

★★ **JAMIE** ★★  
**SUMEREL**  
 Republican Primary  
**DISTRICT JUDGE**  
PO POL ADV BY JAMIE SUMEREL CAMPAIGN PO BOX 1094 RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35663

Vote **David Cory** ★  
**Cummings's**  
 COUNTY  
**COMMISSIONER**  
**DIST. 2**  
PO POL ADV BY DAVID CORY CAMPAIGN 1005 HWY 56 RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35663

**Russellville**  
**FAMILY DENTISTRY**  
 Mike McLeary, DDS



Russellville Family Dentistry  
 welcomes Mike McLeary, DDS

Mon., Tues, Thu., 8-5, Wed. 8-2  
 256.332.6073  
 510 Engle Dr. • Russellville

## 'Significant' raises highlight FY24 City of Russellville General Fund Budget

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

Most Russellville City Council agendas the past several years have included personnel changes in the Russellville Police Department. Officers hired. Officers resigning. Often the same officer within a month or two. Most go through this employment revolving door after finding better paying jobs with other departments.

The council took a major step toward eliminating the turnover in the

RPD, Russellville Fire Department and Russellville Street Department after approving a \$12.759 million budget for FY24 that includes almost \$517,000 in raises for all city employees.

"We had to do something to make the city more attractive as an employer, so we can start pulling those folks back and keep them from looking for better paying jobs," Russellville Mayor David Grissom said.

The pay increases are significant for starting police officers, fire

See 'RAISES,' Page 5

## Russellville Elementary School honored with Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School designation

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

Last week, Russellville High School's students, faculty, administrators and staff celebrated the school finishing 18th in U.S. News & World Report's rankings of Alabama high schools.

Next up, it will be time for Russellville Elementary School to party.

Principal Tiffany Warhurst's school received notice September 20th it was named a 2023 Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School.

Based on the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence national assessment process, RES met the required criteria in nine performance areas of high

performing schools required to earn this prestigious honor.

The award will be presented to Warhurst in December during the Blue Ribbon Schools Conference in Orlando.


The Lighthouse School designation remains with RES for five years, at which time the school will be eligible to apply for renewal.

Russellville Middle School earned Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School status earlier this year.

One aspect of being a Lighthouse School is a commitment to sharing expertise and exemplary practices with other schools, as well as providing mentoring and networking to other schools engaged in improvement initiatives.

See 'RIBBON,' Page 8


**FLOW MASSAGE AND YOGA STUDIO**



Book Online at  
[flowmassageandyogastudio.com](http://flowmassageandyogastudio.com)  
 Memberships available  
 Call for appointment

108 S. Jackson Ave  
 256.284.2182


Taking care of  
 your family's  
 dental needs  
 Brett M. Bowen, DDS



**Bowen**  
**Family**  
**Dentistry**

243 Underwood Road • Russellville 256.332.4000


**Jason Miller**  
**PROBATE JUDGE**



March 5,  
 2024  
**Republican**  
**Primary**

Vote  
 for my  
 Daddy!

**SINGING RIVER**  
 DENTISTRY





Call 256.332.6888 to schedule  
 your appointment today!  
 531 St. Clair St., Russellville

"My Dental Hygienist, Krissy Little,  
 and my dentist, Dr. Nolan Connell  
 are the best!! They are very  
**knowledgeable and helpful.**  
 If you are looking for a new dentist  
 and hygienist try Singing River in  
 Russellville!!"

-Carol Conaway, Google Review

**SingingRiverDentistry.com**

Hablamos Espanol  

March 5, 2024 Republican Primary  
 Elect  
**Joseph**  
**Baldwin**

Franklin County Commissioner  
 District 3

PO POL Adv. By: Joseph Baldwin • 107 Bayport Community Rd., Vea, AL 35691



Your Support would be Greatly appreciated

# Doug Aaron

## Franklin County Commissioner

### District 2

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

# PROTECT

## 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

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions



REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

**(256) 860-0660**

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

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

## GENERAC

## AVIATORS DETAILING

NOW OFFERING:  
Window Tinting! And  
Mobile Detailing!

*Let us come to you!*

Full Detail: \$125

Basic Exterior: \$35      Full Interior: \$65  
Basic Interior: \$35      Full Exterior: \$65

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

**(256) 436-0465**

13365 Hwy. 243, Russellville Airport  
Brandon Seay, Owner • Certain restrictions apply

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



LOCAL • PERSONAL • CARING

Monuments are Designed & Lettered in our local shop.  
On-site Engraving & Sandblasting  
Franklin County's Home Owned and Operated Monument Dealer!

**Grant & Beverly Atkins**  
403 East Lawrence Street  
Russellville, Alabama

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

**Bruce Mantonia Sharpley, 60, Russellville, Alabama passed away Thursday, September 21, 2023. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.**

**Helen Beasley Kimbrough, 90 of Muscle Shoals, Alabama (formerly of Phil Campbell, Alabama) passed away September 22, 2023. Akins Funeral Home assisted the family.**



## 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 256-412-3488.

# Vote KIRK SPARKS

Franklin County Commission District One  
in the  
March 5, 2024 Republican Primary

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



## John Almirol, M.D. Internal Medicine

**“Over 22 Years Caring  
for Franklin County.”**

Mon-Thur: 8:30-5:00

Friday: 8:30-12:00

Se habla Español

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 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.

#### 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.



NEW LOCATION

**Pawsh**  
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

## Shoe snatch from Shoe Show results in felony charges for Hanceville man

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

A Hanceville man is in custody after allegedly stealing shoes from the Shoe Show on Highway 43 in Russellville Monday morning.

Jeremy Dewayne Wilbanks, 38, 475 County Road 48, Hanceville, was arrested (very quickly) by Russellville police after a brief chase. He was taken into custody near the Walmart Garden Center, Russellville Police Chief Chris Hargett said.

According to an eyewitness, Wilbanks ran out of the Shoe Show back door, which is alarmed, with two pairs of HEYDUDE shoes. The witness said something spooked Wilbanks and he bolted out the back door leaving his hat and backpack behind.

Police officers saw Wilbanks running and after a brief chase, he was tased after failing to stop and taken into custody within minutes.

The witness said there were several more pairs of shoes Wilbanks had in the back room of the store, which is off limits to customers. But he left those behind when he fled.

Wilbanks is being held pending a bond hearing on charges of Retail Theft 2nd Degree, Resisting Arrest, Attempting to Elude, Disorderly Conduct and Public Intoxication.

He has pending felony charges in Lauderdale County for Theft 1st Degree, and felony drug charges in Cullman County.

Hargett said the quick response time of RPD officers allowed them to take Wilbanks into custody without any risk or danger to other citizens.

## Job Opportunity

Franklin County Water Service Authority is accepting applications for the position of  
**Distribution Operator/Laborer**  
until 4 pm on Friday, Sept 29th, 2023.

An application may be obtained via email request to fcwater@hiwaay.net or picked up at the drive-up window at the office in Belgreen.

No telephone calls, please.

FCWSA is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability or any other protected class of individuals in employment or provision of services.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Advertise with us! Call 256.668.2708 or 256.332.0255

franklinfreepress.net

**MOWING**

*Salvador's*  
**LAWN SERVICE**  
(256) 810-2351  
Free Estimates Licensed

MOWING • TRIMMING  
MULCHING • CLEANING LEAVING  
HEDGING & SHRUBS • EDGING

**MASSAGE**

REWARD YOURSELF OR  
SOMEONE YOU  
LOVE

256.332.4220  
*Angel Harris*  
Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #140  
Relax Practitioner II

Soft Curls Available  
Creative Image Salon  
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

**LANDSCAPING**

**K&S TREE SERVICE**  
253 Laurelwood Dr. Russellville, Alabama

Trimming  
Topping • Removal  
Bucket Work  
Stump Grinding

KARL RAGAN 256.332.9064

**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

**HOUSING**

256-332-1561  
73 Flippen St

UNITS NOW AVAILABLE

The standard for fixed-income living in Russellville.

Russellville Housing Authority Incorporated

**CHURCH**

Come Worship with Us!  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
Sunday: 11:00 - 12:00  
Adult Sunday School: 10:00 - 11:00  
Everyone is invited to join us for this special time of worship.

201 N. Green Street, Russellville

**CHURCH SERVICES**

*Crestview Missionary Baptist Church*  
24131 Hwy 24 • Russellville

ALL ARE WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Study: 10 a.m. - Noon  
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 a.m. - Noon  
Pastor: Bro. Eric McKinney 258.324.9179

**PERSONAL TRAINER**

**Personal Touch Fitness**  
Personal Training & Rehab

Weight Training - Abdominal Routine  
Cardio and Flexibility Exercises  
Nutritional Counseling

256-668-2844

**Rickey Smith**  
Fitness Specialist

**PUBLIC SERVICE**

BUCKLE UP! It Could Save Your Life!

franklinsheriff.org  
(256) 332-8811

Compliments of **Shannon Oliver**  
SHERIFF

**256.627.2708**  
**Advertise Here!**

# 'RAISES,' From Page 1

fighters and street department new hires. Grissom said all city employees will receive at least a two-step, and up to a seven-step raise, with new certified officers starting at a step one equivalent to what step eight previously was.

That means a certified police officer or fire fighter would start as a Grade 6 Step 1, at an annual salary of \$44,859, Grissom said.

There are two revenue sources that will help pay for the raises. First, the police department will now be fully staffed with 20 employees, a decrease of three positions from current capacity.

Chief Joe Mansell's Russellville Fire Department will be reduced by two employees. These reductions will be taken care of through attrition, Grissom said.

The other source is anticipated revenue from commercial solid waste collection, something the City of Russellville will begin on October 1, 2023.

"For the past 10 years or so, we've not been fully staffed, so we're used to working shorthanded anyway," RPD Chief Chris Hargett said.

"Every time we got a raise, the departments around us have raised their pay, so this is a significant decision by the city council to help keep our city employees working in the city," he added.

For example, a heavy equipment operator/driver position in the Street Department for Solid Waste now includes a salary range from \$44,865.60-\$69,160.00, a significant increase over previous entry level positions.

The primary source of revenue in the new budget is local taxes and fees, with an anticipated \$11,012,759 of the \$12,759,594 total revenue.

The total FY24 budgeted expenses total \$12,759,522, leaving an unappropriated balance of \$72.

Street Department expenses are the largest line item, at \$3,056,351. Police Department expenses are projected to be \$2,608,660 and fire department expenses \$2,470,191.

Administrative expenses are budgeted at \$938,308 and appropriations in the amount of \$1,221,792.

Grissom said the raises came after extensive meetings with department heads and Shirley McSpadden. Each department head submitted proposed raises he believed would be sufficient to retain employees and hire qualified candidates for vacancies.

McSpadden polled other city/county departments similarly situated to

Russellville to ensure the raises would put the city above those departments, Grissom said.

"The 2023-24 City of Russellville General Fund Budget includes raises for all city employees as recommended by the department heads," Grissom said. "These raises should address and resolve the turnover in all departments that we have experienced for several years and will make our pay competitive with other municipalities, counties, the state and even the private sector.

"This is made possible through attrition and through an in-depth consideration of anticipated future revenue," he added.

The council voted to rescind an ordinance that provided a \$2,000 incentive hiring bonus for police officers already APOSTC certified as a result of the raises.

"Because of the raises approved by the council, they felt that the \$2,000 incentive was no longer necessary to attract certified candidates," McDowell said.



[annacarolporterholistic.harmony.com](http://annacarolporterholistic.harmony.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\**

**f Holistic Harmony. AC 256.668.2830**



## **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.**

**Village at Oliver Place**  
**NOW LEASING**  
Water included starting at:  
**2 BR \$480 • 3 BR: \$545**

205.993.5005 • 1361 Pike Avenue • Phil Campbell  
TDD (Hearing impaired) 800.548.2546  

**"Eye Care & Eye Wear for Your Unique Lifestyle"**

**256-332-5440  
15255 Hwy 43  
Russellville**



 **EyeCare Professionals**

[www.eyecareprofessionalspc.com](http://www.eyecareprofessionalspc.com) • M-F 8-5

**freedom FIBER**   
connecting the way to a better future

**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 is Happy Living!”**

**Introducing:  
Dr. Christopher Rankin**




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


**256.331.2700  
15225 Hwy 43 • Suite 1**





**What's Happening**  
256.332.0255


EVENTS OF INTEREST • FAMILY REUNIONS • PLAYS • CHURCH GATHERINGS • EDUCATIONAL • CLUB MEETINGS


 **T**HE NACOLG SENIORx MEDICATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUPPLIES 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 INFORMATION CONTACT NACOLG SENIORx TODAY. THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS SERVICE. 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463) 256-389-0530 PAULA PARDUE 256-389-0529 THIS PROGRAM IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR


 **T**he 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.


 **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.

 **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.

 **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.

 **Y**ou are invited to attend a Public Presentation from Main Street Alabama and Main Street Russellville to announce the results from a Community Vision Session. The public presentation will be Thursday, Sept. 28th from 5-6:30 p.m., at the A.W. Todd Centre in Russellville.

**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



**Accident or Breakdown?  
Tell law enforcement you want M & N Towing!  
TOWING & SERVICE CENTER**

**11833 Hwy 43 South • Russellville, AL 35653**

**256.332.7279**

**Now OPEN**  
In Phil Campbell! **205-993-4554**  
**FRANKLIN DISCOUNT DRUGS**

## PC Council tables zoning variance that would allow double-wide on lot

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

A zoning variance request made by a Phil Campbell resident became a heated subject of discussion at the September 19th meeting of the Phil Campbell City Council.

Jacob Hester appeared previously before the town's zoning board requesting a variance for property located at 2610 Highway 237 across from Belva Road.

Hester sought a variance to allow installation of what board members described as a double wide home and possibly a detached garage.

Hester, a customer care manager at Clayton Homes, owns a property company named Hester Properties, LLC, according to his social media page.

Hester told the council he had an option contract to purchase the property that was conditional on obtaining a variance from the town to allow him to install a Clayton-built home similar to ones he's placed on properties in Tharptown and Russellville.

The zoning board, which makes recommendations to the Phil Campbell City Council, did not reach a consensus as to Hester's request so no recommendation was made to the council.

The board's concerns were twofold: First, there were concerns that Hester is not the property owner and therefore has no standing to request a variance. Secondly, board members were concerned if they granted a variance for a mobile home, and Hester didn't follow through with his plans for the home he described, any type of mobile home could then be installed on the Highway 237 property.

Board member Michelle Marbutt requested the council to amend its zoning ordinance to give more specific parameters as to what types of manufactured homes, if any, would be permissible inside city limits.

Hester told the council the owner who is selling him the property asked for the variance in response to the zoning board's concerns he didn't have standing to request it.

See 'ZONING,' Page 10

**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

# 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](http://pilgrimsusa.com)!

Benefits include: Medical, Dental & Vision Insurance,  
Advancement opportunities, Night Shift Premium Pay,  
401K Retirement, Paid Holidays  
and Vacations.



## 'RIBBON,' From Page 1

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](http://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.

That will be nothing new to Warhurst and the RES faculty. The school was chosen by the Alabama Department of Education and the Alabama Reading Initiative as a spotlight school. That designation includes a commitment to allowing other school officials to come on campus and see what the RES faculty is doing to improve science and reading scores.

Only 12 Alabama schools were selected and among those 12, RES was one of three schools to show growth. And the 16% improvement in scores was tops among all participating schools.

Warhurst was excited, but not surprised, to learn her school was chosen as a Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School.

"Our scores here have always reflected how hard our teachers and students work," Warhurst said. "This is a detailed process that includes an on-campus visit. (Blue Ribbon evaluators) go into every classroom to observe. They met with groups of students, teachers and parents, approximately 20 of each, to get their feedback as well."

Russellville City Schools Superintendent of Education Heath Grimes said he was impressed at how well RES did considering it was the school's first review.

"I think it's amazing the faculty, staff, students and administration accomplished this on the first review without corrective feedback," Grimes said. "It says a lot about the quality of education taking place at RES (and RMS which received its recognition earlier this year).

"This is a great accomplishment but it's what we already knew. This just gives us a standard to measure by and a level and accomplishment to share with the public," he added.

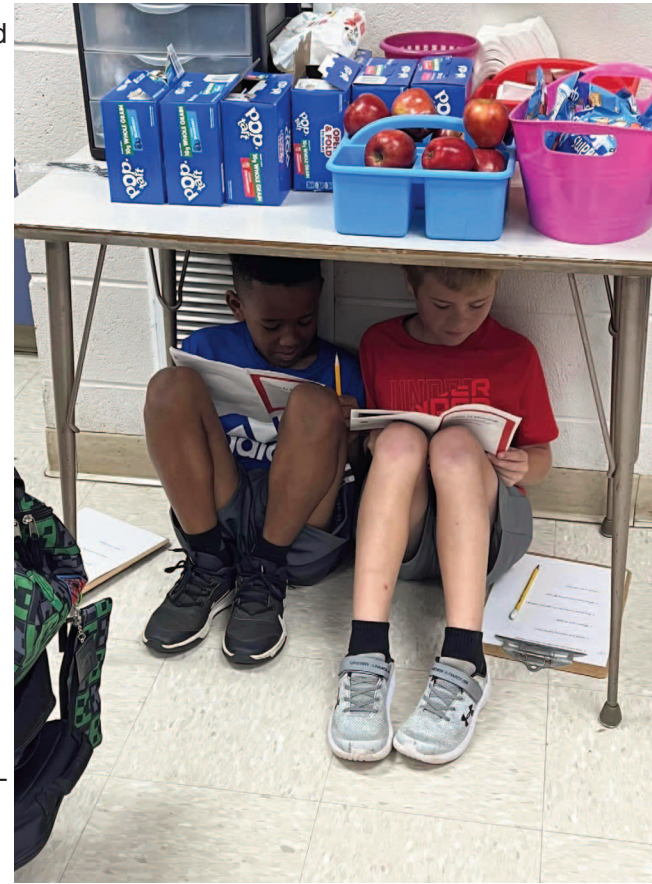
The performance areas considered by the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence include: student focus and support, school organization and culture, challenging standard and curriculum, active teaching and learning, technology and integration, professional community, leadership and education vitality, school, family and community partnerships and indicators of success.

And the celebration? Oh yes, Warhurst said, it's coming.

"We're already in the process of planning a big celebration. I can't release details yet, as we have to finalize plans and receive board approval. We won't just include one group, as this was a team effort," Warhurst said. "From our bus drivers to lunch room staff to custodians to teachers to office staff and our students, we'll

celebrate everyone in this building."

For more information on the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence program, visit [www.blueribbonschools.com](http://www.blueribbonschools.com).



COURTESY PHOTO

You will see Russellville Elementary students reading anywhere during the school day.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

RUSSELLVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY SECTION 8 (HCV PROGRAM) IS NOW ACCEPTING NAMES FOR A WAITING LIST.

COME IN THE OFFICE  
MON, OCT 2nd thru THURS, NOV 2nd  
FROM 7 A.M. UNTIL 4 P.M.  
TO DO A PRE-APPLICATION.  
MESSAGES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

256-332-1561  
73 Flippen St  
Russellville

Russellville  
Housing Authority  
Incorporated



**K&S TREE SERVICE**  
253 Laurelwood Drive  
Russellville, Alabama

KARL RAGAN 256.332.9064  
Trimming • Topping • Removal  
Bucket Work • Stump Grinding



# 69 of 70 Franklin businesses earn satisfactory health ratings

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

69 of the 70 Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the period of June through August 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.

69 of 70 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 two businesses: Bel Haven Heights, 107 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, and Walmart #403 Bakery, 13675 Highway 43, Russellville.

The business that received a score below 'satisfactory compliance' was Captain D's #3737, 15434 Highway 43, Russellville, with a score of 84.

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

- 43 Grill, 15110 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 97.
- B&J Cafe, 1327 Shelnut Loop, Phil Campbell, 97.
- Backwoods Grill & Fish Camp, 2937 Hwy. 43, Phil Campbell, 93.
- Best Western Breakfast, 13770 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.
- Big Star Deli of Russellville, 314 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 94.

- Big Star #345 Deli, 406 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 90.
- Big Star Supermarket #345, 406 4th St. NW, Red Bay, 97.
- Black & Gold Nutrition, 700 Waterloo Road, Russellville, 96.
- Bobcat Express Inc., 3075 Hwy. 237, Phil Campbell, 87.
- Bulldog Nutrition, LLC, 15485 Hwy. 24, Russellville, 98.
- CJ's Grocery, 14545 Hwy. 187, Russellville, 98.
- Cardinal Drive In, 602 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 95.
- Coco Michocana 2, 318 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 90.
- Daily Bread BBQ, 305 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 96.
- Discount Grocery & Variety, 201 E. Lawrence St., Russellville, 98.
- Dollar General, #20938, 9260 Hwy. 243, Phil Campbell, 98.
- Dollar General #785, 15045 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.
- El Buen Sabor, 104 Montgomery St., Russellville, 93.
- El Quetzal Buena Vista, 118 East Franklin St., Russellville, 95.
- Faelynn's Place, 3485 Broad St., Phil Campbell, 99.
- Farmhouse Table, 116 Jackson Ave. N, Russellville, 93.
- Frosty Inn, 12805 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, 95.
- Gas Mart North, 17060 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 95.
- Halligan's Pizza, 912 4th St. West, Red Bay, 86.
- Harold's Gas and Grocery, 1425 Hwy. 172 East, Hodges, 99.
- Hodges Senior Center, 1942 Hwy. 172, Hodges, 98.
- J&V Smokehouse, 607 4th St., Red Bay, 92.
- Jay Raja Inc., 109 Madison St., NE, Russellville, 96.
- Kidz Korner, 14131 Hwy. 43 N., Russellville, 97.
- Little Divas and Dudes Daycare LLC, 1100 4th St. NE, Red Bay, 98.
- Little Tigers Preschool, 1003 East Lawrence St., Russellville, 96.
- Los Dos Hermanos, 409 Madison St. NE, Russellville, 91.
- Lost Pines Coffee Co., 207 4th St. NE, Red Bay, 94.
- M&H Food Mart, 9224 Hwy. 243, Phil Campbell, 97.
- Malone Oil, LLC, 23791 US 24, Russellville, 97.
- Mama Cortez dba Rancho Viejo, 11797 Hwy. 43 S., Russellville, 94.
- McDonald's, 606 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, 98.
- Panda Buffet, 14633 US 43, Russellville, 89.
- Papa John's Pizza, 14520 Hwy. 43, Ste. 1, Russellville, 98.
- Phil Campbell Nutrition, 3415 Broad St., Phil Campbell, 98.
- Phil Campbell Senior Center, 135 Sherry Brice Dr., Phil Campbell, 99.
- Piggly Wiggly Deli, 518 4th Ave. SW, Red Bay, 92.
- Piggly Wiggly Market #93, 518 4th Ave. SW, Red Bay, 97.
- Pilgrim's Place, 1314 N. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 91.
- Pizza Hut, 13450 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.
- Pollo Lo-Quillo, 115 Franklin St., Russellville, 94.
- Priceless Food-Deli, 14001 Hwy 43, Ste. 11, Russellville, 98.
- Quinn's Grocery, 9980 Hwy. 48, Russellville, 99.
- Red Bay Hospital, 211 Hospital Road, Red Bay, 95.
- Red Bay Senior Center, 115 5th Ave. SE, Red Bay, 98.
- Red Bay SnoBiz, 524A 4th Ave. S, Red Bay, 95.
- Red Bay Tiger Mart, Inc., 211 4th Ave. SW, Red Bay, 90.
- Russellville Nutrition, 14130 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
- Russellville Senior Center, 238-260 Montgomery St., Russellville, 98.
- Sonic Drive-In #6295, 15376 Hwy. 43 N., Russellville, 88.
- Southside Quick Mart, LLC, 12301 Hwy. 43S, Russellville, 95.
- Stricklin Hotel Russellville, 114 N. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 97.
- Subway 24292, 15300 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
- Subway 37464, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 97.
- Swamp John's Country Store, 5181 Hwy. 24, Red Bay, 94.
- Swamp John's Mobile #3, 5181 Hwy. 24, Red Bay, 97.
- Taco Bell, 13831 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 97.
- The Grind Cafe and Coffee Shop, 13760 Hwy. 43 Ste. 1, Russellville, 91.
- The Hang Out Nutrition, 13684 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
- The Ville Nutrition, 112 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 98.
- Tienda Latina Mi Refugio, 412 Madison St., NE, 99.
- Vulcan Food Mart, 28485 Hwy. 24, Russellville, 98.
- Wendy's, 13679 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 88.
- Yogi's Spruce Pine, 6675 Hwy. 43, Spruce Pine, 97.
- Yogi's C-Store, 27534 Hwy. 24, Russellville, 93.

Health ratings are available at [www.foodscores.state.al.us](http://www.foodscores.state.al.us) and may be viewed by city or county.



## 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

Call today! (833) 489-0045

**\$49**

**Cooling or Heating System Tune Up**

Price valid for one working unit. Excludes oil fired 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](http://americanresidential.com/licenses)

**SAVE UP TO \$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](http://americanresidential.com/licenses)



# Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

<p><b>YARD SALE</b> Three Family Yard Sale. Intersection of Third/Hester Streets in A.B. Hester Subdivision. Saturday, Sept. 30. 7 a.m.-until. Lots of great items!  Yard Sale Sat., Sept., 30., 8am - 3pm. 1176 Highway 48 New load.  Yard Sale. Saturday, Sept. 30. 7-12. 125 Tony Avenue, across from Summit Pool. Household items, Little</p>	<p>Boy's clothing, Furniture, Name Brand Clothing, Christmas items and More!  Four-Family Yard Sale. 1719 North Jackson Ave., just past Good Shepherd Catholic Church. Thurs/Fri/Sat. Sept. 28,29,30. 8 a.m.-until. Perfume, clothing, lots of items!  Subdivision Yard Sale. Brookewood Subdivision (off Underwood Road) will host</p>	<p>a two-day yard sale Friday/Sat., October 13/14 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.  Yard Sale. Friday/Sat., September 29/30. 7-3. 6780 Highway 22, Spruce Pine. Frog Pond side. Watch for signs. Dining room table/chair, children's wooden kitchen set, household items, new Shark Vac, women's, children's clothing. Lots of treasures. Come get you a treasure!  Brookewood Subdivision Yard Sale.</p>	<p>treasure! Yard Sale. Fri./Sat., September 29/30. 7-3. 6780 Highway 22, Spruce Pine. Frog Pond side. Watch for signs. Dining room table/chair, children's wooden kitchen set, household items, new Shark Vac, women's, children's and children's clothing. Lots of treasures. Come get you a treasure!  Brookewood Subdivision Yard Sale.</p>	<p>Fri./Sat., Oct. 13/14. 8-12 each day. Many families participating.  <b>Services</b> Retired nurse will do patient care in-home, light cooking and cleaning. Call 256-436-2450. (5)  <b>FOR SALE</b> Wrought Iron Mail Box Post (Utility Type) For Sale. Well Built. Reasonably Priced. Call 256-577-1632. (3)  2010 Mustang GT For Sale.</p>	<p>5-Speed. Red in Color.Clean. Runs great. \$16,500. Call 256-810-6206. (3)  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. (3)  Lotes de 3 y 4 acres en venta. \$15,000 (3 acres) y \$20,000 (4</p>	<p>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. (3)  Oak table with 6 chairs \$50. Call 2564833675 (5)  Marlin Firearms 30/30 w/Sling. Model 30AW. Micro Groove Barrel, Cal 30/30 WIN. JM" Marking On Barrel. Tasco World Class</p>	<p>Scope. \$800. 2 Boxes ammo included. Call Al at 216-956-5658. (3)  Lazy Boy Dual Recliner with Loveseat For Sale. Burgundy Fabric. One year old, good condition. \$150. Call 256-436-2450. (5)  Fresh Eggs \$3/Dozen. Fresh Duck Eggs, \$3.50/Dozen. Call 256-324-2407. (6)</p>
---	---	--	---	---	---	---	--

## 'ZONING,' From Page 7

"I have a contract. It has an opt out if this variance is not approved," Hester said. "This is my hometown, too. I want to better this town and would not put anything there I wouldn't live in or put my own mother in." Hester said the home he plans to put on the property would be at least 1,500 square feet and could be as large as 2,200 square feet. "I'm ready to buy this property as soon as you approve this. There's a backlog at Clayton and it keeps pushing construction (of the home) back when there's no decision by the town," Hester said. Council member Rodney Kuykendall made a motion to table Hester's request until the council's next meeting, something Phil Campbell Mayor Mike McQuery suggested be done so the council and zoning board could come up with specifications. That didn't sit well with Councilman Phillip King, who voted against tabling the request. "We want this town to grow to help the people of Phil Campbell and tonight we failed in doing that," King said. "I don't think we did," Kuykendall responded. "We just postponed this until we can provide some parameters." In other agenda items, the council: —approved a \$1,000 payment to NACOLG to help pay for the van and driver provided by NACOLG to transport residents to doctor's appointments. —approved the purchase of a pallet of sod and two truck loads of topsoil to be placed around the town's new basketball court. The soil will be packed in before sod is laid on top of it. The project will help prevent the court from washing out. —approved the purchase of two battery operated scene lights with stands for the Phil Campbell Fire Department, along with two crowbars and two sledgehammers for the new fire truck, all at a combined cost of \$630.12, to come out PCFD funds. —approved renewal of a contract for services with the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$1,800, a 20% increase from last year. The contract provides for renewal the following two years, at the council's option, at an additional 10% each year. This is the first increase in the chamber's contract amount with the town in more than a decade, according to Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Cassie Medley.

## Phil Campbell walking track complete, basketball court soon to follow

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Phil Campbell residents now have a new quarter mile walking track to enjoy and a new public basketball court will soon be ready for action. When the council approved the purchase of land at the intersection of Alabama 237 and College Road from Barry Pounders, it gave the town seven parcels of land, 4.01 acres in total, that connect with the 10.8 acre tract that houses the Phil Campbell Community Center and Splash Pad. After Dollar General Corporation scrapped plans to construct a Dollar General Market at the 237/College Road location, the council went to work planning a sports complex that would be adjacent to the community center location. Installation of a walking trail, complete with lighting for nighttime usage, is complete, according to Phil Campbell Councilwoman Lynn Landers. And the basketball court is complete other than the installation of goals. Landers said the town is pricing goals and will soon have the court complete. And they're not stopping there. Although no plans have yet been approved, Landers said the 4.01 acres would be an ideal location for the city to construct a recreation center. The town owns all the land south of Underwood Circle along 237, and all the property fronting College Road other than a .32 tract owned by Lester and Verdie Hood. "We would like to eventually make one big recreation area to have activities for the community and our kids," Landers said.





**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



PRSR, STD US POSTAGE  
 PAID Franklin Free Press  
 113 Washington Ave. NW  
 Russellville, AL 35663

**Tharptown cross-country team outraces competition at Fairview Invitational**

*Michael Rice  
 Franklin Free Press*

Joseph Brown is in his fifth year coaching cross-country at Tharptown High School and last weekend his team had a program first. The Wildcats placed first in team standings at an invitational. The season started with the Wildcats placing fourth in their first two meets. In their third meet at the Chickasaw Trail Invitational at the Oakville Indian Mound, the Wildcats placed 11th, but faced a lot of big schools in the invitational. "There were a lot of defending state champion teams and one from out of state, but I was still proud of our efforts in that event," Brown said. This past weekend the Wildcats placed first at the Fairview Invitational. Tharptown competed in the small school division, consisting of Class 1A through 4A schools. "We've placed second a lot of years, but to get over the hump last weekend was incredible. I couldn't be more proud of my guys and they deserve it. As hard as my guys have trained over the years, to see it pay off was awesome," Brown said. "Our lead runner this year, Jessie Mitchell, has been very consistent and he's who placed first at Fairview. Mitchell (a senior) has

**See, 'CROSSCOUNTRY,' Page 13**

**Vargas Roofing & Home Remodeling**

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

**Freddy Vargas**  
 256.668.7715

Licensed • Insured • Jeremiah 29:11

**RMS football team eyes undefeated season, fifth consecutive Northwest Middle School Conference title**

*Michael Rice  
 Franklin Free Press*

The Russellville Middle School football team is currently preparing for another run at the North Alabama Conference Title with only two games left to clinch the first seed spot in the five-team South Division. If the Golden Tigers win this year it will mark the fifth consecutive year RMS will finish the season as champion. "We have so many skilled players and it's really something special. I walked into a gold mine of talent and I have the best job ever," first year RMS head coach Brett Voss said.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Golden Tigers are 3-0 this season and are coming into tonight's game at Brewer off a 44-6 victory last Tuesday against Moulton.

"Honestly it's more about us and not who we play. If we handle us, I don't worry about anyone  
**See, 'RMS,' page 13**

**5-0 Golden Tigers travel to Florence Friday to face undefeated Mars Hill**

*John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press*

Coming into Friday's game at East Limestone, the Russellville Golden Tigers were seventh-best in Class 5A in scoring, with an average of 38.8 points per game. They improved that average in the first half alone against the Indians. Coach John Ritter's team built a 43-7 halftime lead and finished the night a 53-7 winner, to improve to 5-0, 3-0 in Region 8. The Golden Tigers' most difficult test of the season will come next Friday when they travel to Florence to face the undefeated Mars Hill Panthers. Mars Hill thrashed Elkmont Friday night 76-0. To Russellville's credit, the team did not look past an 0-4 East Limestone team. Sophomore running back Cam Phinizee had only seven carries in the first half, but he still had 137 yards and four rushing touchdowns, including an 80-yard score on the first play of the second quarter. He finished with 10 carries for 162 yards. Phinizee also had a 40-yard reception from Harrison Burch, who posted his best night of

the season. The senior quarterback finished 12 of 17 for 254 yards and two touchdowns. Bralynn Vincent caught a 36-yard pass for a second quarter touchdown and Cash Crumpton broke loose for a 48-yard touchdown on a screen pass late in the first half. Jah Williams had an interception for the Golden Tigers in the second quarter and Malachi Duncan ran a successful fake punt for a first down. Junior kicker Manny Martinez nailed a 40-yard field goal on the Golden Tigers' first possession of the second half to build the lead to 46-7. "We came out and established our

**See, 'TIGERS,' Page 14**

**Friday Nigh High School Football Schedule 9/29**

- Russellville @ Mars Hill
- Phil Campbell @ Carbon Hill
- Tharptown vs. Cherokee
- Vina @ Curry
- Red Bay @ Hackleburg



# Russellville FAMILY DENTISTRY

Mike McLeary, DDS



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

## 'RMS,' From Page 11

on the schedule," Voss said.  
It's easy not to worry when the Golden Tigers have some of the best middle school athletes around.

"It's a special group of guys. We have Sir Williams, Darron Jones, Tavien Jones, Ryland Calvert and my quarterback Drake Ergle are all my impressive skill players," Voss said.

"Ergle has done fantastic at quarterback leading the team. I told him I don't care if you can chunk the ball 70 yards as long as you can lead

the offense. He's constantly getting people in the right position. He has absolutely ran the offense," Voss said.

The Golden Tigers' defense have held every opponent to six points.

Two of the three teams scored their six points in the game's final minute.

"Carter Clement and Braxton Duncan have been the anchors inside our defensive line," Voss said.

"Jasen Noel has played well at safety too," Voss added.

The Golden Tigers will host West Morgan September 26th in the regular season finale. The game kicks off at 6p.m.

If Russellville defeats Brewer and West Morgan, the Golden Tigers will win the South Division and will face one of the top two finisher in the North Division on October 3rd.

The Northwest Middle School Conference Championship will be October 10th and will be hosted by the highest remaining seed.

**Pest Solutions**

**Pest & Mosquito Control**  
**256-332-4008**

## Belgreen stumbles at Colbert Heights 34-8

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Belgreen football coach Jonathan Raper sensed a different feeling from his team as they went through warm ups before Monday's junior high game at Colbert Heights.

And it wasn't a good one, as the Wildcats downed Belgreen 34-8.

After the program won two of its last three games, wrapped around an overtime loss at luka, optimism was high for a team in its first season. But something happened in the minutes leading up to kickoff and Raper talked with his team about it.

"I told them it felt like we were at a funeral. You can't worry about how big the other team is or how it looks," Raper said. "We've got to get ready to play. It was the first time I was disappointed in the way we approached the game.

"We were already worried and didn't let the game take care of itself. More than anything it's about heart and how bad you want it," he added.

Belgreen drove inside the Wildcats' 20 on its first possession. But the drive ended with a fumble. The Bulldogs' offense had a good night in total yardage, but could not cash in on points.

"It was a bit of a role reversal from our last few games. We drove the ball all night, but we'd get ready to score and have a fumble or a penalty and the drive would stall out," Raper said. "I think we only had a few penalties, and we were great between the 20s, but couldn't punch it into

# 'BELGREEN,' From Page 12

the end zone."

Defensively, Raper said his team missed nearly 40 tackles, a reversal from one of his defense's strong points so far this season.

Belgreen trailed 24-0 at halftime, but Raper said the defense improved in the second half and the offense added a touchdown from Rush Berryman and a two-point conversion from Noah Scott.

Belgreen traveled to Tharptown for a junior varsity game September 25th and was scheduled to face Cherokee in a junior high game September 26th.

Next week, the Bulldogs travel to Tishomingo, Miss., for a junior high game on October 5th at 5:30 p.m.

# 'CROSSCOUNTRY,' From Page 11

a great work ethic and has scholarship potential. He has also set our program record twice now this this year," Brown added.

"I also have great senior leadership. My other two seniors are Edwin Vela and Ricardo Hernandez and I believe both could be looking at scholarships if they're serious about the next level through the rest of the season," Brown said.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Wildcats Belgreen football players greet elementary students in a spirit line last week. junior key contributors including Alex Quintero who finished second at Fairview and Angel Garcia.

"Garcia is our hardest worker and leads by example for us," Brown said.

The Wildcats travel to Wilson High School this weekend for the Wilson Warrior Invitational this Saturday, September 22nd at 9am.

**REWARD YOURSELF...**

**GIFT CARDS Available**



**OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE**

*Angel Harris*

Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495  
Reiki Practitioner II



**256.332.4220**  
Creative Image Salon  
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

Where Everybody Knows Your Name...



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



\*Within the state of Alabama

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

**RUSSELLVILLE DRUGS**  
FREE Local Delivery!

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net).

Jeff Elledge's  
**CREDIT CARS**



**NO CREDIT WE FINANCE**

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 08 Buick LaCrosse<br>\$1200 Down    | 08 Hyundai Santa Fe<br>\$1500 Down |
| 00 Buick LeSabre<br>\$1000 Down     | 08 GMC Acadia<br>\$1200 Down       |
| 03 Chevy Impala<br>\$1200 Down      | 13 Nissan Altima<br>\$2000 Down    |
| 08 Chevy Trailblazer<br>\$1500 Down | 06 Subaru Forester<br>\$1000 Down  |

elledge.jeff@gmail.com

**2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals**  
**256.383.7979 • 256.710.3711**



## Say goodbye to gutter cleaning for good

- No clogging\*, No cleaning
- No leaking, No water damage
- No ladder accidents

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 12/31/2023.

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.

\* 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**



**GROCERY**  
**FISHING SUPPLIES**  
**DELI**  
**256-332-1324**

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

**14545 AL 187 @  
 Intersection of AL 24**

## 'TIGERS,' From Page 11

dominance early. We made some plays and scored 42 points in the first half, which is pretty good," Ritter said.

Russellville's first half possessions were short but successful.

After a three and out for East Limestone to start the game, the Golden Tigers scored quickly after a Burch-to-Vincent 44-yard completion down to the East Limestone four-yard line. Phinizee scored on the next play. Russellville's Ben Pounders hauled in a Burch pass on the two-point try to make it 8-0.

After a second Indian three and out, Phinizee raced 40 yards for the second Russellville touchdown. Martinez hit the PAT and it was 15-0 Golden Tigers in the first quarter.

East Limestone quarterback Jake Cochran ran in a touchdown for the Indians to cut Russellville's lead to 22-7, but East Limestone would get no closer.

Duncan rushed for a 16-yard touchdown, his first of the season, on the first play of the fourth quarter, as the Golden Tigers crossed the 50-point threshold to lead 53-7.

It was a fast-moving second half, with minimal clock stoppage and a healthy dose of playing time for Golden Tiger backups.

It should be a very different game at Mars Hill Bible, as the Panthers are the number two overall Alabama high school offense, averaging 55 points a game. The Panthers' defense is giving up 13.8 per game, good for eighth best in Class 3A.

Mars Hill won a shootout last year over the Golden Tigers 31-30. But this Golden Tiger team comes into the second half of the season undefeated, armed with a talented senior quarterback and a likely All-State running back.

The Golden Tigers' defense has been stingy through five weeks, but it will be a test as a top ten defense faces the second-best scoring team in Alabama.

**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

**George Evans, MD**

Offering general medical care services for the entire family



**SHOALS PRIMARY CARE**



**256.383.4473 Ext. 2021**  
**340 Cox Blvd • Sheffield, AL**

# Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

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

Congratulations to Our Week Four Winner Darren Woodruff, who correctly predicted 9 of 10 games and won the tiebreaker predicting Alabama to win by 11.

Submit your picks by email to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com) by Saturday morning, September 30th, at 10 a.m. Include your name, phone number and game selections, including tiebreaker.

Alabama	Miss. State
USC	Colorado
Florida	Kentucky
Texas A&M	Arkansas
Clemson	Syracuse
Kansas	Texas
Missouri	Vanderbilt
LSU	Ole Miss
Notre Dame	Duke
South Carolina	Tennessee

Tiebreaker Score: Georgia Auburn

Bedford, Rogers,  
Bowling & McReynolds, P.C.  
303 N. Jackson, Russellville  
256.332.2880

No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers

**Pilgrim's Barbeque & Catering Place**  
256.332.1007  
1314 North Jackson Ave  
Monday - Saturday 11-7

## Red Bay improves to 3-1 ahead of trip to Hackleburg this Friday

Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press

The annual renewal to a storied rivalry between the Red Bay Tigers and the Belmont Cardinals ended with the Tigers pulling out a tough win, 14-6, last Friday in Red Bay.

The Tigers' head coach Heath Childers talked about the rivalry between the two schools and how Friday's game lived up to expectations.

"It was a good ball game but it was a lot closer than what I wanted it to be," Childers said. "Those guys over there at Belmont, they did a great job with the kids and they played hard, extremely hard, so it was a tough game."

Red Bay managed to get on the board first scoring on a one-yard touchdown run by sophomore running back Jaxon Vinson. The PAT failed and the Tigers led 6-0.

With the rest of the first half and most of the third quarter scoreless, the Cardinals got on the board on a four-yard passing touch-

down, tying the game 6-6.

After a big kick return for the Tigers, they marched down the field and scored on a eight-yard touchdown run by senior running back Keaton Lanphear, finishing the game 14-6.

Childers talked about the keys to pulling away with a big win against the Cardinals.

"No turnovers. No turnovers. We protected the football. We had a few more penalties than I normally liked and it was the big ones, the 15 yarders, those are the drive killers," Childers said.

"We didn't turn the ball over and that's key for us every week, not giving the opposing team an extra possession," he added.

The Red Bay Tigers are set to face the Hackleburg Panthers on Friday, with a 7 p.m., kickoff, in Hackleburg.

**Pest Solutions**



**Pest & Mosquito Control**  
256-332-4008

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).

# Will Your Commission Candidates Make Franklin County the South's Garbage Dump?



## Or Will They Vote for Economic Development that Leaves Franklin County Beautiful?



**Landfills are NOT economic development.  
They're time bombs that explode on our children.**

The only guarantee Franklin County doesn't have a county killing multi-state municipal waste dump is to **ELECT** candidates who will tell you **NOW** they **WON'T VOTE** for that landfill.

Make your candidate **state publicly** they will **not** vote for a county killing multi-state municipal waste dump AND they will make the County Commission **more transparent** and **more accessible** to us, the Franklin County Residents.

Vote for candidates that will tell you specifically what they will and will not do for Franklin County **BEFORE** you vote for them on March 5, 2024.