved with helping on the prom, and quickly thereafter handed off the reigns to Hutcheson.

Hutcheson and her students also helped in cooking for various events, such as for coaches before games and helping with steak sandwich fundraiser for the school. She said she enjoyed cooking for her fellow teachers for the annual teacher tailgate party prior to the Alabama-Auburn football game.



Sherry Hutcheson

If these things didn't point to Hutcheson's dedication to her job, her students, and fellow faculty members, the fact she drove every school day from her home near Phil Campbell – putting more than a million miles across four different vehicles – is testament to what Red Bay High School has meant to Hutcheson.

Her major from Auburn University was in family resource management, but a hiring freeze in the state kept her from getting a job with the extension service. She was later encouraged to her teaching degree, which she did, and then was able to begin her service in education when Irene Bolton retired from the home economics post at Red Bay in 1992.

The work she performed and the efforts she gave in leading her classes through the years culminated in the awards she received this summer, but the ever-humble Hutcheson did not go looking for these honors. They instead found her. And, even though she's retired, the award means she now qualifies for additional potential honors.

"I never expected to get the award for all the career tech teachers in the state," Hutcheson said. "Now I found out I get to do regional competitions. The person who wins the Lifetime Achievement Award gets to compete regionally. We get to show what we've done in our careers and then if you win the regional competition, you get to go to the nationals."



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 Cahaba 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!

 Gateway Church will host a Ladies Service on September 24, 2022. Brunch at 10:00 a.m. and Service will begin at 11:00 a.m. Special Speaker: Amy Skipper from Ft. Payne, Al. Music by Gateway Praise Team. Church is located at 15988 Hwy. 43 North in Russellville. If you have any questions, please call 256-577-3997.

 The Russellville Book lovers will host a "Walk to Wellness" on Saturday, October 29th at 9 a.m., at the Russellville High School Field House and track. There will be refreshments and information booths. Registration is \$25 and comes with a t-shirt.

 The Russellville Book Lovers will host a "Walk to Wellness" on Saturday, October 29th at 9 a.m., at the Russellville High School Field House and Track. There will be refreshments and information booths. Registration is \$25 and comes with a t-shirt. The annual event raises funds for breast cancer awareness. Funds will be used to benefit women with breast cancer who are on their "walk to wellness." More than \$2,400 has been donated to the Russellville Hospital Cancer Fund and cancer survivors. This year is dedicated to Maudie Bedford who recently passed away after an extended bout with cancer. She is the person who sponsored the Book Lovers' first year of Walk to Wellness. Please make plans to take part if you can!

 Everyone is invited to a free, powerful and impactful Gospel Horse Whispering event presented by Paul Daily with Wild Horse Ministries at Hodges Equestrian Arena in Hodges, Alabama, on Sunday, September 25, at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Emily Hubbard with Mending Hearts Farm at 256-668-4327.

We love to hear from you! Please send your guest columns, cartoon panels, letters to the editor, recipes and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

School bus driver jailed for DUI, Reckless Endangerment

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A Franklin County Schools bus driver was arrested and charged Friday with DUI and reckless endangerment as she was transporting students to Tharptown School.

Rhonda Barksdale, 58, bonded out of the Franklin County Jail Saturday after she was charged with Driving Under the Influence of Any Substance and numerous counts of Reckless Endangerment.

Barksdale, who drives a Tharptown School bus route, caught the attention of a motorist who called 911 and described her driving erratically including driving off the road multiple times. The call was received around 7:45 a.m., Friday.

The motorist, according to Franklin County Sheriff Shannon Oliver, moved in front of the bus and slowed down enough to get the bus to stop. The motorist boarded the bus to make sure there was no medical issue with the driver.

When deputies arrived at the intersection of Highway 48 and County Road 77, Barksdale was sitting in the driver's seat with the bus parked on the side of the road. Paramedics examined Barksdale and did not observe any medical issue or concern, Oliver said.

Oliver believes Barksdale was under the influence of medications to the point that she could not safely operate a motor vehicle, much less a school bus full of students.

Oliver said Barksdale faces not only DUI but 40 counts of Reckless Endangerment, one for each student on the bus. Reckless Endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail, occurs when a person "recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury to another person."

Barksdale has a Red Bay address and according to the sheriff, she comes from Red Bay each morning and afternoon to drive her route. Her employment was approved by the Franklin County Board of Education at the board's September 13th meeting.

According to one witness who observed the bus Barksdale was driving, she "almost hit me head-on. I was blowing my horn like crazy and about had to take to the ditch to avoid being hit," the witness said.

The Franklin Free Press reached to Franklin County Schools Superintendent of Education Greg Hamilton for comment. Hamilton was out of town on official school business and was unavailable for comment.



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'BUDGET,' from page 1

representing a 1.4 month's balance.

Franklin County Schools Superintendent of Education Greg Hamilton told board members he was pleased with the system's fiscal health and that it was the result of the collective hard work of school administrators, faculty, staff and students.

"I'm very pleased with our financial condition and I appreciate the hard work of Carla Knight (Chief Financial Officer) each year on the budget," Hamilton said. "We are seeing some solid financial numbers along with expansion of our infrastructure. That results from the hard work of the people across our school system." Revenue from the State of Alabama is estimated to be \$30.22 million in FY 22-23. Local revenues of \$8.07 million and federal revenues of \$19.12 million, along with \$242,500 from other resources.

Of the budgeted expenditures, \$25.4 million is allocated to instructional services, with an additional \$5.75 million in instructional support services. Operations and maintenance costs are budgeted at \$5.52 million, with \$6.75 million for auxiliary services, \$2.32 million for general administrative services, \$4.7 million for capital outlay, \$1.6 million for debt services and \$4.64 million for other expenditures.

The system's projected enrollment is 3,400 students, down 12 students from FY 21-22. Tharptown School (K-12) enrollment is 849. Belgreen School (K-12) has 522 students. Phil Campbell High School, grades 7-12, has 425 students. Phil Campbell Elementary's (grades K-6) enrollment is 395. East Franklin Junior High School's enrollment is 219. Red Bay High School (7-12) has 336 students and Red Bay Elementary has 402 enrolled. Vina (K-12) has 252 students.

Franklin County Schools has 562 employees, including certified and non-certified support personnel.

In other agenda items, the board:

--approved a memorandum of understanding with the City of Red Bay for a School Resource Officer, Eric Zills.

--approved a memorandum of understanding with Franklin County Commission and Franklin County Sheriff's Office for three School Resource Officers for the 2022-23 school year.

--approved a FY 2023 Five-Year Capital Plan.

--approved the 2022-23 renewal of the Alabama Trust for Boards of Education General Liability/Errors and Omissions Liability Fund coverage.

--approved compensation of \$500 to Patti Swinney for Yearbook Sponsor at Vina High School. Vina will reimburse the Franklin BOE for the \$500 plus applicable benefits.

--approved personnel moves including:

--Employment: Amy Beard, part-time custodian, Tharptown Elementary, Ashley Eckert, Alison Jamison, special education aides at Vina, Rhonda

Barksdale, bus driver, Delana Hubbard, Child Nutrition Assistant, Red Bay, Derrell Potter, head boys' basketball coach, East Franklin, Melissa Renee Colburn, part-time custodian, East Franklin, Kim Whitten, secretary, PCHS, Abram Tidwell, Shanna Gardner and Dollie King, special education aides for Franklin County Schools, and Melissa McHenry, Career Coach.

--Transfers: Kim Coker, part-time special education teacher, from THS to Franklin County Schools.

--FMLA Request: Meaghan Reed, teacher, PCES, until January 9, 2023.

--Substitute Bus Drivers: Grant Fancher, Bill Fell and Lisa Norton.

--Child Nutrition Program substitutes: Heather Mills, Jessica Snow and Stacia Vandiver.

The next board meeting is set for November 15, 2022, with work session at 5 p.m., and meeting to follow.

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Russellville fire department, Belgreen kindergarten among FCCDC grant recipients

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Community Development Commission met August 26, 2022, and approved a number of grants to local schools and non-profit agencies.

The commission, which includes Brad Bolton, Jeremy Campbell, Chris Wallace and Charlene Fancher, meets quarterly to review grant applications. The next meeting of the commission will be October 31, 2022, at 8:30 a.m., at the Franklin County Commission Annex.

Any grant request for that meeting must be received by a member of the commission on or before October 24, 2022, at noon.

With the most recent grants, more than \$2.402 million has been returned to Franklin County since the inception of the funding. The funds come from in lieu of tax payments from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

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

Grant awards for the August 26th meeting included:

--\$4,000 to Russellville Fire Department for purchase of Pluggie Fire Plug Training Tool.

--\$5,000 to Franklin County Sheriff's Office for purchase of K9 and training for handler.

--\$6,000 transferred to the Future Economic Development Fund.

--\$1,000 to Belgreen High School Kindergarten classroom for purchase of five tables for flexible seating.

--\$1,200 to the Franklin County Branch of the MLK Scholarship Committee for one of three scholarships.

--\$1,500 to Red Bay Elementary School for sixth grade science purchase of lab tables and stools.

--\$1,000 to the City of Red Bay Founder's Day Festival sponsorship.

--\$4,500 to Red Bay High School Football for varsity and JV helmets and a nutrition program.

--\$1,500 to Red Bay High School for Business Education purchase of course materials for NW-SCC dual enrollment Business course.

--\$7,000 to Liberty Learning Foundation Super Citizen Program for Franklin County and Russellville City Schools.

--\$2,750 to Bear Creek Development Authority for purchase of three

eCitation tablets, depth finder and other life saving equipment.

--\$800 to Vina High School for music program purchase of instruments and supplies.

--\$1,500 to Vina High School for gymnasium flooring refurbishing project.

--\$1,500 to Phil Campbell High School baseball for purchase of infield dirt and field conditioner.

--\$800 to Phil Campbell High School for computer science purchase of required programs and equipment upkeep.

--\$800 to Tharptown High School for Scholars Bowl purchase of Quiz Pro Buzzer System.

--\$800 to Phil Campbell Elementary School for reading program materials.

--\$800 to Belgreen High School Special Education purchase of materials for science and reading.

--\$2,500 to Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council for repairs.

--\$500 to Phil Campbell High School Band for generator purchase.

--\$1,375 to Red Bay High School Newspapers in Education via Red Bay Times.

--\$625 to Vina High School for Newspapers in Education via Red Bay Times.

--\$825 to Phil Campbell High School Basketball for purchase of ice machine and equipment.

My take on this...

Fifty Years Later and We Are Together Again!

Gail Motes

Franklin Free Press

A few of us from our Phil Campbell High School senior class have been talking about having a class reunion for many years.

Some from this "ever-talked-about-planning-committee" are no longer with us, but I can still recall the excitement they showed when they said 'I'll help!' or 'Count me in!'

There are so many of our classmates who can no longer be in the head count at our reunion, but everyone will forever remain in our hearts and in our memories.

My first six years were spent at Spruce Pine Elementary School with two grades sharing the same classroom and the same teacher.

At lunch time, we would line up with our green tray that we handed to one of the two cooks who filled them with a home cooked meal and a scrumptious dessert.

Fridays were my favorite because we had the best tasting soup I've ever put in my mouth. To top it off, we had the most moist and perfect homemade peanut butter cookies.

Both of our cooks were so kind and friendly, always smiling, giving us hugs and acting as a temporary mother when they needed to be.

It was a time when all the students knew each other and playing jacks was a competition among the girls, where winning was fun, but not more important than our friendships. The school environment was happy and stress-free.

And then all that was over!

Stepping into the long halls of Phil Campbell High School and changing classes and being bumped around by strangers where walking was impossible. But the worst part was getting lost.

I was always late for class because I couldn't find my classrooms. I had been separated from most of my friends and I was so scared! I was lost in a strange environment and I cried a lot. It took longer than I would have preferred to get comfortable in such an extreme change.

You know, the change turned out to be filled with clubs, activities and so many interesting things to be a part of. I'd never imagined I'd be dissecting worms and frogs. Phil Campbell High School turned out to be fun.

Now, here I am fifty years later with beautiful memories and about to reunite with classmates I haven't seen in years.

We will be in Phil Campbell's Homecoming Parade Thursday and will be honored the following night at the football game. We will be sitting in a group and feeling like seniors again, instead of adults in our late 60s.

Saturday will mark the end of an era. We will have a get-together at a friend's ranch. Then we will say our goodbyes. It will be final goodbyes for some and others will be waiting to plan our next class reunion.

As for me, I'll be right here sharing my opinions on almost everything!

As always, until later!



Gail Motes

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East Franklin alum excited to lead Rebels' hoops

Michael Rice
 Franklin Free Press

On August 13th, Derrell Potter accepted the head coaching job for the East Franklin Junior High School (EFJH) boys basketball team.

Potter is excited to be affiliated with a school where he attended and played basketball. He also hopes to be a role model for the kids as Potter's East Franklin basketball coach was for him.

Potter attended East Franklin Junior High School from kindergarten to the ninth grade and graduated in 1994. Potter then transferred to Phil Campbell High school and graduated in 1997. Potter played for Coach Ryan Swinney at East Franklin.

"After I graduated high school, I wanted to teach and coach, and Coach Swinney was a big reason for that," Potter said.

Potter began taking classes at Northwest Shoals Community College while working full time at G&G Steel, Inc., in Russellville.

Potter climbed the corporate ladder and eventually could not attend school anymore due to his job requirements and other matters.

"I eventually quit school because I was doing better at G&G Steel than I would have been teaching. My passion was to coach and a teaching degree would have given me that opportunity," Potter said.

That opportunity finally came after Coach Jason Cooper transferred to Tharptown High School this fall.

Potter then was recommended for the job by Franklin County Schools Superintendent Greg Hamilton and the board approved his hiring this

See 'BOBCATS,' page 12

Mars Hill next for surging Golden Tigers

Michael Rice
 Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Golden Tigers improved to 3-0 in 5A Region 8 play with a Friday night blowout of the East Limestone Indians, 52-7.

The Indians struggled the first half of season, winning only one of their first four games. After its loss to the Golden Tigers, East Limestone dropped to 0-3 in Region 8 games.

The Indians have a new face as head coach this season after former head coach Jeff Pugh resigned in late May. New coach Clint Woodfin has taken over the program after leaving his assistant coaching position at James Clemens High School.

The game started with the Golden Tigers on offense. Quarterback Harrison Burch threw several first down passes on the opening drive, including receptions by Bralynn Vincent and Randall Johnson.

Randall Johnson's catch put the Golden Tigers inside the 10 yard line. The Golden Tigers were not able to convert on third down and settled for a 35-yard Manny Martinez field goal with eight minutes left in the first quarter.

The next Golden Tigers' possession showed off the run game. After an 18 yard Burch to TJ King pass, Conner Warhurst ran the ball twice for 52

yards and a touchdown that brought the score to 10-0 with 5:46 left in the first quarter.

On the ensuing drive, the Indians were unable to convert on third down, and a bad punt put the Golden Tigers on the Indians' 43 yard line with 4:09 left in the first.

Warhurst's name was called for an outside sweep and after breaking several tackles, Warhurst stumbled into the end zone for another score with 3:50 left in the quarter.

With the score now 17-0, the Indians got the



BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA
 Manny Martinez boots a first quarter field goal

See, 'RHS' page 14

Sweet Homecoming: Red Bay declaws Panthers

Michael Rice
 Franklin Free Press

The Red Bay Tigers played their Homecoming game last Friday night, and for a quarter and a half, the Hackleburg Panthers put up a fight, but the Tigers pulled away late in the second quarter en route to a 58-24 win.

The first quarter ended in a 16-16 tie. But the cat fight was over after late second quarter adjustments by the Tigers' coach Heath Childers, and Red Bay took a 38-24 lead into halftime.

The Tigers outscored the Panthers in the second half 20-0. Red Bay improved to 3-1 on the year.

Red Bay Senior Brady Hardin rushed for 225 yards against the Panthers. Junior Keaton Lanphear rushed seven times for 139 yards and three touchdowns on the night.

Senior Caden Keeton, free safety for the Tigers, also had a good game.

Hackleburg has endured a rough start to its season with a region record of 0-2 and an overall 0-4 record. The Panthers will face off against Hubbertville Friday.

As for the Tigers, they take on the Belmont Cardinals this Friday night at Red Bay.

The Cardinals are 1-2 for the season with their two losses against Tishomingo County and Hatley.

"Belmont is a completely different team than Hackleburg. They're a run first, pass later team like we are," Childers said. "This game will bring different challenges."

The Tigers have a very physical game in front of them unlike what they've faced this season, Childers said.

"It's a different mentality going into this game," Childers said.

Friday Night Football Schedule

September 23, 2022

Russellville vs. Mars Hill

Phil Campbell vs. Carbon Hill

Tharptown at Cherokee

Vina vs. Curry

Red Bay vs. Belmont

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Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until 5:00 PM on Friday, September 30, 2022.

Assistant County Engineer in the Franklin County Highway Department

Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office the position has been filled.

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 www.franklincountyal.org under the Careers tab.

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P R E S E N T S



'RHS,' from page 11

ball back and again were unable to convert. Another bad punt set the Golden Tigers up on the Indians' side of the field once again.

King caught a pass on the 10 yard line and dragged the cornerback into the end zone for another Golden Tigers' score, making it 24-0 with 7:30 remaining in the half.

After another stalled East Limestone drive, Banks Langston returned a punt all the way to the end zone but a flag was thrown and that touchdown came back. But Langston's return set up the Golden Tigers with great field position on the East Limestone 43 yard line.

Warhurst found the end zone again off a gap in the middle for



Conner Warhurst ran through the East Limestone defense for 182 first half yards.

BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

his third touchdown of the night making it 31-0 with 4:55 left in the second quarter.

The Indians found their stride and drove the ball down the field

looking for a quick score before the half. They didn't take into account Malachi Duncan.

Duncan intercepted a pass and ran it 99 yards

for a touchdown bringing the halftime score to 38-0.

In the second half, King found the end zone on a 87 yard punt return.

With 3:19 left in the third quarter, the Indians finally found the end zone making the score 45-7.

The last score of the night came from fresh-

man Cameron Phinizee on an option play making the final score 52-7.

The Golden Tigers take on a non-region opponent this Friday as the Mars Hill Panthers come to Russellville.

The Panthers have a 4-1 record with wins over Brooks, Colbert Heights, Clements and Elkmont, and a 13-10 loss to Cullman.

Through five games, Mars Hill has outscored its opponents 251-70. Russellville, through five games, has outscored its opponents 156-55, including a 128-7 point differential in the Golden Tigers' three Region 8 games.

The Golden Tigers overall season record is 3-2 with their only losses being to a very good Deshler Tiger team, 14-7, and the Grissom Tigers, 34-21.

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Dollar General Market to be located at intersection of Hwy 237 and College Road in Phil Campbell

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Dollar General will increase its footprint in Phil Campbell with plans to construct a Dollar General Market.

The Phil Campbell City Council approved the sale of approximately 1.5 acres at the intersection of Hwy. 237 and College Road, to Martin Aycock Properties, a Muscle Shoals contractor. Martin Aycock Properties contracts with Dollar General to handle property acquisition and construction of DG stores across the southeast. Company officials told town leaders a Dollar General Market store will be constructed on the 1.5 acre tract.

The 1.5 acres were sold for \$21,000. The Town of Phil Campbell owns a large tract of land that fronts 237 and borders the Phil Campbell Splash Pad on its north end.

Once the DG Market store is operational, the Dollar General location at 3621 Broad Street in Phil Campbell will be closed.

Dollar General Market stores offer the same every essentials offered at other DG stores. But DG Markets also have meats and produce and an expanded food inventory.

Over the past 25 years, while Walmart has gobbled up many mom and pop businesses who can't compete with the corporate giant, Dollar General's business plan has shown continued success.

The company has more than 18,000 stores in 47 states, and more than 164,000 employees. The company reported \$34.2 billion in gross sales last year.

There is one other Dollar General Market in Franklin County. The DG 212 4th Avenue SW in Red Bay is the other location.

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Congratulations to Week Three winner Greg Bendall, who correctly picked 8 of 10 games. 5 entries scored 8 of 10, but Bendall's prediction of Texas A&M by 10 was the closest to the actual score.

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 3 must be postmarked by Friday, September 23 and picks submitted by email for Week 3 must be received by Saturday, September 24 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.

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TCU at SMU	SMU	
Duke at Kansas	Kansas	
Texas at Texas Tech	Texas Tech	
Notre Dame at North Carolina	Notre Dame	
Iowa at Rutgers	Iowa	
Arkansas at Texas A&M	Texas A&M	
Tiebreaker Score:	Arkansas	Texas A&M
Your Name:	_____	
Phone number:	_____	

'POTTER,' from page 11

month.

"Derrell is a high-character guy who is invested in East Franklin Junior High School," Hamilton said. "His wife is a teacher there, and he went to school at East Franklin and played basketball for the Rebels. He's also been involved in the youth basketball league in East Franklin for quite a while."

Potter is in his 22nd year at G&G Steel where he is currently the Material Prep Supervisor. G&G Steel's management is going to allow Potter to continue working for them while he coaches the Rebels.

"G&G has been really good to me. They're letting me have flexibility and continue my career with them while I get to pursue my passion," Potter said.



Derrell Potter, right, with wife, Tracey and their son Jacob

Potter has had a lot of influences, but Swinney, his 9th grade basketball coach made a big impact on his life and ultimately his coaching philosophy.

"I can remember when I was I was in school how much of an impact my coach had on me growing up. I am looking forward to being that influence to these kids," Potter said.

"At East Franklin, Ryan Swinney was hired in my 9th grade year. So I can relate to my 9th graders having a new coach their last year at EFJHS," Potter said.

Potter will bring in a new culture backed by 110% effort and working together as a team.

"I want to make a difference and be a positive influence for my team. I want to teach the kids to play hard and not give up," Potter said

Potter will begin coaching this fall. Potter is married with one son, Jacob, who is in the fifth grade at East Franklin. His wife Tracey teaches kindergarten at EFJH.

Potter is excited to begin his coaching career in the community where he grew up and where his love of sports began.



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