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## Stephenson giving back after gift of heart

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

When Rick Butler returned home after heart transplant surgery in November 2012, his friend and fellow church member Trent Stephenson was among a large group that met Butler to welcome him back to Russellville.

Just over ten years later, Butler has been a source of strength and information to Stephenson after his September 5, 2022, heart transplant.

Life is full of ironies. Who could have imagined these two men would

both undergo heart transplants? Even more amazing is how the whole process went full circle in 10 years, with each man taking his turn at being a source of support for the other.

Irony? Coincidence? Nah. Just ask either Butler or Stephenson and they'll not hesitate to explain: God works in amazing ways and we are blessed with His love every day, whether that day includes a heart transplant or not.

Seven months out from the day he received a new heart, Stephenson, even with the difficulty he's faced

See 'STEPHENSON,' Page 7




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## FCCDC grants include schools, VFDs

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Community Development Commission met March 31, 2023, and approved a number of grants to local schools and non-profit agencies.

The commission, which includes Brad Bolton, Jeremy Campbell and Russellville Mayor David Grissom, meets quarterly to review grant applications. This was the second meeting for the new commission, which is comprised of two appointees from Franklin County's legislative delegation and a rotating seat between the mayors of Russellville and Red Bay. Sen. Larry Stutts reappointed Bolton and Rep. Jamie Kiel reappointed

Campbell to another four-year term.

With the most recent grants, more than \$2.482 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.

Grant awards for the March 31st meeting included:

- \$6,000 grant to the Future Economic Development Fund.
- \$3,000 to East Franklin Junior High for purchase of playground equipment.
- \$1,500 to Franklin County Career Tech Center for purchase of furniture in Health Sciences classroom.
- \$1,500 to Phil Campbell baseball for purchase of padded backstop and helmet rack.



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**Nadine McLemore Motes, 74, of Phil Campbell, passed away Thursday, April 20, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.**

**Emma Lee Spears, 79, of Russellville, passed away April 17, 2023. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.**

**Norma Ruth Hamilton, 70, of Russellville, passed away April 18, 2023. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.**

**Frank Harold Graham, 75, of Russellville, passed away April 20, 2023. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.**

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## Franklin Free Press

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### Correction Policy

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.

### Letters to the editor

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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## Three arrested for identity theft, voter fraud

Submitted

Wes Allen, Alabama's Secretary of State, announced today that his office assisted the U.S. Department of State, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, the Franklin County District Attorney's Office, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Russellville Police Department with an investigation that led to the arrest of three individuals for identity theft.

The three individuals are also not American citizens.

The arrest of Teresa Martin Pascual, Maria Juan Pascual and Luis Baldermar Felipe Miguel occurred on March 15, 2023. The three individuals are not qualified to vote, are not American citizens and had no right to participate in Alabama's elections.

According to the indictment, they each used identification that was not their own to register to vote and vote in the names of identity theft victims.

"I am incredibly appreciative of the efforts of the law enforcement agencies who worked together to indict and apprehend these three individuals," Secretary Allen said.

"My office will always assist law enforcement in every way possible to seek convictions of individuals who attempt to illegally vote in our elections. We will not tolerate a single illegal voter attempting to participate in our elections," Allen added.

Alabama law requires that registered voters must be legal American citizens.

Teresa Pascual was charged with 12 counts of Identity Theft and one count of Use of False Identity to Obstruct Justice. Maria Pascual was charged with eight counts of Identity Theft, one count of First Degree Perjury and two counts of Altered Vital Statistics.

Miguel was charged with one count of First Degree Perjury.

Wes Allen serves as Alabama's 54th Secretary of State and was sworn into office on January 16, 2023.



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# Fund-raising effort underway for local business to help strays

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

When it comes to caring for stray and/or abandoned animals, a team effort is required for a community to solve that problem.

And Jason and Colleen Keen, owners of PawLife Pet Care in Russellville, are doing their part to help the team. And one Russellville residents is reaching out for donations to help the Keens continue to do so.

PawLife Pet Care, located on Ronnie McDowell Avenue in Russellville, is a dog daycare, boarding and grooming business. According to Lisa Franklin, whose husky Keanu boards at PawLife, the Keens have made PawLife a safe haven for dogs in need by providing temporary shelter and care for numerous dogs abandoned in Franklin County.

“They never ask for help or money. They just pour their own love, time and money into the lives of these pets,” Franklin said. “If we ever have bad weather of any kind, Jason and Colleen will go to check on the animals at PawLife in the middle of the night, just to make sure they are safe and warm.”

While most of the dogs at PawLife are paying customers, Franklin said the Keens regularly accept dogs for which they’ll receive no payment. And recently, after the March 3, 2023, storms, the PawLife building incurred substantial flooding in the back room.

“They stayed and moved the dogs to safety. Then Jason and Colleen worked throughout the night cleaning up water and piling up sand bags so they could try and temporarily stop the flooding,” Franklin said.

Franklin created a Go Fund Me account to help the Keens pay for repairs to stop the flooding. Her goal is to raise \$10,000. So far, \$860 has been raised from 21 donations.

To learn more about the fund-raising campaign, or to make a donation, visit [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) and search “PawLife.”

“They are going to have to have work done in the back of the building and it’s not going to be cheap,” Franklin said. “Jason and Colleen deserve our help on this and so much more.”

Jason Keen said the flooding issues remain a problem and the estimated cost is more than originally expected. Additionally, the Keens continue to work with Save Our Strays and the Florence Animal Shelter to temporarily house dogs before they are transported north to adoptive homes.

Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoon panels,  
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# 48 of 50 Franklin businesses receive satisfactory health ratings

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

48 of the 50 Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the period of February 1, 2023, through March 30, 2023, had scores that fell into the "satisfactory compliance" range.

Health ratings are required to be prominently posted in all food/lodging establishments. Scores are graded by the Alabama Department of Public Health inspectors on a 100-point scale.

Establishments with scores of 85 to 100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are routinely inspected. Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again in 60 days, and those scoring between 60 and 69 will have another follow-up within 48 hours. Any establishment scoring below 60 will be immediately closed.

Areas of inspection by ADPH include management and personnel; food storage, preparation and service; equipment; utensils; linen cleanliness; plumbing and waste; poisonous or toxic material storage and an inspection of the physical facility or property.

48 of 50 Franklin County establishments listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

The high score was 100, shared by Blue Boys, 4141 Hwy. 24, Red Bay, Dollar General, 18625 Hwy. 24, Russellville, Russellville High School, 1865 Waterloo Road, Russellville, and West Elementary School, 1340 Clay Avenue, Russellville.

Other inspection scores of Franklin County businesses, in alphabetical order, included:

- 306 BBQ, 13670 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 92.
- 43 Grill, 15110 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.
- B&J Cafe, 1327 Shellnut Loop, Phil Campbell, 98.
- Bel Haven Heights, 107 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, 99.
- Belgreen High School, 14220 Hwy. 187, Russellville, 96.
- Best Western, 13770 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 95.
- Big Star Deli, 406 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 88.
- Big Star Russellville Deli, 314 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 98.
- Big Star Supermarket, 406 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 98.
- Bobcat Express, Inc., 3075 Hwy. 237, Phil Campbell, 93.
- Bojangle's, 13810 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 85.

- CJ's Grocery, 14545 Hwy. 187, Russellville, 99.
  - Captain D's, 15434 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 82.
  - Cedar Creek Chevron, 11477 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 83.
  - Daily Bread BBQ, 305 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 94.
  - Farmhouse Table Cafe and Bakery, 116 Jackson Ave. North, Russellville, 97.
  - Hotel Red Bay, 107 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, 95.
  - Huddle House, 15477 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 88.
  - Jay Raja, Inc., 109 Madison St. NE, Russellville, 94.
  - La Nina Mexican Food, 113 Washington Ave. NW, Russellville, 85.
  - Las Palmas Taqueria, 14204 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 97.
  - Los Dos Hermanos, 409 Madison St. NE, Russellville, 89.
  - Mama Cortez dba Rancho Viejo, 11797 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 90.
  - Panda Buffet, 14633 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 92.
  - Pizza Hut, 13450 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 95.
  - Pollo Lo-Quillo, 115 Franklin St., Russellville, 93.
  - Quinn's Grocery, 9980 Hwy. 48, Russellville, 97.
  - Red Bay Tiger Mart Inc., 2111 4th Ave. SW, Red Bay, 94.
  - Russellville Elementary School, 133 Chucky Mullins Drive, Russellville, 99.
  - Russellville Middle School, 765 Summit, Russellville, 99.
  - Russellville Nutrition, 14130 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 95.
  - Russellville Senior Center, 238 Montgomery St., Russellville, 96.
  - Sonic Drive In, 15376 Hwy. 43 N., Russellville, 94.
  - Southside Quick Mart, LLC, 12301 Hwy. 43S., Russellville, 95.
  - Subway, 504 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 96.
  - Swamp John's, 5181 Hwy. 24, Red Bay, 87.
  - Taco Bell, 13831 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
  - Tharptown Elementary/High School, 145 Hwy. 80, Russellville, 95.
  - Tokyo Sushi and Steakhouse, 14001 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.
  - Tropical Nutrition, 15480 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.
  - Wal-Mart Bakery, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.
  - Wal-Mart Deli, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
  - Weatherford Centre, 303 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, 98.
  - Yogi's, 27534 Hwy. 24 East, Russellville, 98.
- Health ratings are available at [www.foodscores.state.al.us](http://www.foodscores.state.al.us) and may be viewed by city or county.

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**E**veryone is invited to a free concert by the gospel quartet Resound at 6 p.m. on April 30, 2023, at Red Bay First Baptist Church. A Love Offering will be received.

**O**sborn Hill Cemetery -Decoration Day will be on May 6, 2023. The first Saturday of May has been observed as Decoration Day for well over 100 years. All old flowers will need to be removed off the graves. Please make plans for that special day to come to the cemetery. Also its time again for annual donations. If you would like to donate to the Osborn Hill Cemetery Fund, please send your donations to: Osborn Hill Cemetery Fund, c/o Mrs. Lana Duncan 2330 Colburn Mtn. Road, Tuscumbia, AL 35674.

**M**ountain Valley Hee Haw will celebrate JoAnn Welch Miller's Birthday with a special evening of entertainment and fun with Elvis Impersonator Kevin Adams. Show time is 6-10 p.m., Saturday, May 6. Everyone is welcome. Admission is free. No alcohol or drugs allowed. From Russellville, follow 243 to Hwy. 79, turn right, go .25 mile and it's the third building on the left.

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# 'STEPHENSON,' from Page 1

since his surgery, is now an Ambassador for Legacy of Hope, Alabama's Organ & Tissue Donation Alliance.

April is National Donate Life Month, so Stephenson organized a special event April 12th at the Florence-Lauderdale Municipal Building that saw

mayors from five cities sign proclamations recognizing April as National Donate Life Month as part of a commitment to encourage all residents to register their decision as an organ, eye or tissue donor at [www.legacyofhope.org](http://www.legacyofhope.org) or at local Department of Motor Vehicles offices.

Legacy of Hope is working to end the wait and the suffering "by shepherding the gift of life to those in need of organ and tissue transplants."

One organ donor can save up to eight lives. And the decision of a young man whose identity

remains unknown to be an organ donor gave the gift of life to Stephenson last September.

As an Ambassador, Stephenson's volunteer role thrusts him into the role of spokesman, advocate and storyteller when it comes to deciding on organ donation.

"Ambassadors go out in the community and share their stories and encourage folks to register for organ donation," said Legacy of Hope's Abby Litovsky. "We rely on our ambassadors to develop a connection in their community. That can include speaking at health fairs or just sharing their story of the donation of life."

Organ donations save lives, regardless of whether it's a heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas or an eye or tissue donation.

A picnic held at the University of Alabama Birmingham last weekend celebrated all recipients and families of donors for transplants done at UAB Hospital. More than 2,000 attended the event.

Mayors who signed the National Donate to Life Month Proclamation included: David Grissom, Russellville; Andy Betterton, Florence; Mike Lockhart, Muscle Shoals; Steve Stanley, Sheffield and Roger Weatherwax, Moulton.

Others in attendance for the proclamation signing included Bro. Greg Beasley, Pastor for Valley Grove Baptist Church in Tuscumbia, Litovsky, members of Stephenson's family and Rick Butler and his wife Laura.

Butler stressed to Stephenson how important a positive mind frame is for transplant recipients.

"Do the most every day for your quality of life," Butler said. "Enjoy life but be careful though, especially not to get sick."

Nationally, more than 100,000 Americans and 1,200 Alabamians are on the national transplant waiting list. And not all those who agree to be an organ donor meet the criteria of dying in a hospital. Outside of that hospital setting, if a donor dies, his or her organs may not be used.

Stephenson is excited about becoming a Legacy of Hope Ambassador. He believes it to be part of God's new journey for him.

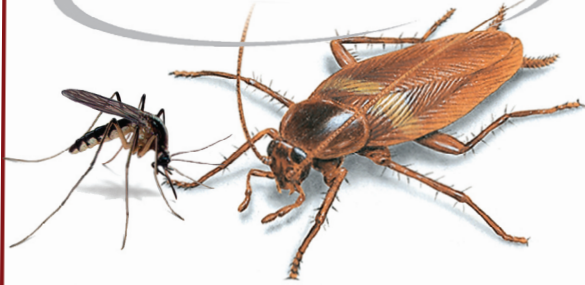
"After my personal experience with receiving a new heart I feel God has me on a new journey that will be exciting and rewarding," Stephenson said



COURTESY PHOTO

Trent Stephenson, left, with fellow heart recipient Rick Butler.

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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](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

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# Russellville resident selected for 2023 All-Alabama Academic Team

Submitted

Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) students Hannah Foster and Alana Jenkins were named as two of 46 students in the state to the 2023 All-Alabama Academic Team. They were honored April 14th during a recognition program in Birmingham.

Foster and Jenkins will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship for being selected to the All-Alabama Academic Team.

Jenkins, a Russellville resident, she plans to attend the University of North Alabama and earn a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. Her goal is to teach children grades K-6th.

The faculty and staff of NW-SCC nominate students for the All-Alabama Academic Team.

The criteria for selecting students is to choose students who "excel academically; demonstrate intellectual rigor in their course of study; show academic growth and potential; and use their two-year college education to better themselves, their schools and their communities."

Each community college in Alabama has two representatives.

The Alabama College System's All-Alabama Academic Team Recognition Program was established in 1995 as an enhancement to the All-USA National Academic Team Recognition Program, which is



Jenkins

sponsored by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the American Association of Community Colleges and USA Today.

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# 'FCCDC,' from Page 1

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- \$250 to Vina boys track for new uniforms/equipment.
- \$250 to Red Bay High School track for expenses and purchase of supplies.
- \$800 to Tharptown High School for purchase of personal radio communicators.
- \$1,000 to Tharptown girls softball for field materials.
- \$500 to Tharptown Special Education for Special Olympics program expenses.
- \$250 to Vina sixth grade for Dauphin Island Sea Lab trip.
- \$2,500 to Russellville Fire Department for purchase of John Deere Gator.
- \$250 to Belgreen High School Art program for supplies.
- \$2,000 to Phil Campbell football for purchase of ice machine.
- \$4,900 to Red Bay football for purchase and repair of helmets/shoulder pads.
- \$1,500 to East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department for purchase of chain saws.
- \$250 to Red Bay sixth grade for Chattanooga field trip.
- \$500 to Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Junior Leadership Program State Capitol trip.
- \$250 to Phil Campbell Elementary for Problem Solving Team purchase of materials.
- \$2,500 to Russellville Middle School football for shoulder pad/helmet purchase and repairs.
- \$250 to Phil Campbell JAG for National Conference.
- \$800 to Belgreen First Grade Classroom Library supplies.
- \$500 to Belgreen High School for table purchase for Deb Millwood Classroom and supplies.
- \$500 to Vina softball for facilities repair/equipment purchase.
- \$800 to Phil Campbell Elementary for First Grade Classroom Library supplies.
- \$500 to Serenity Saviors for purchase of tractor & bush hog.
- \$800 to Phil Campbell Elementary for purchase of supplies for first grade classroom library.

The Economic Development Fund now has a balance of \$98,225 after the March 31st grant.

The next meeting of the FCCDC will be May 12, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex. Grant requests for the May 12, 2023, meeting must be received by a commission member before 12 p.m., May 5, 2023

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**Bulldogs fall to Appalachian to cap stellar season**

*Michael Rice  
 Franklin Free Press*

The Belgreen Bulldogs wrapped up their season with a first round playoff loss to Appalachian High School as they made their 3rd consecutive playoff appearance.

In game 1 of the doubleheader, the Bulldogs lost 16-0.

Caige Smith pitched three innings for the Bulldogs. Smith allowed 11 hits and struck out three batters. Offensively, Colton Ashton went 1-2 at the plate.

In game 2, the Bulldogs fell 13-0 after falling behind early.

Will King got the nod to start on the mound for game two and gave the Bulldogs a fighting chance. He spun 3.1 innings allowing only three hits and struck out seven batters.

Alex Guidry pitched 2.2 innings and allowed four hits and struck out three. At the plate, Ty Hamilton went 1-2 in game two.

Despite losing in the first round, the Bulldogs are only losing two seniors this year with multiple young contributors coming back next season.

"We had a lot of young guys start, so it was great to see us make it this far," Bulldog head coach Nathan Vincent said.

The Bulldogs are losing their ace pitcher Smith, who batted in the three hole and tossed a 4.30 ERA and batted .394 for the season.

"Smith have been with me for four years and knows what I expected. He was a vocal leader to the younger kids who had to step up," Vincent said.

Belgreen finishes the year with a record of 11-12.

**Golden Tigers sweep Southside-Gadsden to advance in 5A playoffs**

*Michael Rice  
 Franklin Free Press*

The Russellville Golden Tigers baseball team had all cylinders firing on their first stop in the 5A playoffs with their 12-4 win over the Southside Panthers in game 1 on Thursday.

Russellville followed up their stellar game 1 performance by sweeping the Panthers in game 2 by a score of 13-1.

"I thought we played well," Russellville head coach Jess Smith said. "We were coming off a week where we had a few hick-ups and I thought we turned things around and played well in all phases of the game."

In game 1 of the doubleheader, the Golden Tiger offense charge was led by Neyland Baker batting 2-3 and scoring twice twice with two RBIs while senior Banks Langston went 2-5 and scored twice also.

Logan White got the start on the mound for the Golden Tigers in game 1, tossing seven innings allowing only seven hits, four runs and striking out three batters.

In game 2, Baker continued his hot streak at the plate, as he would go 2-2 while scoring three times. Langston added to his impressive all-around day as he went 2-4, scoring once.

Langston pitched two innings and earned the win for the Golden Tigers as they advanced to round two of the 5A playoffs where they will play host to Leeds this Friday.



**The Golden Tigers after their first playoff win last Thursday.**

COURTESY PHOTO

**Russellville takes home boys, girls tennis sectional titles**

*Michael Rice  
 Franklin Free Press*

It's been a banner week for Russellville athletics. As the baseball team swept their way into the second round of the playoffs, the boys and girls tennis teams were dominating their own matches.

Hosting the AHSAA Section 8 tennis sectionals, Russellville managed to bring home the 4A-5A by taking down the likes of Brooks, Wilson and Deshler who finished runner-up in both brackets.

As for the girls side of the tournament, the Lady Golden Tigers dominated, as they kept the championship in Russellville winning the section championship with a combined score of 61 compared to second place finisher,

Deshler who had a score of 57.

Individually, three players came out on top in three of the top four spots at the end of the day in the singles bracket. Peyton Parrish defeated Brooks' Maggie Junkins in straight sets, 6-1 and 6-3 in the number one spot with Sofia Tiffin defeating another Lion, Darby Clark, sweeping her in two sets 6-0 and 6-3 in the number two slot.

Kinsley Palmer defeated Madeline Walton in the the number four singles match by a final of 6-1 and 6-3.

In doubles, Parrish and Tiffin managed to knock off Wilson High School in three sets, 6-2, 4-6 and 10-3.

On the boys side, the overall section champion was handed to the Golden Tigers after a solid day on the court. In the singles portion of

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## 'TENNIS,' from Page 11

the competition, three players stood out for Russellville on the day. Josue Tomas defeated Books' Edward Jones in two sets, 6-3 and 6-1 while David Tomas also swept fellow Brooks Lion Aiden Crittenden in two sets, 6-1 and 6-2. In the number six singles match, Braylnn Vincent defeated Wilson's Freddy Franks, 6-1 and 6-4.



COURTESY PHOTO

Competing in doubles, Malachi Duncan and Ayden Boyd defeated Wilson for the third spot in the doubles.

After winning sectionals, qualifying players will now head to the state championships held in Mobile starting this Thursday

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# Council approves multiple personnel moves

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council approved three personnel moves while a fourth died for lack of a second at a special meeting held April 10th.

By a 3-0 margin (with councilmen Darren Woodruff and Dexter Hamilton abstaining), Joe Hargett was approved as Captain in the Russellville Police Department. Hargett was the number one recommendation for the promotion on the Russellville Civil Service Board list.

The council unanimously approved, by a 5-0 vote, promoting Carlos Lucas to Sergeant with the RPD and the hiring of Hunter Swinney as a Patrol Officer.

A motion made by Councilman Gary Cummings to promote Antonio Melecio to Lieutenant in the RPD died for lack of a second. The council is expected to revisit the lieutenant promotion at a future meeting.

Prior to voting on the personnel moves, Woodruff asked if the council could go into executive session to discuss some questions he had. But Mayor David Grissom explained that since it was a special called meeting, the council was not legally permitted to enter into executive session.

The council also approved the promotion of John Williams to Operator III in the Russellville Street Department.

In other agenda items, the council:

--approved a resolution declaring April to be Fair Housing Month.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council will be April 17, 2023, with work session at 6 p.m., and meeting to follow.

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# Pilgrim's to sponsor Russellville Public Library summer reading program

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

More than 100 children participated in last year's summer reading program at the Russellville Public Library. They will have the same opportunity this summer thanks to a \$4,200 donation from Pilgrim's that will fund 100 percent of this year's program.

Officials from Pilgrim's presented the funds to Russellville Public Library Librarian Joshlyn Bowen, her staff and members of the Russellville Library Board Friday morning.

"With Pilgrim's supporting us 100 percent this takes the programming limitations off of us and allows us to create a summer reading program that captivates the community in an impactful way," Bowen said. "They are a wonderful and integral part of our community. When I initially reached out to them last year for funding, Pilgrim's insisted on fully funding the program as a way to give

back to the community and show their support in literacy-based programming."

This is the second consecutive year Pilgrim's has funded the summer reading program. The 2022 program saw more than 105 children participate, with an average of 60-70 kids visiting the library every Friday at 2 p.m., for that week's summer reading program.

This year's summer reading program will kick off Friday, June 9, 2023, at 2 p.m., and will continue weekly at the same time until the finale on July 28, 2023. More details on this year's program will be announced by Bowen soon.

Parents may follow the RPL's Facebook page for more information. Last year's theme was "Oceans Alive."



COURTESY PHOTO

Officials from Pilgrim's Russellville presented a \$4,200 check to that week's RPL staff and board members March 31st.

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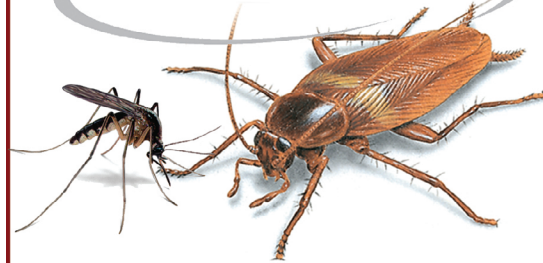
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Russellville City Councilman Darren Woodruff attended the Friday morning check presentation and expressed his appreciation both to Pilgrim's and for the job Bowen is doing at librarian.

"We appreciate everything Pilgrim's does for our community every day. They are truly invested in giving back to their home community," Woodruff said. "Also, I want to say how appreciative we are of the job being

done by Joshlyn and her employees. They continue to increase the library's footprint in our city and they are very much appreciated."

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](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

# NW-SCC to offer hybrid online, in-person Nursing program starting in fall

Submitted

Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) will offer a hybrid Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program track beginning in the fall.

According to Brittney Humphres, NW-SCC Executive Director of the Phil Campbell Campus and Nursing Education, the program will mesh online and in-person instruction.

"We hear from so many passionate prospective students that have a desire to pursue nursing, but their life circumstances do not allow

them to pursue the traditional daytime option," said Humphres. "The flexibility of the hybrid option will be the perfect fit for them."

The program allows students to take most of the nursing theory online. However, all of the lab instruction and clinical commitments will still be held in-person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and selected Saturdays. The hybrid track will continue to be taught from the Phil Campbell campus.

Approximately 24 students will be accepted into the hybrid track. Applications for the ADN program's traditional and hybrid track are due May 15, 2023.

The ADN program offers students the opportunity to pursue a career as a registered nurse (RN) and practical nurse (PN). All ADN students receive a PN certificate after successful completion of the third semester.

The NW-SCC nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

To apply for the ADN program at NW-SCC or view all of the program entry requirements, please visit <https://nwscce.edu/explore-programs/health-studies/nursing/registered-nursing/>.

For more information, contact Mandy Winstead by email at [mwinstead@nwscce.edu](mailto:mwinstead@nwscce.edu) or call 256-331-6279.

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