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Board of Education
District 4
November 8, 2022

Pol. Adv. By: Carol Murphree-879 Keelson Gap Rd, Spruce Pine, AL, 35885



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RHS feted for success in preparing students for college

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Russellville High School was honored recently for excellence in preparing its students to enroll and succeed in college by a nonprofit organization that ranks public high schools through a data-driven formula.

GreatSchools.org announced the recipients of its 2022 College Success Award, an annual recognition that honors schools who excel in preparing their students for the next level of their education.

Of Alabama's 565 public schools, only 66 received the 2022 College Success Award. There are 21,497 public high schools in the United States. Only 1,742 received this year's College Success Award.

The award was created five years ago to offer an independent perspective as to how well a high school prepares its students to enroll in college, succeed in college-level courses and remain in college until their second year.

Russellville City Schools Superintendent of Education Heath Grimes said this is the third consecu-

See 'AWARD,' Page 5

Citizen expresses safety concerns related to new Waterloo Road Dollar General

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

At the October 3rd meeting of the Russellville City Council, a member of the Russellville Zoning and Planning Commission asked the council to revoke the business license issued to the new Dollar General store on Waterloo Road.

Terry Bolton told the council that Dollar General representatives said they would install a turn lane for southbound traffic on Waterloo Road to enter the store. But when the store opened earlier this month, no turn lane had been constructed.

Bolton, the lone member of the Zoning and Planning Commission to vote against a zoning variance that

reclassified the DG property from Multi-Family (R-3) to Neighborhood Business (B-1), said he's concerned about safety issues at the new DG location.

"We had a zoning board meeting and they brought up the turn lane, but it was never done," Bolton said. "There are also no lights there so you can't see at nights. 19 school buses go by there four times a day bringing students back and forth and it's a dangerous situation that affects every citizen in this city."

"I ask you to revoke their business license immediately before you have to walk up to someone's family and say we're sorry for what happened out there," he added.

See 'DOLLARGENERAL,' Page 4

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We are sad to announce the passing of Dr. Steven Hammack. Please keep his family and staff in your prayers. The office will remain open. Dr. Hammack requested to continue to treat all patients with the help of Dr. Lester Norvell.

Appointments with our hygienists (Shannon, Kelly and Cassidy) are still scheduled and they are looking forward to seeing you. Dr. Norvell is a Florence native and has practiced for several years. We are thankful to have him helping out.

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Gene Ray “Rabbit” Bendall, 78, of Russellville passed away on Friday, October 7, 2022. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Pam Holaday, 68, of Russellville, passed away on Wednesday, October 5, 2022. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Patricia Arrington Reedy, 78, of Russellville, passed away Saturday, October 8, 2022. Atkins Funeral Home is assisting 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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Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until 5:00 PM on Friday, October 14, 2022.

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Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until 5:00 PM on Friday, October 14, 2022.

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

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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.

Publisher

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Graphic Design

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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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The Franklin Free Press is published by

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

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For updates on news and sports throughout the week, be sure and visit us online at www.franklinfreepress.net!

Frost leaves legacy of laughter, friendship

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

David Frost wasn't perfect. In fact, he was far from it.

Frost had his share of legal issues through his 50 years of life, including multiple stints in jail.

Two years ago, when Frost completed his sentence and was ready to come home to East Franklin, his friend Doug Bennett was there to pick him up.

Bennett has experienced his own problems, including a prison sentence in Michigan, but was blessed with a good family foundation once he was released.

"I had a very strong supporting family who loved me," Bennett said. "They provided me support when I came home. That was something David didn't have, so I decided to step up and be that supporting family for him. And he was doing well. He'd been out almost a year and was due to get off parole in a month. I think the final year of his life was a happy one for my friend."

Frost died September 27, 2021, but he made the most of his final year, including bringing smiles to the faces of more than five million viewers on the social media app TikTok.

TikTok is an app dedicated to short videos created by users. Most videos are between 15-60 seconds and are for entertainment purposes. TikTok averages more than 689 million monthly active users, and Frost attracted more than 114,000 followers in less than a year.

Frost played the role of a (sometimes) foul-mouthed, loud, moonshine-from-a-mason-jar-swiggering character clad in overalls and an old leather hat. His video where he hid his moonshine stash in quicksand has more than 5.2 million views.



David Frost

But Frost was more than just someone who made others laugh. He recorded a song at Muscle Shoals' Wishbone Studios called Highway 243, a personal story about how much his hometown meant to Frost. The song was recorded with an all-star cast featuring Shenendoah's Mike McGuire, songwriter Mark Narmore on bass and singer/songwriter Billy Lawson.

Frost sang about Churntown and references the intersection of 243 and Highway 79, where his nephew died in a motor vehicle accident.

Before he died, Frost realized his dream of recording an EP, called 243, with three songs, including Cassie Said Yes, Frost's tribute to Cassie Bernall, a Columbine High School student who was killed in a 1999 mass shooting after the shooter asked her if she believed in God. Bernall said 'yes' moments before she was shot. The EP was produced by Bennett, who takes some solace in the knowledge his lifelong friend enjoyed his last year of life.

"We started fishing, which he loved, and of course he loved making people smile with his videos. We (Bennett and another cousin) got David to start going out and it was one of the best years of all our lives and we did it without drugs or alcohol at the center of it," Bennett said.

"David told me I helped teach him forgiveness and that touched me so much. There was so much more to him than people knew. His heart was full of love for others. And even though people have problems doesn't mean society should make judgments and assumptions without ever speaking a word to them or knowing what's in their heart," he added.

As the one-year anniversary of Frost's death hit last month, Bennett wants people to remember his friend in the way he remembers him—as someone who put the needs of others ahead of his own.

"The world was a better place with David in it. I'll always miss him," Bennett said.

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'DOLLAR GENERAL,' from Page 1

Lighting was installed on a utility pole in front of the new store on Waterloo Road last week.

The project was announced last year after members of the North Russellville Baptist Church approved the sale of half of their parking lot to Martin Aycock Properties, which serves as the contractor for new Dollar General locations across Alabama.

Bolton has remained steadfast in his opposition to the project, having spoken against it at the council meeting where the variance was granted as well as addressing city leaders last week.

Gene Aycock, of Martin Aycock Properties, who spoke as the company's representative at the Zoning and Planning Commission meeting and the council meeting, said the construction plans for the Waterloo Road project never included a turn lane.

"I did not say anything about a turn lane there. We did just what was in

the plans we submitted that were examined and approved by the city,"

Aycock said. "All that's done by Dollar General corporate.

The architect draws the plans and we just go by the plans."

Aycock also said a turning lane for southbound traffic would have been blocked by the utility path in the area and at least two utility poles would have to have been moved.

Russellville Police Chief

Chris Hargett said his department reviewed traffic counts for Waterloo Road near the store to determine whether the additional traffic

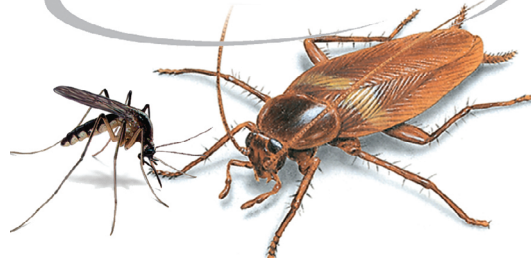
that would result from the store opening would be large enough to necessitate some sort of traffic signal.

"These traffic numbers included traffic during school hours in the morning and afternoon," Hargett said. "Other than that time, there wasn't anything to make us see it as a traffic concern."

Concern about the turn lane stems from the fact that southbound Waterloo Road traffic comes down a hill right before Burgess Street. The store was constructed at the corner of Waterloo Road and Burgess.

The council did not take any action on Bolton's request to have the Waterloo Road Dollar General's business license revoked.

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Letter to Editor: Lessons to be learned from landfill saga

Dear Editor,

One of the lessons learned from the recent mega-landfill expansion proposal was the vast majority of Franklin County residents felt they were not informed about the proposal in a timely sufficient manner.

Reality or perception, the Franklin County Commission can easily provide more transparency for, and notice and opportunity to be heard by, its county residents through adoption of the following measures at its next meeting:

1. The Franklin County Commission should publish the agendas for its Work Session and Regular/Business Meetings no later than the close of business the Friday before the those meetings. These agendas should be published on the Franklin County web page and on its Facebook page. Any last minute changes to the agenda at the time of the Work Session meeting should be reflected and identified in the Regular/Business Meetings agenda when it is published. There should be no last minute changes to the agenda at the time of Regular/Business Meetings;
2. As the Franklin County Commission does not approve the minutes of its Regular/Business meeting until the next Regular/Business meeting (30 days later), the Commission should: a) publish draft meeting minutes of the Regular/Business Meeting no later than the close of business on the second day after that Regular/Business Meeting, and b) publish the final approved meeting minutes of the previous Regular/Business Meeting no later than the close of business on the second day after the Regular/Business Meeting those minutes were approved at. These meeting minutes should be published on the Franklin County web page and on its Facebook page. These actions will keep Franklin County residents timely informed on Commission meeting actions;
3. The Franklin County Commission should permanently change the times for both its Work Session and Regular/Business Meetings to 6 PM on the respective Mondays those meeting are held, allowing citizens time to attend those meetings after work
4. The Franklin County Commission should immediately start the process to research, develop, draft, approve, publish and implement a five year strategic plan for Franklin County. The Commission should use various means to solicit Franklin County residents' input. The five year plan should be a living document, reviewed annually and updated as needed. The Commission should report annually on the status and progress made on the five year strategic plan goals. Franklin County residents are entitled to know where their county is headed and the progress that is being made towards that future.

These are easy, obvious actions the Franklin County Commission can take immediately. These are actions many other county commissions and local governments already take. All of these actions will provide transparency, notice and opportunity to be heard, as well as a road map for progress for both current and future Franklin County residents and Commissions. I strongly encourage the entire Commission to adopt these changes immediately.

Franklin County is a beautiful good county and we'll get better, together.

Respectfully,
 Scott A. Mugno, Franklin County Resident

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'AWARD,' from Page 1

five year RHS has received the College Success Award, something he attributes to the school's investment in offering Advanced Placement courses and dual enrollment opportunities in partnership with Northwest-Shoals Community College.

Additionally, the State Board of Education is considering a new requirement for high school seniors that would require each to meet one of nine criteria to demonstrate they are college or career ready.

These requirements could include: a qualifying score on an AP exam, or an International Baccalaureate exam or a benchmark score on the ACT, acceptance into the military or a career tech credential.

"With our emphasis on AP courses and our partnership with Northwest-Shoals Community College, as well as a strong Career Tech program, we are already implementing many of the ideas being considered by the state," Grimes said.

Award winners were determined by calculating scores from three components: college preparation, college enrollment and college performance.

"We work every day to ensure every student has the skills he or she needs to be successful after high school, whether that means entering the work force with a career tech certification, or enrolling in a two-year or four-year college," Grimes said.

Russellville High School Principal Jeremy Madden announced the award last week.

"Congratulations to our students, parents, faculty, staff and administration on achieving this tremendous honor," Madden said. "Russellville High School has won this award three years in a row, which demonstrates our focus on preparing our students to enroll and succeed in college."

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ALABAMA ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, ALABAMA CODE SECTIONS 32-13-1 THROUGH 32-13-8, THE FOLLOWING MOTOR VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD FOR CASH AT 10:30 A.M., ON NOV. 30, 2022, AT M&N WRECKER & SERVICE CENTER, 11833 HWY. 43 SOUTH, RUSSELLVILLE, AL, 35653. SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BID AND THE RIGHT TO BID. SELLER WILL ACCEPT SEALED BIDS THROUGH 5 P.M., NOV. 29, 2022, AT THE LOCATION DESCRIBED ABOVE. BIDS WILL BE OPENED ONSITE AT M&N WRECKER & SERVICE CENTER.

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1980 RHS graduate Mark Kelly and The Burnells will perform songs from their new album, *Turn To Now*, recorded at Muscle Shoals' Wishbone Studios.

Tickets are \$20/adults, \$12/students and will be sold at the door. Doors open at 6 p.m.

* A portion of ticket sales will benefit the Russellville City Schools Education Foundation.

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 **T**he 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!


 **T**here will be a Swamp John's Fundraiser for North Russellville Baptist Church 2023 Vacation Bible School on Wednesday, October 19, from 4-7 p.m. Catfish, chicken and shrimp. All plates are \$14. Pick up at North Russellville Baptist Church, 1401 Waterloo Road.


 **G**ateway Church of God will host its 71st Homecoming on October 23, 2022. Service at 10:30 a.m., with Bishop Alton Bristow ministering. Dinner after service with Singing at 1:30 with Purpose. questions call 256-627-793

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 **T**he Phil Campbell Arts & Historical Society will host its Second Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 5th from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Phil Campbell Community Center, 132 Sherry Bryce Rd., in Phil Campbell. For booth information, please call 256-810-4572. There will be Arts & Crafts, Homemade Treasures, Scentsy, Christmas Decor, Unique Gifts, Bake Sale and Food Truck on site. Proceeds will be applied toward the purchase of a building in Phil Campbell.

 **H**op on board the Haunted Hay Ride, Friday, Oct. 28, Saturday, Oct. 29, Sunday, Oct. 30 and Monday, Oct. 31, starting at 7 p.m., each night. Location is the end of Maddox Road in Phil Campbell. All proceeds go to the Ashridge Volunteer Fire Department in Haleyville. Admission is \$10 per person.

 **S**pruce Pine Day is set for Saturday, October 15 in downtown Spruce Pine! There will be live entertainment, activities for kids and vendors. Visit the Spruce Pine Museum while you're there to learn some history on the community.

 **A**merican Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m., at the North Highlands Church of Christ Fellowship Hall.

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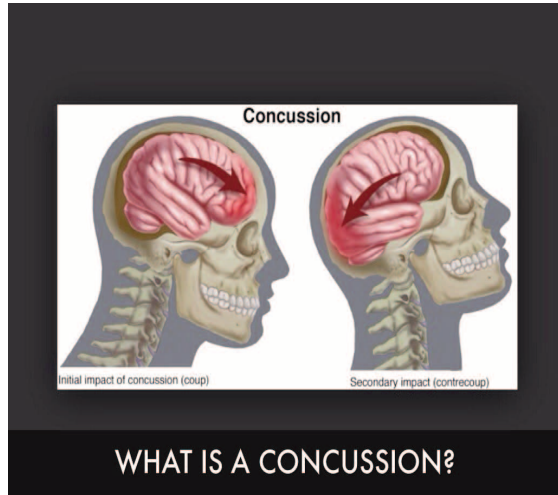
Tua injury renews head trauma concerns for athletes

Addyson Porter, Sarah Kate Wilson and Ellie McReynolds
 Russellville Middle School Students
 Reprinted with Permission from the Tiger Times, Oct. 3, 2022

Football isn't just a contact sport--it's a dangerous game of people smashing into one another.

It may seem obvious that this sport can do unfortunate damage to brains and bodies, but it has taken extremely long for the National Football League, the medical field, and football fans to fully agree with this.

Football is an amazing sport but with all the evidence we now have about the very serious risk of brain injuries, this could affect the sport's future. There are roughly 0.41 concussions per football game of American football. 67.7% of concussions involve a hit by another player's helmet, 20.9% involve being smashed by other body regions, and 11.4% involve impact on the ground.



The league has seen a large amount of concussions and chronic traumatic encephalitis (CTE), a degenerative brain condition believed to be caused by constant hits to the head, since the first NFL player was diagnosed with CTE in the early 2000s.

Concern around the issue has only grown now that more than 100 former NFL players have received a postmortem diagnosis of CTE, and new research is finding that youth football may be a risk factor for CTE down the

line.

Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa got sacked on Sunday, September 25 in a game against the Buffalo Bills. He endured a hard hit that could have led to a concussion. He was cleared to play after only four days because he had passed the concussion protocol. It was believed that the symptoms were from a back injury.

On Thursday, September 29, Tua was sidelined with another concussion in a game against the Bengals. All of this has shown the NFL that they need to be more strict with their protocols and pay closer attention to player care. The doctor responsible for clearing Tua has been dismissed.

Russellville Middle School football coach Corey Flanagan said his program takes a number of precautions to ensure safe game-play for players who show any signs of a possible concussion.

"Russellville athletics must follow a multi-step process to ensure the safety of their players. Players must get a list of boxes checked off in order to be cleared to play again," Flanagan said.

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My take on this: Spruce Pine Day this Saturday, October 15

Gail Motes
Franklin Free Press

Can you believe it? It's almost the third Saturday in October! Does that day remind you of anything? Could it be a day of fun, music, food, vendors, beautiful antique cars and a museum?

Could it be getting to see an inside to a replica of the old days? An old classroom with a blackboard and an eraser? Wooden desks? A flag and a Bible? Yes, in a classroom! Saturday is Spruce Pine Day and we want you to be a part of this special event!

We always did a daily devotional and the Pledge of Allegiance when I was in grades first through sixth going to Spruce Pine School.

There is an old bedroom, replica of two old bathrooms and kitchens. Roger Cornelius had this idea and brought it to life with his carpentry and his vision. It is amazing!

If you have never seen this before, October 15th is a great day to take a sightseeing tour!

It will be the concrete building, which is referred to as a block building, and sits to the left of our 'truck-bed stage.'

I hope this date is one you know well. I'd like to think you are a regular to our day of hometown fun. If you aren't, then please consider this to be my personal welcome to join me and the very few members of the Spruce Pine Historical Society to our yearly Spruce Pine Day. We always look forward to seeing the familiar faces and are excited to see new ones every year.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 15. The music starts at 9 a.m., and ends between 3-3:30 p.m. Please bring your chairs and wear your dancing shoes because there has always been dancing in the streets, but in the country, we call it 'dancing in the road!'

We will be having our bean dinners that the community center has hosted since the beginning.

We will have our t-shirts to sell. This will be the last year the store building will be on the shirts. So if you haven't gotten one, but always liked that picture, you might want to consider calling me to buy one before Spruce Pine Day to make sure you get the color and size of your choice.

If you were kind enough to help prepare meals or work in the kitchen, please come back. Your help was appreciated last year and will be greatly

appreciated again.

We will be in dire need of help in cleaning the grounds, inside the museum and the community center.

Flower beds must be cleaned out and Halloween and Fall decorating still has to be done.

We will also need help the day of Spruce Pine Day. Help is usually needed in the kitchen. The servers and dishwashers and the tea makers and keeping the garbage taken out are just a few of the things that need to be done throughout the day. Please don't let there be only three or four people trying to have so many tasks. It's so unfair!

The band lineup this year: 9-9:45 a.m.--Caroline Sparks and McKinley Copeland. 10-11 a.m.--Jacob Green. 11:15-12:15p.m.--Captain Joe. 12:30-1:30 p.m.--Adam McCollum.

Time will be allotted between 1:30-2:40 p.m., for sound change. Pineridge Band chooses to use their own and this will be a first for us. This will be the first time we will be without music longer than 15 minutes.

Pineridge Band wishes to apologize for the short delay. They will resume with bluegrass and gospel music.

You can use that time catching up on friendships, or walking among the vendors and the museum.

I hope to see you there!

As always, until later...



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

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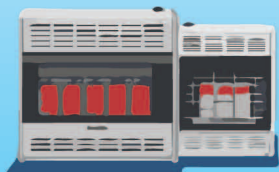


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One game at a time: Ardmore next for RHS

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Before Russellville travels to Fairview next week for what should be a winner-take-all 5A Region 8 championship game, both the Golden Tigers and the Aggies must take care of business this Friday.

The two teams sit atop the Region 8 standings, each with a 4-0 record. Russellville travels to Ardmore Friday to face a 3-4 (2-2) Tigers team that can still play its way into the post season.

Fairview's test this week is not to suffer a let-down against Lawrence County, 2-6 (0-5).

Assuming both the Aggies and Golden Tigers win this week, the showdown will be set as the Golden Tigers will face the team that ended their 2021 season in the second round of the playoffs.

But coaches preach constantly about focusing on the next opponent and not looking ahead, something Russellville Coach John Ritter has told his team as it prepares for Ardmore.

The Golden Tigers had a bye last week, which gave several players with minor injuries additional time to rest and heal.

"With a couple of big region games coming up at Ardmore and Fairview, from a health standpoint, the bye came at the perfect time," Ritter said.

Russellville has won its four Region 8 games in dominating fashion, outscoring Lawrence County, West Point, East Limestone and Brewer 186-7. That's correct---186-7!

The Golden Tigers have lost their three non-region games, Grissom, Deshler and Mars Hill, and were outscored 79-58 in the process. Russellville will close out its regular season October 28th with a home game against Athens, the Golden Tigers' fourth non-region contest.

Through seven games, the Russellville defense has posted some impressive numbers. Martin Tomas leads the team with 89 tackles,

See, 'RHS' Page

Have an opinion?
 Story idea?



Playoffs still within reach for Bobcats

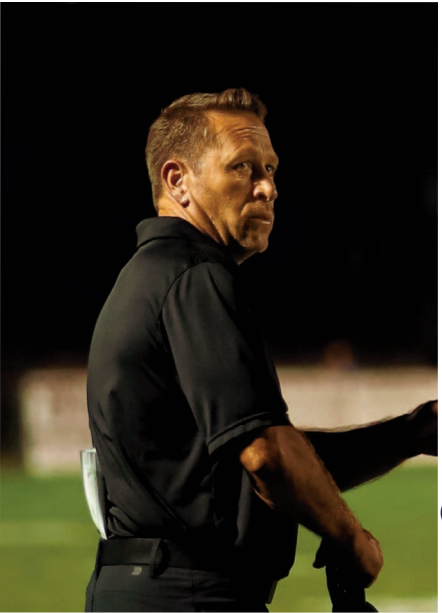
John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Football is a fast game. And a team's fortunes can change in an instant.

Take the Phil Campbell Bobcats. Two weeks ago, Phil Campbell hit the midway point of the 2022 regular season at 4-1, 1-1 in Class 3A, Region 8 play.

It was a nice landing point for Coach Kevin Barnwell's team after five weeks, but the schedule would take a nasty turn, as the Bobcats faced the two Region 8 leaders, Lauderdale County and Mars Hill, in consecutive games. After a close opening quarter, Lauderdale County pulled away en route to a 36-12 win at Phil Campbell. This past Friday, the Bobcats' trip to Florence resulted in a 56-0 loss to the Panthers. Phil Campbell dropped to 4-3, 1-3.

Even with those losses, though, Phil Campbell can still earn a trip to the playoffs by defeating Colbert Heights this Friday at



Kevin Barnwell

home and regular season with a Clements High School non-region visit to their October 21st in-county rival Red Bay. Bobcats will close out the In addition

to the two losses on the scoreboard, there were two devastating injuries to Bobcat skill players in the Lauderdale County loss, as running back Noah Raper and receiver Braxton Goodson both left the game with torn Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injuries.

For a team still searching for its 'identity,' it was back to the drawing board for the Bobcats, as those injuries 'completely change' who they are offensively, Barnwell said.

"We've got to figure something out. We knew going into the (Mars Hill) game they had a very good team," Barnwell said.

"They are a formidable opponent. But I thought our kids really fought. There was no quit even though the odds were stacked against them."

The statistics from a 56-0 loss weren't pretty. Phil Campbell totaled only 142 yards on 55 plays. Bobcat quarterbacks were

See, 'BOBCATS' page 14

RMS wins fourth consecutive Northwest Alabama Conference middle school title

Michael Rice
 Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Middle School football team traveled to Ardmore last Tuesday night and returned home with the team's fourth consecutive Northwest Alabama Conference championship.

The Golden Tigers played winning football all season, with the exception of one loss, and made it to the semi final against the Priceville Bulldogs.

The Golden Tigers defeated the Bulldogs 30-22. They then advanced to the championship to face the Ardmore Tigers.

"We came out in the first half and got a stop right away, and Chase Phifer caught a screen pass for a touchdown for us in two plays," RMS head coach Corey Flanagan said.

The first half turned out to be challenging just like any championship game would be. The Golden Tigers went to the locker room only leading 8-0.

"We challenged our kids at halftime and that ultimately led to us coming out and scoring 22 more points," Flanagan said.

The Golden Tigers finished the game with a 30-6 win. Quarterback Tripp Cleveland was 13-15 for 136 yards and one touchdown. Tarus Davis had 206 yards rushing with three touchdowns.

Chase Phifer and Daniel Aycock had multiple tackles, including several in the backfield, to lead the Golden Tiger defense.

RHS varsity football coach John Ritter was impressed with both the middle school team and its large fan base that made the 80-plus mile trip to Ardmore.

"First of all it was a great atmosphere. We traveled well and kudos to Corey and his staff. They do a phenomenal job of not only trying to win the game, but build a program," Ritter said.

The Golden Tigers finished their season 6-1. Flanagan continues his success with his second championship win in his two years of leading the middle school program.

"For me, this makes me so proud for the players and the coaches. This is a goal we always set for ourselves. We try to prepare these kids for when they become a varsity player and become better at their roles," Flanagan said.

Friday Night Football Schedule
October 14th, 2022

Russellville @ Ardmore

Phil Campbell vs Colbert Height

10/13 Tharptown @ Sheffoeld

Vina vs Meek

Red Bay vs. Tanner



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'BOBCATS,' from Page 11

a combined 5-11 for 21 yards and an interception. Phil Campbell's talented running back corps carried 44 times for 121 yards. Isaac Hill led all ball carriers with 41 yards on seven rushes, as eight different Bobcats had at least one carry. Sage Raper led the Phil Campbell defense with five solo tackles. Raper also forced Mars Hill's lone turnover with an interception. So where do the Bobcats go from here? Barnwell's message to his team—look at the big picture and how they can define over the next three Fridays who they are.

"We're constantly having them look at the big picture of the season and the big picture as to who they will be grouped with for the rest of their lives based on the success of their football season," Barnwell said.

"I let them know even though things may not look promising at times, they still have opportunities to make a name for themselves and have something to be proud of. We will continue pushign them and there's no quit or rollover in my players at all. The challenge to make them understand is in order to be prepared Friday nights you have to be prepared Monday through Thursday, so we'll come back Monday and get to work," he added.

The Colbert Heights Wildcats will come to Phil Campbell with a 3-4 record, 2-2 in Region 8. Coach Taylor Leathers' team has wins over Wilson, Clements and Elkmont, with losses to Lexington, Mars Hill, Meek and Colbert County.

"We are a very similar team to Colbert Heights," Barnwell said. "They're well-coached year in and year out and we expect nothing less than that. Last year they jumped on us pretty early, but we were able to connect on some passes early, too.

"We talked about it coming home on the bus. We're evenly matched and will see a similar team Friday to who we are. We've got to find our identity now. That's our challenge this week—to find out who we are and put something together," he added.

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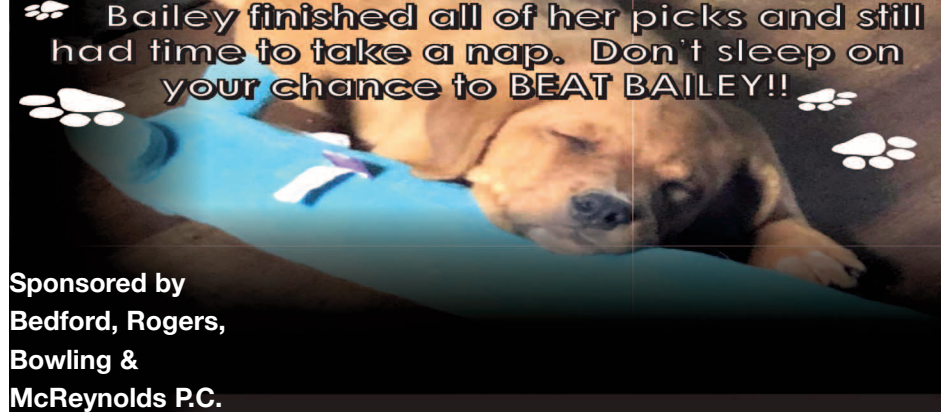
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Congratulations to our Week 6 winner Bryant King, who correctly picked 8 of 10 games and won on his tiebreaker prediction of Tennessee defeating LSU 42-10.

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 5 must be postmarked by Friday, October 14th and picks submitted by email for Week 5 must be received by Saturday, October 16th, 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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Week 6 Oct. 15th Bailey's Pick. Your Pick

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Iowa State at Texas	Texas	
Minnesota at Illinois	Illinois	
Alabama at Tennessee	Tennessee	
Oklahoma State at TCU	Oklahoma State	
Arkansas at BYU	Arkansas	
LSU at Florida	LSU	
Mississippi State at Kentucky	Kentucky	
Tiebreaker Score:	Alabama	Tennessee
Your Name:		
Phone number:		

'RHS,' from Page 11

including a sack and five tackles for loss (TFL). Devin Green is a close second. The junior linebacker has 87 tackles with two TFL.

Junior defensive back Malachi Duncan has 39 total tackles and leads the team in sacks, with seven.

The Golden Tiger defense has recovered four fumbles and has intercepted opposing quarterbacks six times. Duncan's two interceptions leads the team.

Russellville's offense has logged some impressive numbers of its own through seven weeks.

The Golden Tigers have outgained opponents 2,510 yards to 1,419, and more than doubled their opponents in passing yards, 1,329 to 633.

Junior quarterback Harrison Burch is 64-123 for 1,240 yards, 13 touchdowns and two interceptions.

Senior wide receivers Randall Johnson and TJ King lead the team in receptions, Johnson with 23 and King with 21. Both have caught six TD passes. Senior Banks Langston has the Golden Tigers' other TD reception.

Senior running back Conner Warhurst leads the talented Golden Tiger ground corps. Of Russellville's 1,181 rushing yards, Warhurst has accounted for 765 on 101 carries. He also leads the team in touchdowns, with 11.

Cam Phinizee has been a bright spot for Russellville. The freshman back has 218 yards on 24 carries and four touchdowns.

Placekicker Manny Martinez has made five of seven field goal attempts, with a long of 34 yards. He's a perfect 24 of 24 on extra points as well.

Punter Richard Scott has 21 punts with an average of 34.43 yards, including a 60-yarder.

King has also been impressive returning punts. The senior averages 24.5 yards per return, including a 91-yard touchdown.

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