13480 Hwy 43 Russellville

"Quality Furniture at Affordable Prices" 12 Month Interest Free Financing! www.helenkfurnitureinc.com • Facebook.com/helenkfurniture

PRSRT STD US POSTAGE

PAID Franklin Free Press
113 Washington Ave. NW
Russellville, AL 35653

FranklinFreePress.net

# Republican Primary





#### **Qualifying opens soon for** local, state elected offices

Bv John Pilati Franklim Free Press

The Franklin County Republican Executive Committee September 16th to approve a resolution to accept candidates' paperwork for local office in March 5, 2024, Republican Primary.

Glenn Garrison presided over the meeting in his new role as Chairman of the Franklin County GOP Executive Committee.

Garrison succeeds Jerry Mays, who resigned this year from the Chairman position he held for more than a decade.

Garrison's local involvement in politics began when he volunteered with Dr. Larry Stutts' State Senate District Six campaign several years ago. Garrison was involved for many years in Republican politics when he lived in Illinois, serving as a Republican County Chair more than 14 years. When he retired in 2003, Garrison moved back to his native Franklin County.

Garrison works from home as a senior software engineer and data base administrator for Conservice, a Utah-based utility management and

See 'ELECTED,' Page 8

#### **Commission contracts with UNA to** perform employee study

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission approved a contract with the University of North Alabama to complete an economic study to include preparing job descriptions, wage and salary analysis and updates to the county's personnel policy.

Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore said the commission heard presentations from four groups before approving a \$25,000 contract with UNA at its September 18th meeting.

The UNA proposal states the final report will be delivered by December

In other agenda items, the commis-

--approved a contract for services with the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce for FY24 in the amount of \$6,600.

--approved a bid for office supplies for FY24 from One Source and Printers and Stationers, Inc.

--approved the resignation of Brooke King as Accountant/Payable Clerk and approved advertising the vacancy.

--approved Family Medical Leave Act leave for Lila Duncan in the Franklin County Highway Department.

--declared a vacancy in the Franklin County Highway Department.

--approved the hiring of Renae

See 'COMMISSION,' Page 7

Call 256.332.6888 to schedule your appointment today!

SINGING RIVER

 $oldsymbol{\mathcal{U}}$  I'm very much impressed by how professional, courteous and caring the staff is. I have complete confidence in Singing River! Dr. Orr was SO helpful and the Dental Assistants exceptional!

This Dental Firm has DEFINITELY exceeded expectations. 33

-Marc Patterson, Google Review

SingingRiverDentistry.com

531 St. Clair St., Russellville







#### Book Online at

flowmassageandyogastudio.com

Memberships available Call for appointment

108 S. Jackson Ave 256.284.2182





March 5, 2024 Republican Primary

Joseph

Franklin County Commissioner District 3



District 2

Pd. Pol. Adv. by: Doug Aaron-1102 Hwy 20 - Spruce Pine, AL 35585 Printed by Hester Printing

#### PROTEC

WHAT MATTERS MOST

Whether you are home or away, protect what matters most from unexpected power outages with a Generac Home Standby Generator.

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

**CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE** 

(256) 860-0660

**Maintenance Wash Program: \$50!** Includes full interior & exterior

(256) 436-0465 13365 Hwy. 243, Russellville Airport Brandon Seay, Owner • Certain restrictions apply

7-year Extended Warranty\* - A \$735 Value!

Basic Exterior: \$35

Basic Interior: \$35

**GENERAC** 

# GENERAC

Full Interior: \$65 Full Exterior: \$65 freepress.net!

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

#### FRANKLIN MEMORY GARDENS

We offer ground burial, mausoleum and cremation spaces. All may be purchased at need or pre-need to include the burial vault and bronze memorial.

Providing a peaceful, beautiful and serene cemetery for the people of Franklin County.

Carolyn Atkins Porter Since 1960 2710 Waterloo Road • 256.332.2115

"In Memory of our loved ones..." brought to you by Atkins Marble and Granite Works and Franklin Memory Gardens

Velma Lee Moore, 92, passed away on September 18, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Joseph J. Kaufman, 66, of Phil Campbell, Al passed away September 16, 2023. Akins Funeral Home assisted the family.

Margaret Ann Landers Enlow 81, of Phil Campbell, AL, passed away Saturday, September 16, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Dorothy Elouise Wimberley, 85, of Phil Campbell, passed away September 16, 2023. Pinkard Funeral home assisted the family.

#### **AVIATORS DETAILING Vote**KIRK **NOW OFFERING:** Window Tinting! And For updates on SPARKS Mobile Detailing! Let us come to you! Full Detail: \$125

Franklin County Commission District One March 5, 2024 Republican Primary

Pd.Pol.Adv.by Kirk Sparks - 17212 Hwy 81 - Russellville.AL 35654



Medicare, Medicaid, Viva, BCBS, Humana, and United Healthcare insurances accepted.

Specializing in preventing, diagnosing and treating a wide variety of diseases and health issues affecting adults.

Accepting new patients 256.331.1900

#### 15225 Highway 43, Suite G Next to Russellville Hospital

#### Franklin Free Press

113 Washington Ave. NW Russellville, AL 35653 256-332-0255

The Franklin Free Press is published weekly by Pilati Investments, Inc.

Our publication is mailed to our readers at no charge.

#### **Publisher**

John Pilati

#### **Executive Editor**

Michael Rice

E-mail: franklinfreepress@yahoo.com

#### **Sales Representatives**

Michael Rice, John Pilati

#### **Content Contributors**

Gail Motes, Willodean Davis, Hayden Moss

#### **Graphic Design**

Jason Hill

#### Correction Policy

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

#### Letters to the editor

The Franklin Free Press is published by

ople. 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 con tent.

#### Copyright Information Published by Pilati Investments, Inc. Copyright 2022

All materials and content are copyrighted by the Publisher
This publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any method, without the express written permission of the Publisher.



Groom & Board

"Because Your Dog is Worth it!"

- Luxury Suites
- All Day Open Play Environment
  - Relaxing Atmosphere

256.275.1287

#### 1000 Ronnie McDowell Ave • Russellville



annacarolporterholisticharmony.com

"Goodness. Best sleep I've had in years. I'm sore today but that means it worked.
Can't thank you enough.
You've got a permanent client now:

~ Paul Wilbanks Disabled veteran

Fascial Stretch Therapy helps with pain while calming the nerves to ensure a good night's sleep.

"Get Ready to Heal!"

Call Anna Carol
Porter today!
\*Certified Fascial Stretch Practitioner\*



Holistic Harmony. AC 256.668.2830



#### HELP NEEDED

AshaKiran is seeking a volunteer who works with sound equipment to help us amplify the voices of survivors at our upcoming event. If you or someone you know would like to offer services tact us at equipment

VAWE@Ashakiranonline.org 256-375-7073

#### Shoals Primary Care

welcomes

### Dr. Zaman Shah

to the practice in Sheffield



Board certified in Internal Medicine, Dr. Shah is an exceptional physician and a close family member of Dr. Syed.

He will be continuing Dr. Syed's legacy of excellent and compassionate patient care with Shoals Primary Care.

Monday-Thursday 8am - 5pm Walk-ins are Welcome

MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED MEDICARE PATIENTS WELCOME



342 Cox Boulevard Sheffield 256-383-4473 shoalsprimarycarellc.com



**WGOL-FN 100.7** Daily 8 a.m. and 12 p.m.

WillodeanDavissells.com • 256.762.5671



#### House For Sale By Owner

3BR/3BA. 2823
Highway 77,
Russellville, just off
Underwood Road.
3,003 Sq. Ft. w/ Full
Basement. Comes w/
7.6 Acres of Land.
\$350,000. Call 256412-3488.

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

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



## Free Local Delivery! Convenient Drive-Thru! Most Insurance Accepted!

Mon.-Fri. 9-6 3145 Hwy 237 Phil Campbell

Next to Phil Campbell High School

Owner/Pharmacist Wes Mayfield

#### Award-winning Goldpine set for intimate night of music at Decatur's Princess Theatre

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

When Goldpine, a Nashville-based husband/wife Americana duo, take the stage September 28th at Decatur's Princess Theatre Listening Room, it will be a homecoming for Kassie Wilson.

Wilson graduated 23 years ago from nearby Brewer High School in Somerville. Returning for a night of music in front of family and friends has Wilson and her husband Ben particularly excited about the Decatur show.

"The very intimate, close setting is what appeals to you about venues like the Princess Theatre Listening Room," Kassie said. "I've not been to the Princess since I was a little girl. That kind of listening room is exactly what we love. We play all size festivals sometimes in front of thousands and we play house concerts with only 20 people.

"But these intimate settings are where we really shine. Even though we're called an Americana duo, we're really storytellers. Being able to interact with a small audience is honestly what we do best," she added.

Tickets for the September 28th show are \$30, \$25 or \$20 and available at www.princesstheatre.org.

The Listening Room is on the second floor of the Princess. The room was designed specifically to maximize artist-audience interaction and gives guests the opportunity to hear the personal side of performers.

Those in attendance are seated around tables right next to the stage. There are couches available and hightop tables with barstools as well. There is a bar inside the Listening Room and it makes for a special venue where guests feel as if they're enjoying a private concert.

The Listening Room is the setting for the Princess' highly popular Singer/Songwriter Series, which features a different artist each month. October's Singer/Songwriter guest is Georgetta Jones, daughter of the iconic George Jones and Tammy Wynette.

Special guest appearing with Goldpine is Charlie Argo, a soul-filled singer whose background is in gospel, soul and country music.

Argo, a native of Selma, Al., has found a way to blend his musical influences into a unique 'Southern Soul' sound. Argo recently recorded a full studio album at the legendary FAME Studios in Muscle Shoals.

Ben and Kassie Wilson are more than just talented singers. They have won awards for songwriting as well, and have performed at the Muscle Shoals Songwriter Festival and they won the 2022 Rocky Mountain Songwriting Contest.



## Dr. Kelly's Urgent Care

Walk-In visits available. We are available to screen and test for COVID-19.

Mon.-Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-3, Sun. 1-5 13150 Hwy. 43, Suite 10, Russellville 256-331-2092.

Serving your family for more than 30 years. Family Practice, Pediatrics, Newborn Care.

Their second album, simply titled Two, released September 8th. It features songs written by the Nashville-based duo, including their lead single Do You Have Me?

The song speaks to the pain of someone inside a one-sided relationship or friendship, and how that relationship comes to a head after the realization

that the other person is only in it for themselves. It asks the question I have you but do you have me?

"The last five years of our lives I've been thinking how we look at relationships, how we think about love and this topic is a common theme on this new record," Ben said. "Everybody's been in a place where they feel like they're doing all the investing in a relationship and the other side isn't doing any at all.

"The song is more for the person not doing the investing to encourage them to realize maybe they should," he added.

Two also includes the emotional ballad My Favorite Parts of You, a song Kassie describes as her 'personal favorite.' She wrote the song about her mother, who passed away two years ago.

"One of the last times she was in the COURTESY PHOTO hospital we went home and wrote that song," Kassie said. "We went back to

the hospital and played it for her and she absolutely loved it. The hook says All the best parts of me are my favorite parts of you.

Every day I see more of her in me. I am so grateful for the mom she was and the time I had with her. She was my best friend. There's a hole and void that will never be filled there. That song is packed with love and emotion," she added.

For more information on Goldpine and to hear a sampling of their music, visit www.goldpinemusic.com.

The duo's music is also available through streaming links on their web site. And yes, you can still buy an actual CD as well.



256-332-5440 15255 Hwy 43 Russellville

Your Unique Lifestyle"



**EyeCare Professionals** 



#### **Tombigbee Communications is** building in Franklin County!

We are offering the fastest internet speeds in Alabama and superior HD phone services at affordable prices.

#### Ready to sign up?

www.freedomfiber.com 205-921-6712

"Healthy Living Happy Living!"

Introducing: Dr. Christopher Rankin



- Primary Care Physician
- Medical Check-Ups & Consultations
  - Health Screenings

256.331.2700 15225 Hwy 43 • Suite I



#### What's Happeni

FREE AND LOW COST MEDICATIONS FOR ANYONE IN ALABAMA WITH A DISABILITY OR A CHRONIC ILLNESS REGARDLESS OF AGE THAT REQUIRES DAILY MEDICATION. MEDICARE RECIPIENTS MAY ALSO BE ELIGIBLE. FOR MORE INFOR-MATION 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 ALA-BAMA DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR

The Foster Grandparent Program is seeking volunteers ages 55 and older to help tutor and mentor children in day care, head start and schools.

Volunteers will receive a tax-free stipend and travel reimbursement. We have openings for several schools for the coming school year. Please call 256-332-6800 for an application.

shaKiran serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human traf-A ficking 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.

The 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.

pastor 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.

AlmostBama, 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.

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.

North 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. Merican Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m., at City Park.

We 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.

Have an event we can help publicize?
Call us at 256-332-0255.
on news and sports throughout the week, visit us online at www.franklinfreepress.net. Send your letters to the and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.



#### **Accident or Breakdown?**

Tell law enforcement you want M & N Towing! **TOWING & SERVICE CENTER** 

11833 Hwy 43 South • Russellville, AL 35653

256,332,7279

#### **'COMMISSION,' From Page 1**

Halbrooks as Corrections Officer/Dispatcher in the Sheriff's Office and the hiring of Dakota Riley as a deputy.

--approved a bid from Crouch & Sons to install 14 tankless water heaters in the Franklin County Jail at a cost of \$51,996.

--approved agreements with Franklin County Schools for Bobby Greg Baker, Sammie Washington and Regina Cantrell as School Resource

-approved the promotion of Bretta Wigginton to Lieutenant in the Sheriff's Office.

--approved the hiring of Lee Bryant (permanent) Heavy Equipment Operator and Jeff Dill (temporary) Heavy Equipment Operator in the Franklin County Solid Waste Department.

--approved the termination of Lee Bryant as Heavy Equipment Operator and authorized the advertising for the vacancy.

--approved the FY24 meeting schedule to have work sessions the second Monday of each month at 5 p.m., and business meetings the third Monday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Commissioner Jason Miller abstained from the vote. The remaining commissioners approved the schedule 3-0.

--approved the FY24 Mental Health Contract with Colt Montgomery, Chase White and Kyle Palmer.

--approved a contract for sales tax auditing and collection services with Don Allen Sales Tax & Auditing Services.

-appointed Jerry Groce, Brente Jeffreys and Lavon Duboise to the NACOLG Board. --approved Matt Cooper, Timmy James, Craig Madden, Philip Rogers

and Mark Holland to the Industrial Development Board. --tabled the appointment of three people to the Department of Human

Resources Board. The commission will hold a special meeting on September 29, 2023, to approve the budget for FY24.

28 Robert Cannon Ave Deer Run Subdivision Sat & Sun • 3 BR/2 BA home built in Russellville by Southern Homes. Sept 23-24

• 1,531 sq. ft. completely furnished.

Southern Homes factory

1-3 p.m. representatives will be on site to take orders for additional home sales on Deer Run Subdivision lots.

 Local bank representatives will be onsite to discuss financing options.

\$199,000



256-810-9401 • 256-810-8126

## Pilgrim's Is Hiring! **Be Part of Feeding America!**

Production wages start at \$17.25/hr up to \$20/hr

(Including incentive)

Apply in person at our 2045 Hwy 44, Russellville, or Apply online at pilgrimsusa.com! Benefits include: Medical, Dental & Vision Insurance, Advancement opportunities, Night Shift Premium Pay, 401K Retirement, Paid Holidays and Vacations.

#### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

The Franklin County Commission is accepting applications for the following position(s): Heavy Equipment Operator, Franklin County Solid Waste Accountant/Payable Clerk.

Franklin County Commission
Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until 5:00 PM on Friday, September 29, 2023.

An application and job description may be picked up, faxed or emailed upon request from the Franklin County Commission Office, located at 405 N Jackson Avenue, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, by calling (256) 332-8850 or applications are available at www.franklincountyal.org under the Careers tab.

Franklin County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the employment or provision of services.

#### **'ELECTED,' From Page 1**

billing services company.

He's excited about his new leadership role and there's no subtlety about his support in the 2024 Republican Presidential Primary.

"There's definitely a lot of enthusiasm right now for the Republican Party and there are all kinds of people who want to see Donald Trump win," Garrison said. "My goal is to get a good vote for President Trump in Franklin County."

Garrison said the other officers for the local committee include Ila Scott as Secretary and Lowell Moore as Treasurer.

Committee members approved a resolution provided by the state GOP that lays out the process of running for local office in the March primary.

The qualifying period is fast approaching. It begins at 8 a.m., on October 16, 2023 and runs through November 10, 2023 at 5 p.m. The November 10th deadline applies to candidates in both the Republican and Democratic primaries.

The FFP reached out to a local Democratic Party official about when that party will open qualifying, but there was no response as of press time.

Garrison said candidates should contact him to submit their declaration of candidacy and any other required paperwork. As there is no local GOP office, Garrison said those wanting to qualify may contact him at 256-577-2439.

Candidates must also file a Principal Campaign Committee with the Secretary of State and a Statement of Economic Interest with the Alabama Ethics Commission. A Declaration of Candidacy must be filed in the Probate Judge's office.

Qualifying fees for candidates running in the Republican Primary are 2% of the annual compensation for a remunerative office (District Judge, Circuit Judge, Circuit Clerk) and \$50 for an unremunerative office. Fees must be paid at the time of qualifying.

Garrison said there is a process for candidates who are financially unable to pay the qualifying fee to request a waiver of fees. A candidate must complete a pauper's affidavit as part of his/her request to waive the qualifying fees.

Committee members also approved some changes related to the party's checking account at Community Spirit Bank. Former Chair Jerry Fancher was removed from the account and Garrison's name will be added.

Offices in Franklin County that will appear on the 2024 Primary include Circuit Judge, District Judge, Probate Judge, all four seats on the Franklin County Commission, Franklin County Superintendent of Education, Circuit Clerk, Franklin County Board of Education District One and Franklin County BOE District Four.

Candidates who have contacted or confirmed to the Franklin Free Press their intentions to run for office include (incumbents denoted with "I"):

Circuit Judge: Brian Hamilton (I).

District Judge: Jamie Sumerel, Mitch McKinney. Probate Judge: Barry Moore (I), Jason Miller.

Franklin County Commission District One: Kirk Sparks.

Franklin County Commission District Two: Cory Cummings, Doug Aaron.

Franklin County Commission District Three: Joseph Baldwin (I). Franklin County Commission District Four: David 'Opie' Hester.

Franklin County Schools Superintendent of Education: Greg Hamilton

Circuit Clerk: Derrick Scott.

Franklin County Board of Education District One: Ralton Baker (I).

Franklin County Board of Education District Four: Kacey Johnston (I).

Incumbents who have indicated they will not be seeking re-election in 2024 include: Paula McDowell (District Judge), Anita Scott (Circuit Clerk) and Chris Wallace (Franklin County Commission District One).

Candidates and/or elected officials who attended the September 16th Republican Executive Committee meeting included Jamie Kiel, Barry Moore, Jamie Sumerel and Mitch McKinney.

Executive Committee member Eric Reason said the local GOP has a Facebook page to provide information about the party. Those interested should search "Franklin County AL. (GOP) Republican Party."

## Where Everybody Knows Your Name...



## FREE Local Delivery FREE Curbside Assistance Mail Order Delivery\*

(256)331-1919 14001 Hwy 43, Suite 13 Franklin Shopping Ctr





## The Season for Big Savings Is Now!

Schedule Soon & Save Up to \$2000!

- Free Estimates and Second Opinions for New Heating and Cooling Systems
- Many Payment Options to choose from
- Service Available Seven Days a Week
- Licensed and Professional Technicians



\$49

#### Cooling or Heating System Tune Up

Price value for one working unit. Excludes oil rifed systems. Valid at participating ARS® Network locations. Not valid for third party, new construction, or commercial customers, with any other offers, discounts, or on prior sales. Call service center for details. Coupon required at time of service. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited. Any other use may constitute fraud. Cash value \$.001.

Offer expires 8/30/2023.

License numbers available at americanresidential.com/licenses

#### SAVE \$2000

#### on a New Cooling and Heating System with our Buy Back Program!

Savings requires purchase and installation of select complete heating and cooling system. Removal and disposal by Company of existing heating and cooling system required. Valid at participating ARS® Network locations. Not valid for third party, new construction, or commercial customers, with any other offers, discounts, or on prior sales. Call service center for details. Coupon required at time of service. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited. Any other use may constitute fraud. Cash value \$.001. Offer expires 8/30/2023.

License numbers available at americanresidential.com/licenses

#### **18th on the 18th!**!



COLIRTESY PHOTO

Russellville High School students, faculty and administrators celebrated their recent #18 ranking by U.S. News & World Report among all Alabama high schools. Monday's event included an assembly, performances by the RHS Marching Hundred and the RHS varsity cheerleaders.

Russellville Middle School students were also invited to participate in the celebration. Branches Church provided drinks for students. Russellville First United Methodist Church provided Krispy Kreme donuts and Gateway Church of God sponsored a shaved ice truck for students. The

staff of the RHS Lunchroom also provided cookies.

RHS Principal Jeremy Madden said it was an event he hopes students would always remember being a part of.

"We remember the good times from school as we get older, and today was one of those good times. It was a celebration we called '18th on the (September) 18th,' a culminating event to celebrate that milestone and to encourage RMS and RHS students to keep it going. 18th is great but we want to be #1," Madden said.

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

#### Miranda Decker, M.D.

INTERNAL MEDICINE Comprehensive Adult Health Care

Russellville Internal Medicine, P.C.

535 Gandy Street NE Russellville, AL 35653 256-332-1120

Mon-Thur 8-5





BUSINESS • LOST & FOUND • GARAGE SALES • PETS • APPLIANCES • HELP WANTED • SERVICES • APPLIANCES • CLOTHING • FURNITURE

YARD SALE Yard Sale. Saturday, Sept. 23. 8 a.m.-until. 208 Plum St., Russellville. Lots of Tools!

Yard Sale. Saturday, Sept. 23. 153 Skyline Drive, Russellville. Clothing, including children's clothes, tools, more!

KARL RAGAN 256.332.9064

Trimming • Topping • Removal

Cowboy Church of Colbert County will host a Benefit Yard Sale on Saturday, September 23, starting at 6 a.m. Proceeds will benefit St.

Jude Hospital. Fish fry plates available starting at 5 p.m. Fish/Chicken \$14/plate. **Turkey Shoot** at 10 a.m. Church located at 3440 Highway 157, Leighton.

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Friday/Sat., Sept. 22/23, 415 Hester Ave. 43 South of Frosty Inn, Home of Jayne Wells. Large/XL Boys Clothing, L/XL Women's Clothing, Men's Clothing and Much more!

Services Retired nurse will do patient care in-home, light cooking and cleaning. Call 256-436-2450. (6)

**FOR SALE** 

Wrought Iron Mail Box Post (Utility Type) For Sale. Well Built. Reasonably Priced. Call 256-577-1632.

(4) 2010 Mustang GT For Sale. 5-Speed. Red in Color.Clean. Runs great. \$16,500. Call 256-810-6206.

3 and 4 Acre Lots for Sale. \$15,000 (3-Acre) and \$20,000 (4-Acre). Owner will finance with 10% down. Extreme southern Franklin County in Phil Campbell. Suitable for Mobile Home. Call 205-551-1026.

(4) Lotes de 3 y 4 acres en venta. \$15,000 (3 acres) y \$20,000 (4 acres). El propietario financiara con un 10% de pago inicial. Extremo sur del condado

de Franklin en Phil Campbell. Apot para casa movil. Llame al 205-551-1026. (4)

Oak table with 6 chairs \$50. Call 2564833675

Marlin Firearms 30/30 w/Sling. Model 30AW. Micro Groove Barrel, Cal 30/30 WIN. JM" Marking On Barrel. Tasco World Class Scope. \$800. 2 Boxes ammo included. Call Al at 216-956-5658. (4)

Lazy Boy Dual Recliner with Loveseat For Sale. Burgundy Fabric. One year old, good condition. \$150. Call 256-436-2450.

#### **Bucket Work • Stump Grinding** (4) Russellville City School Board approves \$38.9 million budget for FY 24

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education approved a \$38.91 million budget for FY 2024 at the board's September 12th meeting.

Anticipated revenue for FY24 is \$36.96 million, with budgeted expenditures of \$38.91 million. The net budget deficit of \$1.72 million results from the Career Tech building renovation at Russellville High School being partially paid out of the general fund, according to RCS Chief Financial Officer Lisa Witt.

Salaries and related expenses for instructional services total \$15.373 million, representing 44.4% of the FY24 budget. This includes salaries and benefits for faculty and instructional aides. Instructional support services, for non-teaching positions, will be \$4.062 million, representing 10.3% of the total budget.

Collectively, personnel expenses account for more than 70 percent of the total budget, including salary, supplements, stipends and benefits, Witt said. That includes a four percent state raise for teachers.

The system's budget includes 360 employees, with 216 instructional employees and 144 support personnel. Those numbers, up from last year, include some employees hired with temporary federal funds that won't be sustainable long-term.

The budget includes \$3.78 million in capital projects, which includes the Career Tech renovation, roof repairs at Russellville Elementary and classroom renovations at the RHS Auditorium.

RCS Superintendent of Education Heath Grimes said the \$1.72 million shortfall represents the 'worst case scenario' as far as funding for the Career Tech project.

"We are still working on some grants, including a lieutenant governor's grant," Grimes said. "We budgeted for the worst and budgeted it all in one year so the public and board could see the worst case scenario."

Other anticipated capital projects include restroom renovations at the RHS Auditorium, installation of fire monitoring equipment at the high school and some paving and drainage work around the high school.

Anticipated revenues for the coming year are broken down into four categories: state, federal, local and 'other.'

The lion's share, 59.9%, comes from state funding. Federal revenues account for \$4.93 million (13.1%), local revenues \$9.25 (24.6%) and other revenues of \$881,504 (2.4%).

Local revenue includes sales tax revenue on goods purchased in the city and online, where the county's two school systems share (based on enrollment) two-thirds of online taxes collected in the county.

Although there is a \$1.72 million deficit in next year's budget, the system will start FY24 with almost nine million dollars in its beginning fund balance. That amount will decrease to \$7.25 million at the end of the coming fiscal year.

Teacher allotments for classrooms increased from \$700 to \$900 this

In other agenda items, the board:

--approved four personnel items: Temporary Employment in Position for Libby Scruggs, Teacher Pre-K before and after school care, Dana Massey, Aide Pre-K before and after school care and Omar Mojica, Aide for 21st Century CCLC, and a Voluntary Transfer for Heather Elliott, from CNP Worker at RHS to CNP Assistant Manager at RHS.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Board of Education will be Tuesday, October 17th at 8 a.m., with work session Monday, October 16th at 3:30 p.m.

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

Check us out online at www.franklinfreepress.net!



Auto, Home, Life Insurance English and Spanish

Real deal with a local feel. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.

#### Scotty Wood, Agent

13760 Highway 43 Ste 6, Russellville, AL 35653 256-332-0052 scotty@agentscotty.com agentscotty.com





PRSRT STD US POSTAC PAID Franklin Free Pres Washington Ave. N. Discellation Affers

#### FranklinFreePress.net

#### SPORTS

#### <u>9.20.23</u>

## Belgreen earns second win on road at Belmont

John Pilati Franklin Free Press

When the Belgreen Bulldogs traveled to Belmont, Miss., September 12th, it wasn't to buy lottery tickets.

But Coach Jonathan Raper's young football team found itself a winner, as the Bulldog junior varsity defeated Belmont High School 14-8

Belgreen took the lead on the game's opening possession, but it wasn't on offense.
Belgreen's Will King stripped the football

Belgreen's Will King stripped the football away from a Cardinal and returned it for an 80-yard touchdown. The two-point try failed and Belgreen led 6-0 early in the first.

Late in the second quarter, Landon Cox connected with King on a touchdown pass for Belgreen. Rush Berryman ran in the two-point conversion, and the Bulldogs took a 14-0 lead into halftime.

It was another standout performance for Raper's defense, which didn't give up a touchdown until the final two minutes of the game.

"We played good football on defense all night," Raper said. "They drove the ball on us a couple times but it was a kind of bend but don't break result for our defense. Every time we needed it, we came up with a big play like a sack or a negative play and got them further behind the sticks. The last two games we've played some really solid defense."

Leading 14-0, Belgreen allowed a late scor-

See, 'BELGREEN,' Page 13

## Vargas Roofing & Home Remodeling

#### Shingle & Metal Roofs, Vinyl Siding, Drywall and Much More.

Freddy Vargas 256.668.7715

## Belgreen, Red Bay volleyball teams both make state top ten rankings

Michael Rice Franklin Free Press

This week the Alabama 1A Volleyball rankings feature two Franklin County schools, Red Bay

and Belgreen.

The Lady Bulldogs are sitting at number seven with their first year head coach Julianna Potts.

Potts is from Corinth, Mississippi and attended Alcorn Central High School.

Potts graduated from The University of Mississippi and coached a travel volleyball team last summer.

The Lady Bulldogs are 19-8 on the season and 2-0 in area play. "Coming into this job, I had never seen any of these girls play. I literally met them on a Tuesday morning at 8 a.m., and coached them in a game at 9 a.m., on a July morning," Potts said.



**COURTESY PHOTO** 

Belgreen's volleyball team now ranked #7 in 1A.

See, 'BELGREEN,' page 13

#### Phinizee's five touchdowns help Golden Tigers slay Warriors

Hayden Moss Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Golden Tigers improved to 4-0, 2-0 in Region 8 play, after a dominant 48-14 win against the West Point Warriors.

The Golden Tigers opened up the game strong with a stop on defense, then drove the field and scored on a 39-yard touchdown pass from Harrison Burch to Cash Crumpton, making the score 7-0.

Russellville's defense then came up big with a stop on fourth down in the red zone on the Warriors' next possession. Russellville sophomore Cam Phinizee broke loose for an 85-yard rushing touchdown, making the score 14-0 after the Manny Martinez PAT.

Phinizee began the night with 11 touchdowns through three games. He had another big night Friday against West Point, with five rushing touchdowns and 230 yards on only 11 carries. For the season, Phinizee has rushed 71 times for 862 yards and 16 touchdowns.

He talked about how impressive his offensive line has played through four weeks. "Everyone underestimated us, you know, we kind of had to put a lot of new guys in different spots and start from point A getting to here and that's coming from last year," Phinizee said.

"I'm very impressed with our line and we are doing really well this year," he added.

The Golden Tigers' special teams came up with a big play on the kick return off the previous score. Paxton Wray recovered a fumble giving Russellville good field position.



Phinizee found the end zone on a 17-yard touchdown run, extending the lead to 20-0.

Phinizee was asked what he attributes his success to so far this season.

"For sure it starts with the offensive line. They got after it this off season with me.

See, 'TIGERS,' Page 12

Licensed • Insured • Jeremiah 29:11



#### Russellville FAMILY DENTISTRY

#### Mike McLeary, DDS







Sarah Dale Wood, DMD



Russellville Dental Care is now Russellville Family Dentistry.

We welcome Dr. McLeary to Russellville. We are honoring all "Smile With Us" plans purchased through Russellville Dental Care.

256.332.6073 510 Engle Dr. SE Mon., Tue., Thu., 8-5, Wed. 8-2

#### **'TIGERS,' From Page 11**

I've put in a lot of time on the side, working out extra, and spending a lot of time on this field," Phinizee said.

The Golden Tigers set up Phinizee for a four-yard touchdown run with a 42-yard screen pass. That score extended the lead to 27-0.

After forcing another three and out, Phinizee scored his fourth touchdown of the night with a 43-yard run, making the lead 34-0.

Just before the half, Phinizee scored his fifth TD of the night, as Russellville built a 41-0 halftime laed.

Russellville got right back to work after the half scoring on the opening drive on a five-yard run by Zae Eggleston, making the score 48-0. Eggleston has 139 yards on 25 carries with two scores so far this season.

The Golden Tigers have outgained their first four opponents in total yardage 1,637 to 803.

With his team now 2-0 in Class 5A Region 8 play, Russellville Coach John Ritter said if his team continues to give the effort he's seen through the first four weeks, the region standings will take care of themselves.

"We want to control our own destinies so that means everything. We want to win all the region games and make sure we handle our business to make sure we have that opportunity to win the region championship," Ritter said.

The Warriors managed to score a couple of times before the end of the game.

West Point scored on a three-yard touchdown run by Hunter

Hensley, making the score 48-7.
The Warriors scored one last time on a 64-yard pass from Hensley to Brayden Monfort, making the final score 48-14.

Ritter was asked about the importance of traveling to and having a big test against East Limestone next week. "Kempshaw is a tough place to play and we've got to make sure we have a great week at practice and I think the way we played was very indicative of how we



practiced and I think a very good testament that when you don't have complete focus things happen and I thought we responded really, really well to a great week of practice and to come out here and play as good as we did," Ritter said.

Russellville will face off against at East Limestone this Friday, with kickoff at 7.

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

#### **'BELGREEN,' From Page 11**

scoring drive and with the two-point conversion, the Bulldogs led

14-8 with approximately one minute remaining.

Belmont still had its full compliment of times outs, so Belgreen's offense needed one first down to seal the win.

They got it.
Belgreen's JV
team consists of
his upperclassmen, with some
eighth (and a
seventh)
graders mixed
in

"We have a mixture of some older guys on our offensive line. They did a really good job last night," Raper said. "We moved the ball well but just didn't have a lot to show for it. Our blocking is bet-



COURTESY PHOTO

n't have a lot to show for it. Our show for it. Our spirit line last week.

ter and they didn't miss many assignments, and when we did, it was

the backs this time."

Raper said he was impressed with the job done by Landon Cantrell, Uriah Whitfield, Gabrian Adcox-Wilson on the line, as well as eighth graders Ty Hamilton and Noah Scott, who move up to play with Belgreen's JV.

"Rush (Berryman) starts and plays fullback and outside linebacker (for JV games). We're still playing a ton of eighth graders in these games. Brayden Messer and Collin McCalpin both did a good job and we even played Wayne Shelnutt (a seventh grader) who did a good job at nose guard," Raper said.

The JV games allow Belgreen's older players to get valuable game experience which will be significant if Belgreen is able to play a varsity schedule next year.

"They really mix well together," Raper said of his younger and older players. "And sometimes there can be problems with older kids playing with younger ones, but this team has done a great job playing together."

The Bulldogs' junior high team traveled to Colbert Heights for a game on Monday (5:30 p.m., start) and the junior varsity returns to the field September 25th at Tharptown

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





2506 Woodward Ave · Muscle Shoals



## Say goodbye to gutter cleaning for good



Call now for your free estimate! Financing available 877.505.0021

75% off of Labor\*

Offer does not include cost of material. Discount applied by representative at time of contract execution. Offer ends 12/31/202.



#### Receive a \$50 Visa Gift Card with your free in-home estimate

Except in the states of MD, NY and DC, where the gift card offer is limited to \$25. Not available in the states of CA, IN, PA and MI. Consumer Disclosure/Award Rules: All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 VISA gift card. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings, Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Promotion may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift card of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail or e-mailed within 30 days of receipt of the promotion form provided at presentation. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by VISA and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. https://mblink.it/1XPC for gift card restrictions. Expires 12/31/23.

 $^\star$  Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free.

## Pick up your FREE copy of the Franklin Free Press at CJ's!!!

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 4a - 7p



- Full Service Deli w/ Breakfast
  - & Lunch Plates
- Ethanol-Free Gas
- Hunting/Fishing Licenses
- Fishing Supplies/ Live Bait

14545 AL 187 @ Intersection of AL 24

#### **'BELGREEN,' From Page 11**

"I didn't know what I was stepping into or what their rankings were or what they looked like overall, but the girls have so much talent. One of my starters, Lilliana Willingham, she's a freshman and is starting. She has performed so well this season. She sees the court just like someone who's been there a while. Morgan Vandiver is a senior that is a high power hitter for us along with Hannah Borden. For the most part we have a really strong net," Potts said.

The Lady Bulldogs faced the Phillips Bears last Thursday and beat them 3-0.

Morgan Lauderdale had two kills in the game and Alayna Tate and Carson Hovater also contributed to help Belgreen win the match.

"We played very well against the Bears and even got to play our second string in the third game," Potts said.

This week the Lady Bulldogs play two area games.

On Tuesday, the Bulldogs face Hackleburg at home starting at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday night, the Bulldogs face Phillips again starting at 5:00 p.m.

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

#### PEST CONTROL



## PREDATOR PEST CONTROL

"The Insect Predator" Eddie Deaton (256) 627-1996

50 Years Combined Experience

Toll Free 1-888-832-5405

(662) 862-5631

(662) 840-4055

<u>George Evans, MD</u>

Offering general medical care services for the entire family





256.383.4473 Ext. 2021 340 Cox Blvd • Sheffield, AL

#### **FFP Weekly Football Contest!**

**Can you beat Bailey?** 

Each Week's Winner Receives a \$25 Pilgrim's Place BBQ Gift Certificate!

Congratulations to Chris Montgomery, our Week 3 winner, who predicted 7 of our 10 games on a difficult Saturday.

Submit your picks by email to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com by Saturday morning, September 23th, at 10 a.m. Include your name, phone number and game selections, including tiebreaker.





#### **Red Bat 2-1 after blowout win over Sheffield**

Michael Rice Franklin Free Press

The Red Bay Tigers have moved to 1-1 in their region after a 50-6 victory over the Sheffield Bulldogs.

The rock was carried by Keaton Lanphear 36 times for 98 yards with 48 being his longest carry.

Lanphear scored 2 times last Friday evening.

Also carrying the rock included Cody Carnes for 10 carries for 73 yards and one touchdown.

Also Jaxon Vinson carried the ball 17 times for 190 yards and four touchdowns.



The Tigers defense was led by Jaxon Vinson and Holden Inman collectively having 11 solo tackles.

Inman had two receptions on the night for fifty yards.

The team collectively finished the night with 366 all purpose yards.

The Tigers are overall 2-1 and face a non-region opponent this

Friday night at home against Belmont.

The Tigers next region game will be October 6th against Tharptown at Red Bay.

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.

## Bedford, Rogers, Bowling & McReynolds, P.C.

303 N. Jackson, Russellville 256.332.2880



## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

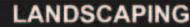
Advertise with us! Call 256.668.2708 or 256.332.0255

franklinfreepress.net

#### MOWING





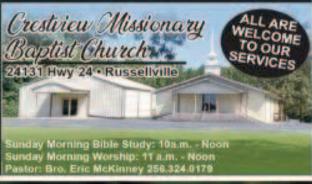




#### **PEST CONTROL**



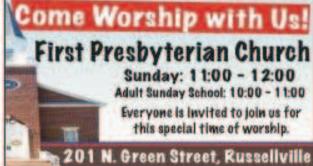




#### HOUSING



#### CHURCH



#### PERSONAL TRAINER



#### **PUBLIC SERVICE**



