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"Don't ever think you can't go back:" Ponce's story an inspiration to family, others

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Sometimes we find inspiration from people we've never even met. Consider Russellville resident Kisha Ponce. The 33-year-old Ponce is a wife to Canoeli Luna-Ponce and the mother of four children, the oldest of whom, Selena, graduated from Tharptown High School in May. Her other three children are enrolled at the Alabama Connections Academy, with their mother at home supervising and supporting their

online home schooling. Ponce most recently worked at Koonor in Hackleburg until she began full-time college coursework. And, oh by the way, Ponce is in her second year as a full-time student at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. Selena is also attending SNHU, in her first year of a two-year program to earn an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts before she embarks on a career in the military. SNHU recently announced its Summer 2023 President's List, and

See 'PONCE,' Page 5

Kiel: Alabama's redistricting lines complied with Supreme Court order

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Open defiance of a federal court, or a firm stance for what legislators believe is right? Both views are well represented in the ongoing saga of revising the state's seven Congressional district lines. You can place Rep. Jamie Kiel (R-Russellville) in the second category. Kiel voted in favor of the state's proposed redistricting and he still believes the process was done fairly and legally. State legislatures are charged with drawing boundary lines for Congressional voting districts after each census. In the current case, that was done in 2021.

Congressional districts are based on population, with somewhere between 700,000-730,000 in each district. Montana, with a population of just over one million, has only one Congressional district, for example. California, the nation's most populous state, has 52 Congressional districts. With a population just over five million, Alabama has seven Congressional districts, with Franklin County situated in the 4th Congressional District, represented by Rep. Robert Aderholt. The 2020 Census showed Black residents make up 27 percent of Alabama's population. When the Alabama Legislature submitted its redistricting plan after

See 'KIEL,' Page 7

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Jason Miller
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March 5, 2024 Republican Primary Elect
Joseph Baldwin

Franklin County Commissioner District 3
PE Pol Adv. By: Joseph Baldwin • 107 Baggott Cemetery Rd., Vea, AL 35681

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Franklin County Commissioner

District 2

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For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out on the web at www.franklin-freepress.net/

Glenn Donald Naylor, age 69, of Russellville, passed away on Thursday, September 07, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Annie Mae Deihl age 91 of Florence, Alabama passed away on September 5, 2023. Akins Funeral Home is assisting the family.

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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.

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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My Take On This: Return to writing an answered request

Gail Motes
Franklin Free Press

You know how you will say to a friend, “If I can do anything for you just let me know?”

I had said that very thing to one of my friends and his response was unexpected and very touching. There wasn't a pause at all. His answer was short, sweet and powerful. All he said was “Start writing again.”



Gail Motes

My intentions were to begin immediately, but I've begun a new phase of my life and writing articles seemed to be put on the back burner.

I'm not going to share my new phase of life until later. I will tell you it could not have come at a better time in my life. My heart was ultimately sad and my life's goals seemed to be strongly dwindling away. I am excited to say I finally feel free and my life is interesting and my heart is happy.

As of now, I'm fulfilling a request. An old saying most have heard about 'how it's better late than never' will apply this time.

He probably came to the conclusion that I was 'all talk and no action' because of the lapse in time.

It will be nice if the thought of 'good things come to those who wait' has been his thought process.

I am hoping a smile will cross his face and happiness will enter his heart. I'm not certain this will happen, but I do know a thank you has crossed his mind. It's the little things that matter to him.

Before I bring this article to a close, I want to thank my dear friend, John Pilati, for allowing me to share my personal thoughts in the Franklin Free Press. It has been and will continue to be a great opportunity.

Even though he might not agree with some of the subjects I write about, he continues to give me a freedom of speech.

The ones who really know me realize the bravery in giving me an opportunity like that. I don't always know what I will write about and y'all have mentioned you are always impatiently waiting to read what I say.

It's amusing to hear and a compliment most happily received.

My thoughts are sometimes 'deep and I've been told my sense of humor seems warped at times. I don't mind because that's just who I am!

Wishing each of you a happy and safe week!

As always, until later.....

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Letter to Editor: Miller addresses landfill issue in open letter to citizens

To the Citizens of Franklin County:

During the campaign for Probate Judge and in my time on the Franklin County Commission, it has been my privilege to represent the people of Franklin County. I am in touch with what the people of this county want and don't want. I have had questions from many of you about the issue of landfill expansion in the county.

I want to make my position clear. I do not support the expansion of landfills in Franklin County. It does not help give our citizens the quality of life you deserve. I am ready to move on from this issue to start the exciting work of making life better for all of us in Franklin County.

God Bless,
Jason Miller



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'PONCE,' From Page 1

Ponce's name was included.

To make the President's List, a student must be a full-time undergraduate who earns a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 for the term.

Full-time status is achieved by the student earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in the fall, winter/spring and summer.

Southern New Hampshire is a private, non-profit university with more than 170,000 students worldwide. SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, N.H.

The university was one of the first to offer and promote online learning at the collegiate level.

Ponce takes a full course load each term that SNHU offers, with only a break around Christmas.

Ponce plans to attend law school after graduation, and she hopes to attend the University of Alabama School of Law. From there, she'll do what she does every day with her own family, help and protect others.

"I want to become an attorney and I also have an interest in learning about politics," Ponce said. "The whole point of being an attorney is to protect other people's constitutional rights, so law and politics go hand-in-hand."

Ambitious, indeed. And when you consider the path Ponce took to become a college honor student, it's nothing short of remarkable. That's where the inspirational part of the story begins.

Growing up in rural Jackson County, Al., Ponce was only 13 when she learned she was pregnant. As a freshman at Woodville High School, her life took a dramatic change from that point.

She never returned to Woodville High School. Instead, she studied for her GED and earned it the same semester her high school senior class graduated. By that time, Ponce was living in Russellville and was and taking care of her young daughter.

Ponce attended Virginia College and earned an Associate's Degree in Applied Science. At the time, she wanted to be a physician, with a con-

centration in OB/GYN.

"I worked in the medical field and had a taste of it and that taste was enough, so I decided to pursue something better for me," Ponce said.

Full-time tuition, even for online learning, is steep these days, and that's part of the reason Ponce plans to go back to work. But she sees

it as an investment for her Selena. An investment that will one day pay off.

"Education comes with a cost. You don't get it free. In the long run, when I look at what I want to be, it will be worth the cost of what I paid to be a student," Ponce said.

Ponce hopes to graduate from SNHU at the same time Selena does.

"It would be really cool to walk across the stage with my daughter. When I was pregnant at 13, I never thought about one day going to college with her," Ponce said.

"She asked me why I wanted to go to college. I explained I was a young mom and thought that opportunity was completely shut off at one time.

"But I wanted to pursue higher education, so it was worth going for it. Now it's special to go



COURTESY PHOTO

Kisha Ponce and her children at her daughter's graduation in May.

through it with her. Don't ever think you can't go back because you can," Ponce added.

It really doesn't get more inspirational than that



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 **A**shaKiran serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking across Alabama. Their vision is to be a 'ray of hope' by bridging the gap between service providers and culturally diverse communities. Their 24-hour crisis line number is 1-800-793-3010. Learn more about AshaKiran by visiting www.ashakiranonline.org. Consultations are free and confidential, and available in 45 different languages.

 **T**he Senior Center of Phil Campbell is under new management. Everyone age 60 and over are invited to come join us and be part of the group. This is for men and women. We meet at the Phil Campbell Community Center Monday thru Friday from 8-noon. A delicious lunch is served at 11 a.m. Meals are \$1 donation. Some come and play Rook. We also do Bingo when we have enough people. There are several games to play or just sit and socialize with other seniors.

 **P**astor Bro. Eric McKinney and the congregation of Crestview Missionary Baptist Church, 24131 Hwy. 24, Russellville, invite you to worship with them. Sunday morning Bible Study is from 10-Noon and Sunday morning worship from 11-Noon. All are welcome to our services! Call 256-324-0179 for more information.

 **G**ateway Church will have Evangelist Perry Stone in service September 10, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Due to the fire at our church the services will be held at the Russellville High School Auditorium. For more information please call 256-627-7935.

 **A**lmostBama, a Tribute to the Band Alabama, will be at Russellville's Roxy Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. For ticket information, call 615-479-0954 or visit www.aprilpotterentertainment.com for more information.

 **T**ennessee River Bass Club is seeking members for our 23/24 season. Club fishes monthly on Tennessee river and Bear Creek lakes. We welcome boaters or non-boaters 16 or older of all experience levels to join. Club is based in Sheffield. For more information, contact Tommy 256-627-5662.

 **N**orth Russellville Baptist Church will host its October Youth Fest 23 on Sunday, Oct. 1st, at 5 p.m. Praise and worship by Dustin Richardson and Three Strong. Finger foods to follow event. Church is located at 1401 Waterloo Road.

 **A**merican Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m., at City Park.

 **C**harity Chapel Church invites you to Revival, September 14-17, with Bro. Raybon Haynie. Thursday-Saturday 7 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m., with dinner after service. Church is located at 2955 Frankfort Road, Tusculumbia. Pastor Bro. Dwight Love and Congregation invite everyone to attend.

 **W**e would like to invite everyone to My Father's House Church, 104 East Lawrence Street in Russellville, all through the month of September we'll have a special speaker, Bishop Cyril and Adina Curtis, all the way from England. They will be ministering the word for us all through September. Sunday mornings at 11 a.m., Sunday nights at 5 p.m., and Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Any questions, call 256-460-1376.

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'KIEL,' From Page 1

the 2020 Census, multiple legal challenges to the plan were filed.

A three-judge panel of federal judges in Alabama's Southern District ruled the new redistricting was not representative of the state's population. Specifically, the court found that one-third of Alabama's Black residents were placed in one Congressional district. That meant the remaining 18% were scattered among the six remaining districts, and the Court found that was done to protect a White majority in those district.

The federal panel of judges looked to Alabama's Black Belt as the area of the state where a second district could be created where Black voters had the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

The Court cited 'traditional districting principles' of compactness and keeping communities of interest together, that should be used in revising the district lines.

The State of Alabama appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which upheld the lower court's decision by a 5-4 decision in June.

So the Alabama Senate tackled redistricting once again in this year's session and created a second Congressional map. That map did not create a second Black-majority district, though, and the court once again rejected it last week.

For Kiel and a majority of legislators, they believe the Court's order was followed and the redistricting complied with applicable federal law.

"The Supreme Court gave us a directive we were to form a district that gave the opportunity for the candidate of choice of the Black population in that district," Kiel said. "That's what we felt like we did—give them an opportunity to win another district.

"I voted for the map we were presented because it followed the guidelines the Supreme Court set forth and it did not gerrymander or overly compact the districts," Kiel added.

Sen. Larry Stutts, Franklin County's other legislator, also voted for the redistricting plan. Efforts to reach Stutts for comment were unsuccessful.

Reactions to the latest federal court order were predictable. The Alabama

Republican Party issued the following statement: While we respect the Court, we are disappointed in its decision and we trust that the State will ultimately prevail in this litigation.

The Alabama Legislative Black Caucus released a statement applauding the latest order: The decision today represents what we in this state already knew to be true, that the Republican-led Legislature is unable to draw maps that offer black voters a chance to fairly elect representation of their choice consistent with federal laws.

The federal court's latest order calls for a special master to be appointed along with a cartographer (a professional who produces maps) and those individuals will redraw district lines in time for them to be in place for the 2024 election cycle.

Kiel said other plans that called for part of the City of Mobile to be in a district with some Black Belt counties doesn't comply with traditional districting principles.

"The other plans I have seen pulled in Black communities that might not otherwise have been similar communities other than being predominantly African-American," Kiel said. "So Mobile does not necessarily have the same community interests as areas of the Black Belt.

"My view is Mobile is more a community of interest and staying whole is preferred over districting that puts Mobile with Hale County. They don't share as much commonality as keeping Mobile whole," he added.

As an example of 'communities of interest,' Kiel cited the redistricting of Alabama House lines that restored all of Franklin County into one House district.

"We made it where the people of Tharptown and East Franklin are represented by the same representative as Phil Campbell and Russellville because those communities are much more alike than East Franklin and Moulton or Courtland," Kiel said. "And it had nothing to do with race. I never

See,' KIEL,' Page 9

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'KIEL,' From Page 7

considered race when voting or trying to get Franklin County back into one district."

Kiel said the legislature's revised version redrew Congressional District Two, represented by Rep. Barry Moore, and left Mobile and Baldwin Counties in District One. District Two would have included the Wiregrass area going north into Montgomery and would have a 40 percent Black population, Kiel said.

In June, the Supreme Court ruled that college admission programs that use race as a factor are in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, something not lost on Kiel.

"The Court ruled you can't use race to get into college, but we can use race to decide district lines," Kiel said.

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Bay Tree Council to hold auditions for hilarious Christmas production

Submitted

The Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts in Red Bay, AL announces auditions for its first production of the 2023-2024 season, Doublewide, Texas Christmas by Jones Hope Wooten and directed by Scotty Kennedy.

Doublewide, Texas was presented last April and with the audiences loving it so much, we felt this would be an excellent follow up, especially with the holiday season. Auditions will be held once: Monday, September 18, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Weatherford Centre in Red Bay and will consist of cold readings from the book. The play will be presented November 9-12, 2023. This is a great play to bring groups and a meal will be offered on Thursday night and you may contact Beth Hammock at 256-668-0045 for more information. In this outrageously funny comedy, it's Christmas-time in the newest—and tiniest—town in Texas. And it's beginning to look a lot like trouble in Doublewide. Not only are the trailer park residents dealing with the stress of the holiday season, but they've just discovered that Doublewide is being double-crossed by the county. With their official incorporation papers in jeopardy, this band of eccentric Texans throw themselves into taking on the "Big Guys." Determined to bolster their legitimacy, they first set their sights on the county-wide "Battle of The Mangers" competition. They conspire to win this smackdown with their "Nativity At The Alamo" entry...by any means possible.

In addition to that shaky undertaking and trying almost single-handedly to keep the new town afloat, Mayor Joveeta Crumpler has to wrangle her celebrity-obsessed mother, her beleaguered brother who's being bullied by a pack of vengeful raccoons, and her demoralized best friend who's at the end of her rope from dating every loser this side of the Rio Grande.

To make matters worse, Joveeta finds herself increasingly wary of the newest resident, Patsy Price. Patsy, fresh out of the local mental institution, clearly has her own devious agenda and the county competition over in Fayro is just the place for her to settle an old score.

By the time this full-tilt rocket ride of lunacy climaxes in a what-else-can-go-wrong live television presentation, you'll have doubled your Christmas spirit. So spend the Yuletide in Doublewide and let this hilarious Jones Hope Wooten Comedy make your Christmas merry and bright...because there's no place like a good ol' Texas-sized mobile home for the holidays!

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Mistakes, turnovers abound in Tharptown's loss to Tanner

*Michael Rice
Franklin Free Press*

After a big win over Phillips last Friday night, the Tharptown Wildcats had a much different result in week three, a 74-8 loss at Tanner High School.

The Wildcats had trouble with turnovers the entire night, with nine giveaways, including eight interceptions and one fumble. Two Tharptown interceptions were returned by Tanner for touchdowns.

Tharptown had 242 total yards on offense, with 183 of that on the ground.

Logan Bevis completed four of 19 attempts for 59 yards.

Jeremy Vasquez ended the night with 23 carries and 113 rushing yards and one touchdown.

For Tharptown Coach John Johnson and his team, it's about turning the page to the next game, while learning from the mistakes made against Tanner but not dwelling on the loss.

The Wildcats face the Hatton Hornets this Friday, September 15th at 7pm.

"Hatton is a very well coached and disciplined team. I'm more focused on us and fixing our mistakes. Until we, as a team, can learn to correct our mistakes and focus on us getting better every snap it'll be detrimental," Johnson said.

"I'll take the blame for that one Friday. Our focus wasn't where it should have been all week," Johnson added.

Learning curve continues for Belgreen football team, even after first win

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

Each time his Belgreen Bulldogs' football team walks off the field after a game, Coach Jonathan Raper tells his players there's a lesson to be learned.

Two weeks ago when Belgreen upset Cherokee 38-26 for the program's first win, the lesson was how hard work and dedication can pay off.

After Tuesday's 24-18 three overtime loss to luka, Ms., the Bulldogs' coach discussed the team aspect of football and how it takes each part of a team coming together to succeed.

"At Cherokee, I felt like our offense played very well," Raper said. "Not that the defense played poorly, but the longer the game went, we started making more mistakes on defense."

"It was right the opposite in luka the other night. Our defense played extremely well and our offense had miscues all night. We made some plays and scored some points, but it just

wasn't enough. We were so close to breaking that game open but had too many mistakes," he added.

In a season of firsts, the Cherokee game was Belgreen's first win. Raper addressed an excited locker room afterwards, mixing a message of congratulations and temperance.

"I told them it was a great accomplishment just to be playing the game and starting back football. Then we're competing, now we're winning," Raper said. "From where we started to where we've come to is remarkable. We've progressed a long way, but there's still a long way to go. But I told the team they've exceeded my expectations already."

When Raper took the Belgreen job around a month prior to the new school year, the team had a four-game schedule with only one junior varsity game. Belgreen's schedule now includes three additional JV games, including last night's game at Belmont.

The Bulldog junior high team will face Colbert Heights September 18th, with a JV game

See, 'BELGREEN,' page 13

Golden Tigers steamroll Lawrence County to improve to 3-0

*Hayden Moss
Franklin Free Press*

Russellville's on-the-field dominance continued with a blowout win Friday night over the Lawrence County Red Devils, 37-7.

The win improved the Golden Tigers to 3-0 and 1-0 in Class 5A Region 8 play.

A strong offensive showing that saw Russellville amass 426 total yards featured running back Cam Phinizee's 175 yards and four touchdowns. Russellville totaled 258 yards on 27 rushing attempts.

Quarterback Harrison Burch had his best game of the young season, going 12-21 for 168 yards and a touchdown.

Through three games, Phinizee has 632 yards on 60 carries and 11 touchdowns. He's averaging 10.53 yards per carry, among the best in the state. Burch is 24-41 for 313 yards, three touchdowns and an interception after three games.

The Golden Tigers opened the game in impressive fashion, driving the field and scoring on a 27-yard passing touchdown from Burch to Bralynn Vincent, making the score 7-0.

Vincent leads Golden Tiger receivers with 107 yards and one TD with seven receptions.

The Red Devils' first offensive possession looked promising with multiple big plays but the Golden Tigers came up with a big stop on fourth down in the red zone.

To start the second quarter, Phinizee scored a 38-yard rushing touchdown, making the score 13-0 after a failed PAT. Golden Tigers' head coach, John Ritter, was pleased with how his offensive line opened up holes all night.

"It starts up front. To win big games, you have to be able to run the ball and we've made a conscious effort to improve in that area," Ritter said.

"I thought we threw the ball better vertically today than we have the past two games but Harrison has put in a lot of work, receivers have put in a lot of work to improve in that area so I'm very proud of that. But at the end of the day there are times where you have to run the football and I thought we imposed our will when we wanted to," he added.

The Golden Tigers scored again, fast, with a Phinizee 48-yard rushing touchdown, extending the lead to 20-0, after Manny Martinez' PAT.

Ritter was asked about Phinizee's

See, 'TIGERS,' Page 12

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'TIGERS,' From Page 11

performance on the year and whether he was surprised by his growth as a player.

"It's very important, you know, we've got to be able to run the football and its not a shock at all because of the way he works and that joker put in a lot, a lot of work from November on and he still he practices wide open, he works out wide open and everything he does is a 100 miles an hour and it shows with how he's played these last three games," Ritter said.

Lawrence County gained some steam and scored on a six-yard passing touchdown with 3:29 left in the first half.

Just before halftime, the Golden Tigers tacked onto their lead with a Phinizee touchdown from the two-yard line, making the halftime score 27-7.

Starting the second half, the Red Devils threw a pick which led to a 24-yard field goal by Martinez, extending the lead to 30-7 only a minute and a half into the second half.

Martinez is a perfect 14/14 on PATs this season.

With 4:23 left in the third quarter, Phinizee tacked on one last touchdown on the night for Russellville, and that completed the scoring at 37-7.

The Golden Tigers' defense yielded only 202 yards and 10 first downs while forcing two turnovers.

Ritter was asked what the level of importance there was for his team to open region play with a win.

"We want to control our own destinies. We've talked about that every year making sure we control us getting into the playoffs and us winning the region," Ritter said. "That's always the goal and so we got to control

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our own destiny and winning a region game is how we do that." Russellville will face off against West Point at Russellville this Friday, with kickoff at 7 p.m.

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'BELGREEN,' From Page 11

September 25th at Tharptown and a junior high game September 26th at Cherokee.

"It's been a little struggle to find people to play, but we added several games to get more for our kids," Raper said. "Our goal was to try and get 5-6 games this year and we've ended up with a few more than that."

"We've got older kids we're trying to get mixed into this thing, so we added the JV games even though it's not ideal for us. We have to take some younger kids and mix them in with the older players, but that way they can at least get a few games. We hope next year we'll be ready to play a full junior high and a full JV schedule."

BULLDOG FOOTBALL 2023-2024			
AWAY			
BELGREEN	VS	IUKA, MS	
SEPT. 5TH	6:00	JH	
SEPT 11TH -----TO BE DETERMINED			
AWAY			
BELGREEN	VS	BELMONT, MS	
SEPT. 12TH	6:00	JV	
AWAY			
BELGREEN	VS	COLBERT HEIGHTS	
SEPT. 18TH	5:30	JH	
AWAY			
BELGREEN	VS	THARPTOWN	
SEPT. 25TH	5:30	JV	
AWAY			
BELGREEN	VS	CHEROKEE	
SEPT. 26TH	5:30	JH	
AWAY			
BELGREEN	VS	TISHOMINGO, MS	
OCT. 5TH	5:30	JH	
AWAY			
BELGREEN	VS	THARPTOWN	
OCT. 9TH	5:30	JV	
AWAY			
BELGREEN	VS	SHOALS CHRISTIAN	
OCT. 16TH	5:30	JH	

Raper said he's pleased with the play of his offensive line. That group includes Thomas McKinney, Ty Hamilton, Dalton Gardner, Noah Scott and Logan Taylor.

"Most of these guys had to learn our plays, blocking schemes then flip around and learn a whole new defensive system," Raper said. "Lots of times the backs get all the credit, but this line is doing a good job."

"Also, Brayden Messer does a lot for us and plays several different offensive positions. Isaac Hammond plays fullback and defensive back and he's a seventh grader who's really come on. Wayne Shelnett is a new kid who's come out and he's a strong young man who's starting to figure things out. He'll be a force on defense before long. The kids have done a great job. I've told them don't concentrate on being perfect. Give 110 every play and if you mess up, don't worry. Just learn from it," Raper said.

Even with every game on the road this year, Belgreen fans have showed up en masse and it hasn't been lost on the coach.

"We've had great crowds on the road. I can just imagine what our first home game will be like next year, not just for the kids, but the community, faculty and staff being here and playing in front of them. Some can't travel to see road games. It will be a fun and exciting time," Raper said.

"We've received great support from the community, teachers and students coming out and supporting us. Last week (in Tishomingo County) it was more than an hour away. We had a good following. The churches in the area are feeding the kids and some of the businesses have done that too. It's a ton of support we need and appreciate," he added.

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'Cruise-In' at the Roxy this Saturday for fun, food, film and car show

Submitted

The Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council, Inc. is venturing into a former era by sponsoring its First Annual "Cruise-In at the Roxy."

If you're looking for a fun afternoon which highlights "The Good Ole' Days," plan to attend the "Cruise-In at the Roxy" on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Admission is free for attendees.

This event will feature automobiles from different generations which will be entered by avid collector enthusiasts. Those participants wanting to show off their unique automobile(s) may complete entry information at the North end of Jackson Avenue in front of the courthouse. The cost is \$20 for first car entry and \$15 for each additional entry. For the participants there are lots of giveaways such as tool sets, CASH, gift cards and much more.

A Facebook Trivia Contest will be offered daily for names to be entered into a drawing for each question answered correctly and will be shared on Facebook.

Also toy cars will be around town for a scavenger hunt. When a car is found, tag Roxy on Facebook at #thehistoricroxytheatre to be entered into drawings and follow instructions on each individual car.

The Historic Roxy Theatre will open its doors at 6 p.m. for the movie "Grease." People are encouraged to dress as their favorite actor or actress in "Grease" or during that era. There will be coke floats, popcorn, candy, and soft drinks available to purchase in the Roxy.

Dinner will be served in First Baptist Church Fellowship Building by teens dressed in 60's poodle skirts and other attire. The menu features home-made chicken stew; beef stew; chili; peanut butter & jelly sandwich; peach cobbler; and drink.

There will be music and dancing in the street. Also a display in the Roxy's ticket booth features an outfit that Lila Hovater wore as ticket seller for The Roxy when it first opened in 1949. She was paralyzed from polio but she loved The Roxy so much that she worked until her untimely death in 1962.

There will be Roxy prints available for sale. The original painting was done by Ronnie McDowell as a fundraiser for The Roxy. The print features Lila Hovater and Lee Gault, manager and overseer of The Roxy from the time it opened in 1949 until his death in 1963.

At 8 p.m., the streets will open for "Cruising the Strip" as back in the "Ole Days." Whether you're driving your favorite automobile or just a bystander, you are welcome to share this fun venture in downtown Russellville.

This will be an opportunity to enjoy the good times as back in the 60's.

For more information, call 256-810-4751.

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Congratulations to our Week One winner, Joanna Standridge, who correctly predicted 8 of 10 games and won the tiebreaker with the closest guess to the winning margin of victory, which sadly was Texas by 10.

Submit your picks by email to Franklin freepress@yahoo.com by Saturday morning, September 9th, at 10 a.m. Include your name, phone number and game selections, including tiebreaker.

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SEC Football Contest

Week 3 Sept. 16th Bailey's Pick. Your Pick

LSU at Mississippi State	LSU	
Kansas State at Missouri	Kansas State	
Virginia Tech at Rutgers	Rutgers	
Tulane at Southern Miss	Tulane	
Washington at Michigan State	Washington	
Tennessee at Florida	Tennessee	
Vanderbilt at UNLV	Vanderbilt	
Georgia Tech at Ole Miss	Ole Miss	
BYU at Arkansas	Arkansas	
Pittsburgh at West Virginia	Pittsburgh	
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Your Name:		
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