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Our Senator: Bedford passes away at 67

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Roger Bedford could work a room. Man, could he work a room. Among his many talents ranging from being an avid hunter to a fierce advocate for his clients, perhaps Bedford's greatest skill was making everyone he came in contact with feel as though they were his best friend. Bedford died Wednesday morning at his Tuscaloosa home at the age of 67 as the result of the return of his

cancer. Bedford represented Alabama's Senate District 6 in the state legislature for 28 years. His first tenure in Montgomery was 1982-1990. Voters sent Bedford back to the senate for five consecutive terms, from 1994-2014. District 6 includes Russellville, where Bedford was raised and where he and his wife Maudie started their family. Their one son, Roge, serves as Assistant Director for Player Personnel in the University of Alabama Athletic Department.

See 'BEDFORD,' Page 9


Annual Lymann Rea birthday bash to benefit Jagger's Journey run the graphic with article

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

If you're looking for a fun event for a good cause, check out Leland Rea's Hog Branch Memorial Birthday Bash on Saturday, October 21st. Hosted by Lymann and Hollie Hodge Rea and Misty George, the annual event celebrates the memory of Leland Rea, who died tragically on August 30, 2019, in a motorcycle accident. This year's event includes a fundraiser to benefit Jagger's Journey, a non-profit founded by Misty George to raise awareness for Aplastic Anemia and to support children with the condition. Her son Jagger was diagnosed in 2018 with Severe

Aplastic Anemia, a rare bone marrow disorder that claimed Jagger's life two years later. Lymann said he wanted to do something special for his father's birthday bash this year, so he's worked on a fund-raiser to help Jagger's Journey. The event will include lots of food from Smoke Creek BBQ, fun, a bonfire, primitive camping and live entertainment. There will be a prize table and auction where 100% of the proceeds will benefit Jagger's Journey. Rea created a Facebook Page called Leland Rea's Hog Branch Memorial Birthday Bash, where visitors can learn more about the event and RSVP they will be attending. If you want to attend, the address is

See 'JAGGER,' Page 5




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Franklin County Commissioner
 District 3
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Franklin County Commissioner

District 2

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Dianne Quillen Evans age 73 passed away on Sunday, October 15, 2023. Visitation will be on Friday, October 20, 2023 from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. at Akins Funeral Home, Russellville.

Interment will be on Friday, October 20, 2023 at 3:00 pm in the Knights of Pythias Cemetery, Russellville, Alabama.

Cindy Jo Guseman, age 61, of Russellville, passed away on Sunday, October 15, 2023.

Interment will be held at 12:00 noon, Saturday, October 21, 2023, at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church.

Woodrow Mansell, age 79, of Russellville, passed away on Thursday, October 12, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Barbara Jane Strickland, age 83, passed away Saturday, October 14. Visitation will be Tuesday, October 17, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment will be Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. in the funeral home chapel.

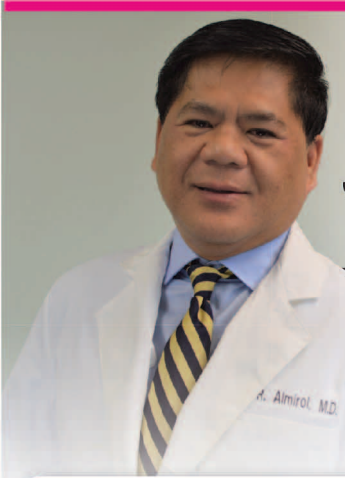
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The Franklin Free Press strives for excellence and accuracy, and we will be pleased to correct any error in our newspaper. To request a correction or clarification, call or e-mail our office.

Letters to the editor

The Franklin Free Press is published by hometown people, for hometown people. We urge contributions of all kinds, including guest columns, picture submissions, cartoons or letters to the editor. Send any letters to our office via U.S. Postal Service or e-mail, and we will gladly publish them. Letters must be signed and contain the hometown and phone number of the author. The Franklin Free Press reserves the right to edit letters for style, length and content.

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My Take on This: Laughable Mistakes

Gail Motes
Franklin Free Press

We all know mistakes are a common thing in our lives. The majority of people have tripped and fell at least once in their lives in public and looked around to see if anyone saw it happen.



Gail Motes

Then the automatic embarrassment floods all over your face. Some of us, including me, are too busy laughing at ourselves that looking around is the last thing on our minds.

A few months ago Zack took me out to eat. I was getting ready to go and had put on two white sandals to see which show looked better with my outfit. On our way, I looked down at my feet and I still had on different-styled white sandals. He asked me if I wanted to go back and change. Guess what I said? I replied 'No! This will make a memory we can look back on and laugh.'

Besides, no one said anything and I forgot about my mismatched shoes.

Maybe my sons should combine their memories and write a book about the crazy memories of having me as their mother. It might become a best-seller.

Speaking of my sons reminds me of something I find unusual they do. Each spells my name different, even though they both call me momma. One spells it: M-o-m-a one spells it M-o-m-m-a.

Now on to my subject!
I have been known to purposely wear different earrings or shoes to church to see who would tell me. Can you believe only two women said anything about it? Her continued comment helped me to understand why no one else mentioned it. She added, "But you probably knew that, didn't you?"

It is true I do little 'experiments' from time to time, but most of those incidencies are real.

Things just seem to happen to me. More than likely, many others have experienced most of the sweet memories I've mentioned, but I have finally experienced one I think is unique. If this has happened to anyone else, I'd like to know.

My friend had fixed her morning coffee and realized she'd forgotten to bring Splenda. With no choice she proceeded to get sugar from my sugar bowl.

She began making faces and carrying on about how awful her coffee tasted. She was in shock and disappointment and I was in 'laughter-overload!'

After a few sips, she concluded it tasted like salt. I did a taste test. Lo and behold, I had a full bowl of salt in my sugar bowl. At that very moment, it became a two person 'laughter-overload!' She will never trust me again.

She mentioned the coffee tasted so nasty, she was close to never drinking coffee again.

All I can say is if it looks like a sugar bowl, it doesn't always mean there's sugar inside.

My life is full of laughable mistakes.

As my article comes to an end, I want to wish each of you the ability to laugh at your mistakes.

I really believe 'laughter is the best medicine!'

As always...until later!

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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.

Paint the Clinic Pink set for Thursday, Friday

Submitted

The annual Paint the Clinic Pink for the Well Woman Project event at the Shoals Community Clinic will be October 19th and 20th. The clinic will offer free medical exams, mammograms, and cancer screenings for qualifying patients by appointment. These services are free for low-income women ages 40-64 without health insurance, or women 65 and over who do not have Medicare Part-A.

October is designated Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the Shoals Community Clinic's Well Woman Project is helping the women of our area know their health status. The Well Woman Project provides cancer screening to low-income, uninsured women of the Shoals throughout the year with medical exams, mammograms and education programs that promote healthy lifestyle choices. Collaborating with the Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (ABC-CEDP), Lauderdale County Radiology, and the Tri-State Center for Breast Health, the clinic provides free clinical exams, pap smears, and mammograms for qualifying women. In this program, there is always someone helping the patient navigate through the process of screening, detection, treatment, and recovery in a safe and encouraging atmosphere. A mammogram can detect possible breast cancer much sooner than an at-home breast exam. The earlier breast cancer is detected, the better the chances of a positive outcome.

Breast cancer is this second most fatal of cancers in women after skin cancer. According to the CDC, each year about 255,000 women and men in the US are diagnosed with breast cancer and approximately 42,000 die from the disease. The Shoals Community Clinic has been a partner with the ABCCEDP since 2007, and has provided over 600 patient-screenings through this program.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call the clinic at 256-760-4713.

GENERAL NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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Applications may be picked up at Russellville City Hall in the Office of the Mayor, 304 N. Jackson Ave., Russellville, Alabama.

Applications must be returned no later than October 27, 2023 by U.S. Mail to:

The Russellville Civil Service Board

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'JAGGER,' From Page 1

2255 Hwy. 22 in Spruce Pine, 35585. It's really in Frog Pond, but that doesn't always come up on GPS. Once you arrive, follow the markers to get you through the driveway and the gate.

"We can't wait to see everyone and have a great night of making new memories while reminiscing on the old," Rea said.

There will be opportunities to buy chances for prizes and/or bid in the auction for some of the many prizes donated to the event.

Some of the prizes include: full bike detail from Shawn Lindsey, Mr. Kleen Auto Detail, two one-day passes to Hawk Pride Off-Road, donated by Mark Smith, a full bike detail from Chris Fretwell's Chris's Car Care, a \$50

cash prize from Jamie Gault in honor of Danielle Gault, a free gun cleaning from Clint Gunner Carter, prizes from Natchez Trace Harley Davidson, Longshore Cycle Center and Alabama Gun and Pawn, a \$50 gift certificate from Allison Pace Dragonfly House Photography and prizes donated by David Crane's DC Cycles.

You can stay updated on additional prizes and activities for the October 21st event by visiting the Hog Branch Birthday Bash Facebook page, or Lymann Rea's page.

It's a family fun event to honor the memory of Lymann's father and to support an organization created in the memory of a young man whose short time on earth impacted so many people.

OCTOBER 21, 2023

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 **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.

 **R**ussellville High School will host Homecoming Week October 16th-20th. The Annual Homecoming Parade will take place on Friday, October 20th and the Golden Tigers will host Ardmore with kickoff set for 7 p.m., at Russellville Stadium.

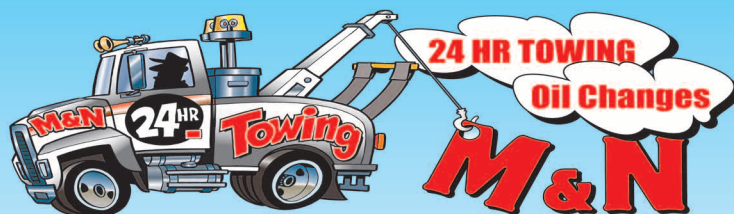
 **J**oin Siloam Baptist Church for its Fall Festival on October 29 from 5-8 in the Fellowship Hall. Trunk or Treat, Games, Face Painting and Refreshments.

 **E**ast Franklin Volunteer Fire Department will be holding a fund raiser selling William Earl Bishop's smoked chicken and pulled barbecue pork plates on Friday, October 20th from 4-7 p.m. Plates are \$10 each. Proceeds benefit the EFVFD and its purchase of a Fire Engine #1. Plates will be sold at the EFVFD, 10443 Highway 81, Phil Campbell. Dessert donations will be appreciated.

 **T**he Cowboy Church of Franklin County will host a Chili Cookoff and Fall Festival on Tuesday, October 31, from 5-8 p.m., at the church located at 25100 Hwy. 24 West, Russellville. Chili and hot dogs will be served until gone. Any chili to be entered into the cook off should arrive by 4:30 p.m. Event starts at 5. There will be games, candy and a cake walk. Everyone is welcome.

There will be a fishing benefit tournament for the Fretwell family, October 21, 2023 at the Twin Forks Boat Ramp Safelight to 2pm. \$50 ENTRY FEE PER BOAT & \$10 FOR LUNKER POT (OPTIONAL) PAYOUT AMOUNT WILL BE BASED ON NUMBER OF ENTRIES. 1ST, 2ND, AND LUNKER PAYOUTS. 60% OF PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE FAMILY, 40% TO PAYOUT. Deadline for entry will be the morning of at 5:30. Anyone who would like to pre register can contact Abby Jones at 256-668-0056.

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.



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RHS accolades continue with AP Honor Roll designation

Submitted

College Board announced that Russellville High School has been named to the Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) School Honor Roll, earning SILVER distinction.

The AP® School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

“AP represents an opportunity for students to stand out to colleges, earn college credit and placement, and potentially boost their grade point averages,” said Trevor Packer, head of the AP program. “The schools have shown that they can expand access to these college-level courses and still drive high performance – they represent the best of our AP program.”

RHS had 61 % of their seniors who took at least one AP exam during high school, 30% of seniors scoring a three or higher on at least one AP exam, and 24% of seniors who took five or more AP exams!

“This is a great accomplishment for our AP students and teachers,” RHS Principal Dr. Jeremy Madden said. “Our goal with our AP courses is to make sure as many of our students are prepared for academic success beyond high school as possible. We have motivated students and hard-working teachers who make that goal a reality, and this distinction is further proof of that.”

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'BEDFORD,' FROM PAGE 1

In an era when Democrats controlled the state legislature, Bedford and his legislative cohort, Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow, wielded significant power and influence for Franklin County.

Known as the Dynamic Duo, Bedford and Morrow brought home the bacon to Franklin County, sometimes the whole pig, and that didn't always sit well with other legislators.

"Roger was a fighter, especially for the citizens who live in Senate District 6," Morrow said. "He was a coalition builder. He loved Franklin County and its people."

Morrow recalled one of many memorable times Bedford succeeded in doing something for Franklin County that raised the ire of his fellow senators.

"In 2013 Roger and I managed to pass the resolution which named Franklin County the "Watermelon Capital of Alabama," Morrow said. "Legislators from other counties that produce many more watermelons than Franklin County were extremely upset with Senator Bedford's political skills and how he managed to do it without them knowing."

"I then very discreetly passed the resolution in the House and Franklin County became the "Watermelon Capital of Alabama." One upset legislator from Cullman County told me later that he knew one farmer who produced more watermelons than all of the Franklin County watermelon farmers combined," Morrow added.

When Bedford secured funding for a \$1.5 million field house at Russellville High School (designed after Mississippi State University's football field house), political heads around Alabama exploded.

But Bedford was undeterred. His job was to represent Senate District 6, and the field house known around the state as the Taj Mahal was in his district. Those were the voters he answered to, and one of Bedford's political strengths was to ignore the noise outside of the area he represented.

That noise was strong enough to keep Bedford from winning any statewide election, though. Remember 'Water (line) Gate?' The political fallout of a legislative allocation less than \$5,000 likely kept Bedford from following Howell Heflin into the United States Senate. Jeff Sessions defeated Bedford with a campaign where the words 'water line' were repeated in anti-Bedford commercials and mailers every day leading up to Election Day.

Former Republican Attorney General Bill Pryor prosecuted Bedford on extortion charges in Marion County in 2002. It was another chance to slay the political dragon Bedford's enemies thought. But Bedford walked out of the courthouse the same way he walked in—innocent.

The failed prosecution didn't phase Bedford. He dove right back into what he loved the most—representing those who elected him and helping his friends and neighbors.

Bob Rogers worked with Bedford, his father and his uncle in the Russellville law firm. He saw first hand Bedford's passion to serve others.

"Roger was a son of Alabama. Throughout his legal and political careers, he never stopped working to make our state better for all of us," Rogers said.

"Like his father, uncle and me, Roger was most proud of being a 'country lawyer,' always at the ready to represent his friends and neighbors in their times of need," Rogers added.

Russellville City Councilman Darren Woodruff said Bedford's legacy in his home county will always be remembered.

"Roger was a good friend of mine, a huge Alabama fan and the best senator we've ever had," Woodruff said. "While a senator, he sent more money back home to our district per capita than any legislator in the past 50 years. My friend will be deeply missed. My and (my wife) Margie's prayers are with Roge and the family."

Bedford moved to Tuscaloosa several years ago, but returned to Russellville regularly. He served as Franklin County Attorney, attorney for the Franklin County Water Service Authority and many other positions.

Bedford was a longtime member of the Rotary Club, both in Russellville and Tuscaloosa. He actively supported a number of community and civic organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America.

Bedford's life would forever be changed last March when his beloved wife lost her battle with cancer, 19 months before Bedford lost his own longtime cancer battle.

They're together once again, and we can all take comfort in that.



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RUSSELLVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY (LAWN CARE BIDS)

The Russellville Housing Authority is now accepting bids for Lawncare Service for our 4 developments (Engle Drive, Washington Plaza, Eastside Plaza, and Westside Plaza). All companies considering this proposal are strongly encouraged to physically inspect the properties prior to submitting a bid. The successful bidder shall be required to provide proof of liability insurance and a State license. The Russellville Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any/or all bids if it deems this would be in the best interests of the Authority. Bids in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Lawn Care Service Bids", should be mailed to the Russellville Housing Authority, P.O. Box 966, Russellville, Alabama 35653, or delivered to 73 Flippen Street, Russellville, Alabama 35653, in time to be opened and publicly read aloud at 10:00 a.m. on October 25th, 2023. Bids received after this deadline will not be opened and shall not be considered. Any questions, comments, or requests to schedule a site inspection can contact Deborah Freeman at (256) 332-1561.


Russellville
Housing Authority
Incorporated



256-332-1561 • 73 Flippen St

PAWSH now offering guilt-free dog boarding, day care in Russellville

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When she opened PAWSH Pet Grooming two years ago, Mandy Franks saw first-hand how so many dog owners consider their four-legged friends part of their family.

And she learned it wasn't unusual for these clients to take shorter vacations or not leave town at all because they were concerned about leaving their dog in traditional pet boarding where it would be caged most of the day.

Franks already had a successful dog grooming business she started in October 2021, but she decided to relocate and expand PAWSH to offer her clients a guiltless boarding or day care experience.

She moved PAWSH to a new location at 1000 Ronnie McDowell Avenue in Russellville and added boarding and day care in addition to her grooming services. Day care services are offered from 7 a.m.-5 p.m., daily.

"What I want to do is provide what I would want for my dogs when I leave them somewhere," Franks said. "I heard so many people say they didn't want to board their dogs because most boarding places have wire pens where the dogs stay all day long and only get let out a couple times.

"My own dogs stay out free roaming. They live the good life. So I want to offer something for people not to feel guilty about where they can go enjoy their vacation. They can go spend time with their family and know their pet is happy just like he or she would be at home," she added.

Both boarders and day care dogs at PAWSH enjoy extensive time free roaming in the spacious backyard. They enjoy treats including fresh foods including chicken and beef jerky.

It's the vacation your pet deserves and word about the PAWSH experience is spreading.

PAWSH has 17 suites, including seven large suites, three deluxe suites for big dogs and seven suites for smaller dogs. Dogs return to their suites for lunch, supper and bedtime. Other than that, their time in suites is minimal Franks explained.

"They run around inside and in the backyard with our playground equipment. People understand dogs here for day care and boarding always get interaction with other dogs. We want it to really feel like home to them," Franks said.

She realizes, though, some dogs are not as social and for owners concerned about that, Franks has a way for those dogs to enjoy their free roam time too.

"We understand some families don't want open play because their dog can't handle that or they're worried about that concept," Franks said. "But that doesn't exclude them from our services. If they want individual play times for their pets they can get that."

Franks' grooming schedule is full, but PAWSH is accepting day care and boarding dogs. And she's prepared for the day where she has too many dogs for everyone to stay out at one time.

"When we get to that point, we'll rotate where they all get out every other hour. We're not going to lock them up to spend all day in a pen. If it requires me taking on only a certain amount of dogs, that's what I'll do because I want them to feel like they're not having to be boarded," Franks said.

When Franks purchased her third poodle several years ago, the grooming costs became pricey, so she started watching grooming videos and learned how to groom them herself. With three poodles and two goldendoodles, that saved her a tidy sum of cash.

After the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Franks, an occupational therapy assistant, stayed home for nearly a year and focused on renovating her home.

"I told my husband (Jamie) I enjoyed my time at home, but we were running out of money to do renovations so I've got to do something," Franks said. "So I found that little shop (her former location) and opened a grooming service."

At her new location, Franks has two employees who help with bathing, prepping the dogs, playing with them and helping with kennel duties.

Most of her boarding and day care customers so far are clients who used PAWSH for grooming services.

"They see my dogs in the shop with me and see how I treated my dogs and how I treat their dogs for grooming," Franks said. "I believe a dog needs to learn the fundamentals of crating. It's something good to learn but for them to be penned up day after day with other dogs constantly barking around them because they're all stressed out from being in a little 4x4 pen, that's just not right.

"When dogs are not stressed out, they behave better, have a better time and have fewer stomach issues without that anxiety," she added.

Franks has seen several dogs who come in not used to socializing with other dogs, but when their owner comes to pick them up, they don't have those issues eating around or being around other dogs.

Dogs who come to PAWSH must have current vaccinations for rabies, parvo and Bordetella.

You can message Franks through the PAWSH Facebook page or her page to inquire about boarding. She will send a link for the customer to register online. You can also 256-275-1287 to ask for a link.

PAWSH's spacious suites have rubber floors, so dogs aren't sleeping on concrete. They feature large fluffy beds and the dog's own toys stay in the suite with them, along with blankets or anything else brought from home.

You can choose the option of using the fluffy beds and having a raised cot if that is your dog's preference.



COURTESY PHOTO

The spacious fenced-in play area with artificial turf and play equipment for dogs.

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SPORTS

10.18.23

Red Bay rolls over Falkville for fifth win

Michael Rice
Franklin Free Press

The Red Bay Tigers secured a big region win last Friday, October 13th against the Falkville Blue Devils 44-22.

The Tigers were led offensively by Holden Inman who ran for 131 yards and scored four touchdowns.

Jaxon Vinson rushed for 128 yards and one touchdown.

Keeton Lanphear ran for 70 yards and Gage Edgmon ran for 11 yards and one touchdown. Defensively, Will West had eight tackles, Inman had seven and Eli Farris had seven tackles.

"The boys played hard and did well. I'm proud of their hard work so far this season," head coach Heath Childers said.

The Tigers improved to 5-2 overall and 3-1 in region play after last Friday's win.

"This Friday will be a tough road game. We're gonna have to prepare a lot. Tanner always has a good football team. Hopefully we'll be able to play well," Childers said.

The Tigers will travel to Tanner this Friday, October 20 in a region matchup.

RMS ends season with championship loss to Priceville

Michael Rice
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Middle School football team fell last week to Priceville 44-30 in the finals of the Northwest Alabama Middle School play-offs.

The Golden Tigers ended their season 7-1.

"We dug ourselves a hole too big in the first quarter. At the end of one it was 22-0. I felt like our kids weren't ready for the big game environment," head coach Brett Voss said.

The Golden Tigers trailed 22-16 at half-time.

"Our kids were fighting but it was like we were behind the eight ball." Voss said.

Although the Golden Tigers did not add the last game of the season to the win column, the team learned a lot of



2023 Russellville Middle School Football Team

See, 'RMS,' page 13

Ardmore final test standing between Russellville showdown with undefeated Fairview

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Coach John Ritter's Russellville Golden Tigers had a bye last Friday, giving several of his players extra time to heal minor injuries as Russellville enters the homestretch final three games of the season.

The Golden Tigers are 6-1, 4-0 in Class 5A Region 8. This Friday, the Ardmore Tigers will come to Russellville for the Golden Tigers' Homecoming game.

Ardmore, 1-6, 0-4, is the final obstacle standing between the Golden Tigers and a showdown next week against Fairview High School. Fairview comes to Russellville October 27th with a lofty resume.

The Aggies are 7-0, 4-0 after defeating Brewer last week. Barring a Herculean effort by Ardmore, Russellville should enter the Fairview game 7-1, 5-0, which would set up the winner to earn the Region 8 championship.

Going into its game at Brewer, Fairview has the second best defense in Class 5A as the Aggies give up only 8.3 points per game. Russellville is 8th in 5A total defense, yielding an average of 14.1 points per game.

The Golden Tigers are third among 5A school in scoring with an average of 41.1 points per game. Fairview ranks fifth in 5A with its offense averaging 40.3 points per game.

This week's opponent, the Ardmore Tigers, average scoring 16 points per game while giving up 31.7.

Those numbers could add up to a big night for Russellville's sophomore running back Cam Phinizee, senior quarterback Harrison Burch and his leading receiver Cash Crumpton.

You can tune into Russellville-Ardmore Friday evening on WGOL-FM 100.7. Game time is 7 p.m., and the John Ritter Show airs at 6:30 p.m.

Friday Night High School Football Schedule 10/20

Russellville vs Ardmore
Phil Campbell @ Colbert Heights
Red Bay @ Tanner
Vina @ Meek
Tharptown vs. Sheffield

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'RMS,' From Page 11

valuable lessons to take with them not just in football but through life.

"To define our team, this game doesn't take away from the season we had.

There's so many lessons from this game our kids can take and apply to life. I told them not to waste any lessons from this," Voss said.

The Golden Tigers brought a huge crowd to the playoff games and the championship had a varsity.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Franklin County Commission is accepting applications for the following position(s):

Corrections Officer/Dispatcher, Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Accounts Receivable Specialist, Franklin County Solid Waste

Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until 5:00 PM on Friday, October 27, 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.franklincountyval.org under the Careers tab.

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The Jameson offers affordable rental housing in Russellville

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

He's at it again.

Less than a year after Blake Evetts opened the 37-unit efficiency apartment complex known as The Jameson in Russellville, his 65-unit complex in Haleyville is at full occupancy.

The Jameson, in the former Lawrence Place assisted living facility on East Lawrence Street, was rented in its entirety last year by a local business but as of November 1, 2023, the units will be available for individual rental.

Evetts, owner of H&H Property Management, saw a need for affordable housing for folks who don't qualify for subsidized housing where rent is based on income. What he's done at the Jameson and Studio 11 in Haleyville is a complete renovation that converted the units to one bedroom efficiencies, complete with new HVAC units, new windows, flooring and a kitchenette and bathroom. What makes Evetts' properties unique is the all-in-one rental model where \$700/month includes rent, utilities and Wifi. Each unit also has secure entry. Pre-leasing for the Jameson is underway. For more information, call 256-718-2000, Extension 1.



COURTESY PHOTO

"My business model is attacking the issue of housing availability by using existing properties to renovate and convert," Evetts said. "It's such a process to build. It's hard to go through the bank, building inspectors, etc. We still have to deal with city officials, but when the building is already there, it's so much easier.

"By using this model, in one year's time I've brought over 100 units available to the market in two smaller Alabama towns 26 miles apart. That would have been very hard to do if you had to build. There's not a lot of conventional housing available in those areas," Evetts added. And Evetts isn't through. He hopes to expand his 102-unit inventory with additional properties and is open to converting more properties in his home town of Russellville.

"I'm always looking for multiple family properties in the north Alabama area, but specifically in Russellville because it's my home. So I'm looking for opportunities in this area," Evetts said. Evetts' Studio 11 Apartments in Haleyville are located in the former Imperial Inn. The Haleyville City Council granted a zoning variance to allow Evetts to convert the units to efficiency apartments. A big reason for that was Evetts' successful venture in Russellville with the Jameson.

The Jameson is well-suited housing for an older couple wanting to downsize, or a single person looking for an affordable living option with one cost for everything. That means no utility deposits or bills each month.

"It's the convenience factor that's attractive to many of our renters. It's a matter of what you're getting vs. what you're giving up," Evetts said. "There's not a lot of square footage, but you not only have the convenience of making one payment, your payment is done. You know every month my living situation is handled for \$700 (at the Jameson). That brings peace of mind for some people."

H&H Property Management serves as the third party property manager for Evetts' properties, so that allows him to filter his properties through his company. The Russellville units are pre-leasing fast, and come November 1st Evetts hopes to have all 37 rented. Once that's done, it could be time to start a new property conversion. And that's a good thing for the city, according to Russellville City Councilman Jamie Harris.

"We certainly appreciate Mr. Evetts' investment in Russellville and his vision to renovate and design properties to meet the need for affordable rental housing in our city," Harris said.

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Franklin Free Press Football Picks Contest

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

Congratulations to Phillip King! He won last week's contest with 6-10 correct and the closest tie breaker.

Submit your picks by email to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com by Saturday morning, October 20, at 10 a.m. Include your name, phone number and game selections, including tiebreaker.

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Washington St.	Oregon
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The deadline applies to candidates in both the Republican and Democratic primaries. The primary is March 5, 2024. The general election is November 5, 2024.

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