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## **PC's Williams receives Burlsworth Character Award**

Franklin Free Press

When Kevin Barnwell first heard about the Burlsworth Character Award, the Phil Campbell varsity football coach knew immediately which player would be his 2022-23 nominee: Nick Williams.

Williams, a senior offensive lineman who played all four years of high school, received the Burlsworth Character Award at the Bobcats' football awards banquet held last weekend at Northwest-Shoals Community College.

manship. When you

hear Barnwell talk about Williams, there's an immediate understanding of why Phil Campbell's #66 was

See 'WILLIAMS,' Page 8



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# ville 256.332.4000 Russellville Mike McLeary, DDS Russellville Family Dentistry welcomes Mike McLeary, DDS Mon., Tues, Thu., 8-5, Wed. 8-2 256.332.6073

#### **Council approves exclusive franchise** resolution for solid waste collection

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council approved a resolution Monday giving the city the exclusive franchise rights for solid waste collection inside the city limits.

The resolution, approved at the council's February 20th meeting, applies to "every person, household, business, industry or property generating solid wastes, garbage or ash as defined in the Solid Waste Disposal Act."

The lone exception is for any entity that is granted a Certificate of Exception. Businesses and individuals inside Russellville city limits under contract with any private

waste disposal company have six months from February 20, 2023, to participate in and subscribe to the City of Russellville Solid Waste Department collection of solid wastes, garbage and/or ash.

The move follows the council's November 2022 investment of more than \$1 million in trucks and dumpsters that will allow the city to embark into the commercial solid waste busi-

That included the purchase of two 2024 Mack TE64 Heil Front Loader Garbage Trucks, at a cost of \$686,376.34, one 2023 International CV515 Galbreath CH800 Container Handler Truck at a cost of \$106,988.23, and the anticipated purchase of 183 used dumpsters

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See 'COUNCIL,' Page 7



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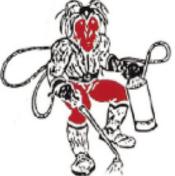
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Wiley Nelson Beam Sr. 95 of Russellville, passed away February 14, 2023. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Willie Walter Hamilton, 75, of Russellville, passed away February 17, 2023. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Martha Jane Hallman, 78, of Haleyville, passed away Sunday, February 19, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

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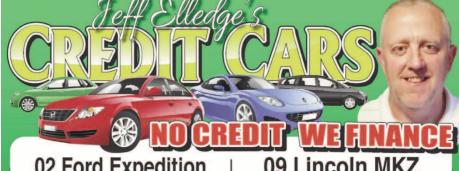
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# NACOLG officials review 2022 Franklin projects, services

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

The Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments (NACOLG) was established in 1967 as an intergovernmental coordination agency created by local governments in Franklin, Colbert, Lauderdale, Marion and Winston Counties.

NACOLG officials, including Executive Director Keith Jones, attended the February 13th work session of the Franklin County Commission to update commissioners on agency projects and services provided to Franklin County in 2022.

The association includes 37 governmental units who work together under NACOLG's leadership to address and solve issues that transcend their city's or county's boundaries. It's the governmental equivalent of there being safety in numbers.

By working together, towns and counties have a bigger voice and more ability to get things done. And NACOLG got a lot done in Franklin County last year:

--NACOLG Governmental Services Department: This department administered six projects funded by Community Development Block Grants in Franklin County last year. These included projects (in most cases including a local match) for sanitary sewer improvements in the City of Red Bay (\$621,550 total project), water system improvements in Vina (\$350,650 total project) and a 100 percent funded \$536,895 grant to the Franklin County Commission for response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

--NACOLG Aging Programs: The SenioRx Program, which helps low-income seniors obtain necessary medications at reduced costs, served 71 clients in 2022, representing 368 prescriptions and a total savings estimate of more than \$715,000.

Jones said they are seeking new participants in the SenioRx Program from Franklin County, and the previous age requirement of 55 and older is no longer in effect.

For more information, contact Paula Pardue at 256-389-0529. There is no charge for this service.

Eight senior citizens participate in the Senior Employment Program, with host agencies the cities of Red Bay and Phil Campbell.

Additionally, the Senior Nutrition Program provided 46,859 meals for Franklin County seniors in 2022. More than 16,600 meals were served at the Russellville Senior Center, Phil Campbell Senior Center, Red Bay Senior Center and Hodges Senior Center, and another 30,239 meals were home delivered through the program.

--Through its Alabama Medicaid Waiver Services program, NACOLG's Medicaid Waiver for the Elderly & Disabled worked with 84 Franklin County senior citizens to help them develop a plan of care designed to avoid nursing home placement.

39 seniors were assisted through the Personal Choices Program, which offers seniors and individuals with disabilities more choices and flexibility in the type of care they receive.

--NACOLG's Transportation Planning program supports planning/implementation of transportation improvements in NW Alabama. Program staff members submitted an Industrial Access Grant application for funding in Vina for Tiffin/Thor Motorhomes in the Vina Industrial Park and a Rebuild Alabama Act Annual Grant Program application for Vina and Russelvlille for FY2023. Vina's project proposal is Plum Street and School Street. Russellville's project location is Clay Avenue.

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



Franklin foster families needed

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Department of Human Resources is in need of foster parents in Franklin County, and a course starting this month will allow interested families to obtain certification.

The DHR Foster Parent Training Course will begin February 19, 2023, at 2 p.m. The course lasts 10 weeks.

Requirements for becoming licensed include:

- --19 years of age or older.
- --Criminal background checks are required for all household members
- --Clearance of State Central Registry on Child Abuse and Neglect for all household members 14 years and older.
- --You must have family stability.
- --Regular source of income that meets your family's financial needs.
- --If married, must be married at least one year. (You do not have to be married.)

If you have questions, or want to learn more about becoming a foster parent, call Leilani Johnson with Franklin County DHR at 256-331-5940. If you missed the first class, please contact Johnson to see if you can still partcipate.

Alabama needs more foster parents, so consider opening your home and heart to a child in need.

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# What's Happening

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MEDICARE RECIPIENTS MAY ALSO BE ELIGIBLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT NACOLG SENIORX TODAY. THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS SERVICE.1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463) 256-389-0530 PAULA PARDUE 256-389-0529 THIS PROGRAM IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR

The Senior Center at Phil Campbell is under new management. The Town of Phil Campbell would like to invite and encourage everyone in our area that is 60 years and older to come be a part of the group. This is for men and women. They meet at the Phil Campbell Community Center Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00. A delicious lunch is served around 11:00 a.m. Come on out and join in on the games or just sit and have a cup of coffee and socialize!! So if you, your parents, grandparents or your neighbor is 60 or older, pass the word and come out and enjoy a morning of fun.

The Cowboy Church of Franklin County will host a "I Promise" Ladies Conference, free for ladies of all ages, March 10, 2023, from 6-9 p.m., and March 11, 2023, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Come for a meal, music and a message! Church is located at 25100 Highway 24, Russellville.

The Cowboy Church of Franklin County is hosting "Love Month" all through February. Their speaker for every Sunday in February will be Jennifer Welch. She will be speaking about love. You won't want to miss this! The church is located at 25100 Highway 24 West in Russellville. Everyone invited!

The next meeting of the Franklin County Community
Development Commission will be Friday, March 31, 2023, at
8:30 a.m., at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex. All grant requests
must be submitted to a member of the commission by Friday, March 24,
2023, at 12 p.m. Commission members include Brad Bolton, Jeremy
Campbell and David Grissom.

y Father's House Ministries will host a Revival from February 19-24 and February 26-March 2, 2023. Sunday services at 5 p.m., Monday-Friday at 6:30 p.m. Invite or bring your family and friends! Revival Ministers include Evangelist Mickey Wilson, Sis. Pam Patterson, Bro. Paul Colburn and many more! Praise and Worship from Sis. Kay Quade, MFH Music Minister along with Special Singing. Pastor Pearl Shelton and Pastor James Williams invite you and your family to attend. Call 256-460-1376 for more information or if you need a ride.

Belgreen High School will hold Kindergarten registration on Friday, March 31, 2023, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., in the Belgreen High School Library. Parents or guardians of children who are 5 years old on or before September 1, 2023, may register their child. Please bring child's birth certificate, Social Security card, proof of residency and updated immunization records. If you are unable to attend, please register your child through the online registration. It is preferable to register kindergarten students BEFORE the end of May to account for accurate numbers for the upcoming school year.

The Kingsmen Quartet will be in concert Sunday Night March 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm at North Russellville Baptist Church 1401 Waterloo Road Russellville. \$10.00 per person will be taken at the door. Children under 12 are free. Doors open at 5:00 pm. No love offering will be taken. For more information call Randy Pike at 256 436-3422.

Have an event we can help publicize? Call us at 256-332-0255.

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# **'COUNCIL,' from Page 1**

from the Franklin County Solid Waste Department.

The council authorized the purchase of these used in-place dumpsters throughout the City of Russellville at a cost of \$500 each. If any used



dumpster is replaced by the Franklin County Solid Waste Department with a new dumpster, the city will pay the county the invoice price of each new dumpster. City officials hope to begin their own solid waste collection by October 1, 2023. The \$1,007,914.57 in total purchases will be paid out of funds the city received pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act.

The move to re-enter solid waste collection was motivated by the anticipated cost savings for local businesses and was seen by city leaders

as an additional revenue source for the city, Mayor David Grissom told the Franklin Free Press in November 2022.

The used dumpsters to be purchased from Franklin County include both 4-yard and 8-yard capacity.

The exclusive franchise ordinance approved by the council means the City of Russellville will be the lone commercial dumpster provider inside city limits once commercial solid waste collection begins later this year.

In other agenda items, the council:

--approved a two-week suspension, without pay, for two employees of the Russellville Fire Department, Michael Hall and Aleo Wallace, after an alter-

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cation between the men took place while they were on duty. The suspensions were recommended by Russellville Fire Chief Joe Mansell, according to District Two City Councilman Darren Woodruff.

--approved advertisement to solicit bids for construction of a permanent performance stage at Sloss Lake.

--authorized purchase of a Kubota RTV-X900G-H from Scott Equipment in the amount of \$14,978.34 for the Russellville Fire Department.

--authorized abatement of a nuisance at 305 Norton Avenue. The property, owned by Misael Ruiz Valdez/Connie Stiles, was cited for household items stacked up on the porch, assorted lumber and building materials in the backyard, along with empty paint cans, debris and a decomposing trampoline





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# **WILLIAMS,' from Page 1**

ate understanding of why Phil Campbell's #66 was selected. "His character and work ethic are why I nominated him for the award," Barnwell said. "He and I hit it off very well. Nick is one of the hardest workers I've ever coached. There are a lot of things behind the scenes about him working that people never knew or saw. But I saw them and they say a lot about the type of person he is."

Named in memory of Arkansas All-American offensive lineman Brandon Burlsworth, the Burlsworth Character Award was created in 2015 as a way to honor high school players who demonstrate the ideals and values that Brandon Burlsworth possessed.

Burlsworth's career as a Razorback began in 1994, when he was a walkon for Coach Danny Ford's team. Saddled with a serious weight problem, Burlsworth was teased by fellow players and doubted by his coaches, with the exception of Burlsworth's offensive line coach Mike Bender.

Bender's faith and patience with Burlsworth paid off, as the young man worked himself into shape and earned a scholarship his sophomore year.

In 1998, Burlsworth became the first Razorback to be named All-American in more than ten years.

He was selected in the 1999 National Football League draft as the third-round pick of the Indianapolis Colts.

Sadly, Burlsworth died in a head-on automobile collision 11 days after the draft.

The son of Cody and Michelle Williams, Nick also faced weight issues in school. When his career as a Phil Campbell Bobcat began, Nick remembers the uphill climb he faced just to make the team.

"I'll always remember being where I was at the beginning of all this," Williams said. "I was almost 260 pounds. I was really heavy. But losing all that weight, that meant being able to be part of a team that meant so much to me.

"Coach Barnwell always said when I first got here I couldn't even run 20 yards. I'd be on the sidelines dying. All those afternoons at practice I didn't always want to be there, but I stuck it out and to receive this award as part of this team really means a lot to me. I take pride in what I did," Williams added.

As a Bobcat senior, Williams' on-field leadership was visible. But true character is often revealed in how a person acts when the spotlight isn't on them. And that was never lost on Williams.

"There were times I'd give little bits of advice here and there to my teammates," Williams said. "I'd see someone struggling, so I'd help them. If someone needed a little more motivation, I'd do that. It's about being an all-around good guy to everybody, but also stepping up at a time when my team needed me and leading them to where we wanted to go."

Williams and his senior teammates leave a program that continues to improve under Barnwell each season. Phil Campbell finished 7-4 in 2022, compared to the 4-6 record in Williams' first season. Williams was recently named Class 3A All-Region 8 Honorable Mention.

This senior class experienced a home playoff game, the first win over Red Bay in two decades and a win at Hackleburg, which also ended a long drought for Phil Campbell playing at their rival to the south.

With football behind him, Williams faced another major challenge in recent months. And as he's done his entire lifetime, Nick accepted the challenge, and succeeded in overcoming it. As a result, he'll be leaving in August for Paris Island, S.C., as one of five Phil Campbell Class of 2023 graduates joining the United States Marines. Tyler Osborn, Kyle Perez, Landon Herron and Noah Turnedge.

When Williams met with his recruiter last fall, he weighed 230 pounds. A good weight for a lineman, but well over the maximum weight based on his height that the Marine Corps required. That number was 185. 55 pounds had to go in three months.

"I lost the first 30 pounds pretty quick. We were still in football, so I watched what I ate," Williams said. "The last 15 pounds were the hardest. I was really strict on my eating and did a lot of cardio and spent most of my time in the sauna and worked out here or there. With the help of my recruiters, I got the weight off."

Joining the Marine Corps was a lifelong ambition for Williams. And it will be even more special now considering how hard he had to work just to get there. If you ask his coach, though, Barnwell never had any doubt the young man would get there.

"The Friday before his weigh-in Nick didn't think he was going to make it. But he lost all the required weight and he's joining the Marines," Barnwell said. "That's what he's about. Winning is in the preparation. That's what sets winners apart—the preparation before the games. Nick didn't wait until Friay night. He brought it on a random Tuesday morning in June playing to

win just as much as a Friday night game against Red Bay in overtime. That's who he is."

Funded entirely by the Brandon Burlsworth Foundation, high school coaches from around the United States are invited to nominate one player to receive the annual award, which includes a bound certificate and copy of Through the Eyes of a Champion, Burlsworth's biography, a personal message from Brandon's brother Marty Burlsworth, a pair of replica black-rimmed glasses worn by Burlsworth and a video message for the team.

The University of Arkansas has a permanent endowment in Burlsworth's name, and 19 academic scholarships are awarded each year from that endowment, along with one \$10,000 athletic scholarship to a Razorback walk-on upperclassman.

More than his perseverance in making the team and eventually earning a scholarship, what most impressed those who knew Burlsworth were his faith, character, discipline and respect for others.

Burlsworth was 'all-in' on everything he did in life. He was the first to practice and the last to leave, and it wasn't to impress his coaches. Burlsworth went each morning before dawn to workout in the Arkansas indoor practice facility. He never told his coaches about that because that's not why he was there.

Burlsworth's life is featured in the movie Greater, which also profiles the emotions and tests of faith Marty faced after his brother's death.

To learn more about the Burlsworth Character Award or the foundation in his name, visit www.burlsworthcharacteraward.com.

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#### **SPORTS**

#### **Vina, senior standout** Athey, end season with loss to Hackleburg

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

The Vina High School girls varsity basketball team ended its season last week with a heartbreaking 45-43 loss to Hackelburg

With 10 seconds remaining, Vina's Sara Harper drove to the basket with the game tied 43-43. She drew contact under the basket, but no whistle, and Hackleburg drove the length of the court and drew a foul on Coach Richie Hester's team. Two made free throws won the game for the Lady Panthers.

"There was no call on our end, then they go the length of the court the other way and what looked like a charge was called a foul on us,' Hester said.

Vina finished the season with 14 wins in what was considered to be a 'rebuilding' year.

In the area loss to Hackleburg, Harper led the Lady Red Devils with 16 points. Senior Kaitlyn Athey had 13, and Layla Hester, an eighth grader, had six.

In a January win over Phillips, Athey surpassed the 1,000-point milestone for her prep career. Hester said her talent, and her leadership, will be missed.

"Our junior girls and our junior varsity girls won a total of 17 games this season," Hester said. "We have everyone coming back next season except for Athey. Combine that with all the juniors and JV girls moving up, and our expectations for next season should be very high."

# New faces, same expectations for RHS girls tennis in 2023

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

When you ask Russellville High School girls varsity tennis coach Charlotte Dollar who's the top high school player in Northwest Alabama, it doesn't take her long to answer.

"Peyton Parrish I would say she's the best player in Northwest Alabama at any level," Dollar said "She plays in and far. She's worked real hard to get where she

Parrish is one of seven juniors on the varsity team. Dollar has three sophomores and one freshman rounding out the

John Pilati

Franklin Free Press



tournaments near The RHS girls varsity tennis team opened its season at the Muscle Shoals Tournament. squad. Parrish will play first court singles for the Golden Tigers, and she'll partner with second court singles player Sophie Tiffin on Russellville's court one doubles team.

> "Sophie is a really strong player, and she and (Parrish) make a great combination court for doubles," Dollar said. "We expect them to do very well this

> Russellville's remaining singles lineup finds Addie Strickland on court three, Kinsley Palmer on court four, Kaitlin Speck on court five and Lily Cate Pace playing court six.

> Second court doubles is expected to be Strickland/Palmer with Speck/Pace handling court three duties.

The team opened its season earlier this month at the Muscle Shoals

Fairfield ends RHS' season, 65-42, at NW Regional

See, 'TENNIS,' Page 13

# **Vargas Roofing & Home Remodeling**

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The Golden Tigers' 87-78 win sets up their first trip to Wallace State since 2011. Russellville will face Fairfield (24-9), which defeated Jasper 53-47 Tuesday evening.

Monday, February 20th is President's Day, and

that's a holiday for Russellville City Schools. But

it won't be a day off for the Russellville Golden

Coach Patrick Odom's team finally distanced

itself from a gamely East Limestone team as

Russellville (18-10) advanced to the 5A

Northwest Regionals at Wallace State

Tigers boys varsity basketball team.

Community College in Hanceville.

Monday's game at Wallace State had not been assigned a starting time as of Wednesday morning.

Don't think that reaching the Northwest Alabama Regionals comes as a surprise to Odom and his team. Actually, it was part of their plan all along.

"We went into this season believing we had a chance to do this," Odom said. "5A basketball is tough. We've been knocking on this door a long time and I'm proud of our kids for finally going through it."

After the Golden Tigers edged Lawrence 62-61 to win the Area 15 Championship, Odom stressed to his team not to get caught up in the emotions from that game as they prepared to face East Limestone.

"This is what's required this time of year. You've got to have focus and keep playing hard. Our word all year has been relentless and it played out again tonight," Odom said.
Five Golden Tigers had double-digit nights

See, 'RHS,' page 12

Freddy Vargas

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# **'RHS,' from Page 11**

against East Limestone, led by Amir Williams' 22 points. EJ King had

21, and Bralynn Vincent (16), KJ Murray (14) and Malachi Duncan (11) for Russellville.

"Everyone contributed and that's what we needed tonight was all our guys to contribute against a very good team," Odom said. Russellville had a halftime

Russellville had a halftime lead of 38-35, but East Limestone's offense hit turbo mode in the third quarter, as the Indians scored 30 to take a 65-62 lead into the final eight minutes.

The Golden Tigers outscored East Limestone 25-13 in the final quarter, to the delight of a massive

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crowd packed into the Russellville Middle School gym.

A nightmarish second quarter proved too much for Russellville's varsity boys basketball team to overcome as the Golden Tigers' season ended with a 65-42 loss to Fairfield in the Northwest Regional Tournament at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville.

Coach Patrick Odom's team finished 18-11 in a season that saw Russellville return to the Northwest Regionals for the first time since 2011.

Fairfield, 25-9, will face Ramsay in the regional finals.

The teams played an almost even first quarter, with the lead going back and forth, before Fairfield took a 16-15 advantage going into the second quarter. Russellville had a four-point lead with 5:14 left in the first, its biggest of the night.

The Golden Tigers were held to a season-low two points in the second period, though, as Fairfield outscored Russellville 18-2 en route to a 34-17 halftime lead.

Russellville shot 0-15 from the floor in the second quarter, as the team's lone two points came at the free throw line. For the night, the Golden Tigers were 18-56 from the floor (32%), 4-19 from three-point range (21%) and only 2-6 from the line.

Fairfield's shooting percentage of 54% came on 28-52 shooting and 7-13 at the free throw line.

The third quarter was another major setback for the Golden Tigers, as Fairfield had a 25-15 advantage to take a 59-32 lead into the final eight minutes.

To the Golden Tigers' credit, the team did not give up, and won the fourth quarter 10-6, to cut the final deficit to 23. Russellville trailed by as much as 29 early in the fourth.

EJ King and Conner Warhurst led Russellville with 10 points apiece.

Five Golden Tiger seniors played their final game on the court at Hanceville, including Warhurst, EJ Jones, Malachi Gholston, Randall Johnson and Tilman Baker.



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

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at franklinfreepress.net!

# GENERAL NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE

#### PATROL OFFICER - POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEFINITION OF JOB: Patrols a designated sector of the city of Russellville and responds to complaints. Serves warrants and subpoenas and testifies in court. Provides traffic control assistance. Performs dispatching duties. Performs other police related duties as required.

#### REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of: the city buildings and street system of Russellville; city, state and federal laws; court procedures; department rules, regulations and procedures; maintenance and use of weapons; radio codes, surveillance equipment and legal procedures involved with illegal drug cases. Ability to: operate a motor vehicle; read; safely fire a weapon; communicate on telephone and radio; generate written documents such as reports and tickets; bend, crouch; stretch; stretch; walk; run; respond to emergency situations on short notice when off-duty; and do the essential functions of the job as directed in this description.

Willingness to: work overtime, irregular hours, weekends and holidays; travel and attend seminars and workshops.

QUALIFICATIONS and SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:
Possession of a high school diploma or GED
Minimum of 21 years of age

Must meet or exceed the minimum requirements established by the
State of Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission
Possession of a valid Alabama Drivers License
Possess the ability to obtain an Alabama Police Academy diploma or its
equivalent

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ORIGIN, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, DISABILITY, OR ANY OTHER NONMERIT FACTOR. THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE ENCOURAGES APPLICATIONS FOR POSITIONS IN ALL PROTECTIVE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS FROM WOMEN IN AN ATTEMPT TO INCREASE THEIR REPRESENTATION IS PROTECTIVE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS.

Pay Range is from \$36,145.20 - 55,781.83.

Applications and copies of the Job Descriptions may be obtained at the Russellville City Hall, Office of the Mayor, 304 North Jackson Avenue. Applications submitted to the Russellville Civil Service Board less than one year ago remain active. Those individuals need not reapply in order to receive consideration for this appointment. Applications must be returned no later than February 27, 2023 by U.S. Mail to:

The Russellville Civil Service Board
P. O. Box 308
Russellville, AL 35653

The appointees will be required to successfully complete a physical examination including drug and alcohol screening prior to employment.

## **'TENNIS,' from Page 11**

Tournament, where the Golden Tiger girls varsity finished third in a field comprised largely of 6A and 7A schools.

Palmer reached the finals on court four singles and Parrish/Tiffin did the same on court one doubles.



Russellville played its first team match February 14th against Muscle Shoals. The teams split their six singles matches, with Parrish, Tiffin and Palmer winning their courts. Parrish/Tiffin also won court one doubles with a 6-3, 7-5 victory. Muscle Shoals ended up winning a very close match, 5-4. LeAnn Strickland will serve as assistant coach for Russellville. High school tennis teams compete in sections, rather than areas or regions. Russellville's section

includes Brooks, Central, Deshler, Wilson, West Point, Priceville, Haleyville and Rogers High Schools.

The Sectional Tournament will take place April 17-18, 2023.

Dollar said her team is ready for the regular season but she's chalenged them to never be satisfied and remain hungry to get better

lenged them to never be satisfied and remain hungry to get better. "They are working hard and improving every day," Dollar said of her team. "We're so proud of them and can't wait to see what they can accomplish this season."



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#### Northwest-Shoals softball program begins inaugural season

Submitted

MUSCLE SHOALS & PHIL CAMPBELL, ALA. -- After playing an exhibition schedule last fall, Coach Angel Brown's Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) Patriots softball team opened its spring slate January 27, 2023, in the Sand Mountain Classic in Albertville, Al. The Patriots lost 5-4, in nine innings, to Snead State Community College and were defeated 8-0 by East Mississippi Community

In the opener, Taylor Cameron pitched eight innings for the Patriots. Cameron gave up only three earned runs, five walks and had six strikeouts among the 43 batters she faced. Katie Dawson went 2-3 with a walk and a run scored. Kailey Armstrong (2-5) and Chloe Handley (2-4, RBI, run scored) also had multiple-hit games for NW-

In the nightcap against East Mississippi, Mycala Mitchell pitched 5.2 innings, giving up 3 earned runs, three walks and a strikeout.

Brown nominated Handley as Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) Player of the Week and Cameron as Pitcher of the Week in the ACCC.

The Patriots traveled to Fulton, Miss., for a doubleheader against Itawamba Community College on February 7.

Game one saw ICC win in five innings, 14-1. Ava Brumley went 3-3 with a stolen base for NW-SCC.

In game two, Itawamba defeated the Patriots 8-1. Brumley was 3-3 at the plate with a stolen base for the Patriots.

The Patriots welcomed East Mississippi Community College to town for the program's first home games. The doubleheader was played at Gattman Park in Muscle Shoals on February 10.

NW-SCC earned the program's first win in game one, 5-4, and went on to sweep EMCC with a 13-3 victory in game two.

Winning pitcher Taylor Cameron hurled 6.2 innings, scattering four hits, five walks and had seven strikeouts in game one. Alyssa Brown went 3-3, with a home run, double, run scored and 3 RBI.

Game two saw Handley earn her first win with five strong innings. She gave up only three hits, two earned runs and had two strikeouts among the 23 batters she faced.

The Patriots' offense lit up EMCC pitching for a season-high 11 hits. Handley (2-4, RBI, SB and three runs scored), Brumley (2-2, walk, SB, two runs scored) and Armstrong (2-3, HR, SB, walk, two runs scored) had multi-hit efforts as the Patriots improved to 2-4.

Brown nominated Brumley as Player of the Week in the ACCC and Cameron as ACCC Pitcher of the Week.

The Patriots will take part in the Tiger Fest at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville, Miss., February 18, 2023, with games scheduled at 12 p.m., and 4 p.m.

For more information on Patriots softball visit nwscc.edu/athletics/patriots-softball/.

Written by: Michael Rice, NW-SCC Sports Information Intern

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net!

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(Franklin Free Press February 22, March 1, 2023)





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