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Prince takes reins of Franklin County Democratic Party

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

As the new chairman of the Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee, Trevor Prince plans to run it like a business, and that's likely a good thing for the local party.

Prince owns or co-owns three businesses, including Prince Title & Abstract, King & Prince, LLC (a construction/drywall company) and Prince Family Cleaning, a cleaning service for commercial and residen-

tial properties.

And the 24-year-old started each one with a business plan that's led to growth, exactly what he hopes to see for the party that controlled Franklin County politics as recently as 13 years ago.

Prince succeeds Eddie Britton, who served as Democratic chairman since 2016 after then-party chairman Brian Hamilton resigned.

Prince is a Franklin County native, a 2017 Belgreen High School graduate and he and his wife Christian have one daughter. They live in

See 'PRINCE,' Page 8

Annual event highlights NACOLG's impact in Franklin County

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

The Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments (NACOLG), serves four other counties in addition to Franklin, but NACOLG's footprint here continued to grow in the past year.

NACOLG officials hosted their annual Fish Fry at the Sweet Water Depot in Florence. In addition to a good meal, the event is an opportunity to share regional collaboration and outreach efforts in Franklin, Marion, Winston, Lauderdale and Colbert Counties.

State legislators as well as local officials attended the event. Rep. Jamie Kiel attended the event and


was impressed as to NACOLG's impact within his House District 18.


"NACOLG assists all of our smaller municipalities with grant writing. They are responsible for a large percentage of ADECA grants we bring back to Colbert and Franklin Counties," Kiel said.

"They also administer a program that helps families take care of their loved ones in the home rather than an earlier admission into a nursing home. The Medicaid Waiver Program saves our taxpayers money by providing much less expensive in-home care versus expensive nursing home care," Kiel added.

In Franklin County, NACOLG serves 339 Medicaid Waiver clients. NACOLG officials said the estimated

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March 5, 2024 Republican Primary
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Virginia Ruth Jones Mitchell McCalmon, 89, of Belgreen, Alabama, passed away on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Danny Hayes Suddith, age 72, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Friday, October 20, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Roger D. Arrington, age 72, passed away on October, 19, 2023. Akins Funeral Home is assisting the family.



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**113 Washington Ave. NW
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256-332-0255**

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**Publisher
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**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**

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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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RCS Board approves 23 personnel moves

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education approved 23 personnel moves at its October 17th meeting.

Russellville City Schools principals were also recognized by representatives from the College Board National Recognition Program.

Personnel items approved by the board included:

--Temporary Employment in Position for the 2023-2024 School Year: Emily Murray, Ponda Gordon and Madeline Mitchell Gwin, Aides for 21st CCLC. Jennifer Willis, Jamie Boyles, LeJoy Winston, Courtney Sandlin, Lindsey Johnson, Charley Butler, Jessica Gipson, Dalia Gerardo, Madison Thompson, Melissa Greenhill, Samantha Warhurst, Kathy Alfaro-Haithcock, Chelsey Puckett and Karly Carothers as

Teachers for Afterschool Tutoring and Enrichment Program. Inocencia Guarcas Cua Aide for Afterschool Tutoring and Enrichment Program.

--Employment in Supplement: Zack Bruce, National Honor Society Sponsor, supplement of \$500. Nicole Jensen, Alana Parker and Amanda Ridge, RMS Saturday School.

--Resignation in Position: Elisha Myers, Career Coach at RHS. Other agenda items approved by the board included:

--approval of 2023-2024 athletic schedule for basketball, soccer and tennis teams, and Russellville Elementary School 5th Grade, May 2-6, 2024, for trip to Washington, D.C.

--contract with ALSDE for Angela Richardson to work as ARI Regional Staff from July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024.

--contract between Leann Strickland and RHS Band Parent Program for stadium cleanup for the 2023-2024 school year.

--use of RCS tennis courts from September 25, 2023 thru October 30, 2023, for RHS coaches and players to host a Junior Tennis League as a fundraiser.

--selection of Kim Clonts as Delegate and Greg Trapp as Alternate to the AASB.

--election of board member Ike Rogers as Vice-President.

The next regular meeting of the RCS Board will be Monday, Nov. 20, at 4:30 p.m., with work session at 3:30 p.m.

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 **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.

 **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.

 **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.

 **T**he Cowboy Church of Colbert County 2nd Annual Carnival will be held on Saturday 28 October from noon until 8pm. We are located at 3440 Alabama Highway 157 in Leighton, Alabama. We will offer games, cake walk, food, face painting & "Trunk or Treating." Everyone is invited to this Free Family Event.

 **D**on't miss the second annual Nightmare on Nix Road! This free event is set for Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 5-9 p.m., at 3554 Nix Road, Phil Campbell. Hotdogs, caramel apples, cupcakes, assorted goodies! Halloween decorations to enjoy. Pictures may be made on the hay bales. Come out and have fun. For the whole community!

 **A** Veterans' Appreciation Event will be held at the Hamilton Career Center on Wednesday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. All veterans are invited. Location is 1481 Military Street South, Hamilton, Al., 35570.

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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'NACOLG,' From Page 1

savings to Alabama taxpayers from 2020-2023 is \$27,000,000 by providing Medicaid Waiver.

An additional \$140,589 was provided by NACOLG in meals for seniors and the SenioRX program, started through the efforts of the late Roger Bedford, Jr., helped seniors save \$1,679,108 on prescription drug costs.

NACOLG Executive Director Keith Jones said his council works well with Franklin County's legislative delegation of Kiel and Sen. Larry Stutts, along with local board members from Franklin County.

"Our team is grateful to play a small piece in a much larger puzzle. You can see by the impact report that we are all working well together to make things happen in Franklin County," Jones said.

Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore said NACOLG has been and remains a true and valuable friend to Franklin County.

"We appreciate NACOLG and the service they provide. It's a huge impact in the county and region," Moore said. "I've served on the board for many years, and we rely on them to help us grow as a county. They bring Franklin County citizens tremendous value and that is evident in their results."

NACOLG was created in 1967 as a regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency. It's not a government entity. Instead, it works with city and county officials to decide issues of region-wide importance and to work together to solve problems that stretch beyond local governmental boundaries.

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Politics is nothing new for Prince, who went door-to-door as a young boy campaigning with his father Anthony, who ran for Franklin County Revenue Commissioner in 2008.

Prince accepted the leadership position in the local Democratic Party because he embraces a challenge.

"I'm a member of the Church of Christ and I pray for opportunity in my life, not just success," Prince said. "I don't steer away from a challenge. I accepted this and the challenge now is to get quality Democratic candidates to run. But I do think that's a goal that can be accomplished."

Prince plans to share his message about the Democratic Party to younger voters and Hispanic residents in Franklin County.

"I do hope to work with the Hispanic population in our county to get them more involved in local politics. They do a lot for this community and a majority of residents in Russellville are Hispanic," Prince said.

Prince believes the fundamentals of the Democratic Party, at least at the local level, are the same as when Franklin County was represented by 100% local Democrats.

"When I talk with people, Republican or Democrat, we still likely share the same beliefs," Prince said. "I believe my fellow citizens of Franklin County probably believe the same things as I do," Prince said.

To orchestrate a Democratic comeback in Franklin County will take some time, but Prince is willing to be patient.

"We're working now to get quality candidates for local offices. We may not win this cycle, but politics is cyclical, and might go in a different direction in six or eight years," Prince said.

Prince expressed his appreciation to outgoing chairman Eddie Britton after he was elected on September 28th.

"Eddie is a very intelligent person and he's helped me out tremendously since I've started. I couldn't ask for someone with a better history and understanding of the Democratic Party," Prince said.

Qualifying for local and state offices is underway and runs through Friday, November 10th.

Candidates wanting to run for office in the Franklin County Democratic Primary may contact Prince to submit their qualifying papers. He may be reached by calling 256-815-5679.



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

New Franklin County Democratic Party Chairman Trevor Prince, left, with Eddie Britton.

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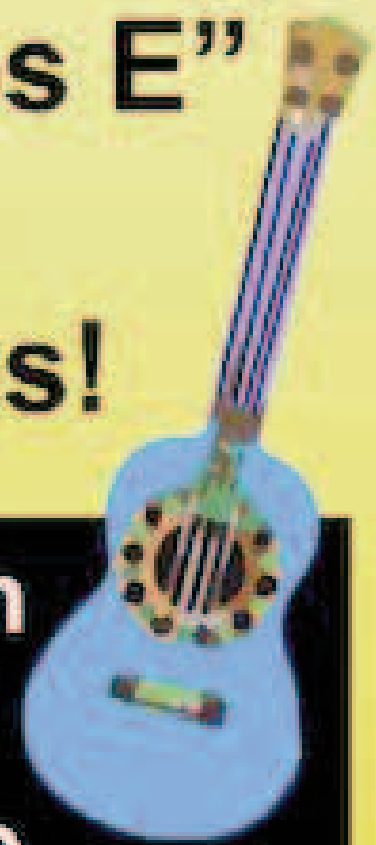
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Bobcats stay alive for playoff berth with win at Colbert Heights

Michael Rice
Franklin Free Press

The Phil Campbell Bobcats picked up their first region win on the road against the Colbert Heights Wildcats 32-27 last Friday.

Led by first year coach Jacob Hamilton, the team improved to 3-5 overall and 1-4 in Class 3A Region 8. The first quarter of the game ended with the Wildcats leading 6-0. The second quarter started with a 76-yard touchdown run by the Wildcats, who took a 12-0 lead. But Phil Campbell would soon answer. Hayden Wingo answered with a five-yard run and the two point conversion was good to bring the score to 12-8 with the Bobcats trailing.

The second half began with Wingo breaking loose for a 70 yard touchdown run. The two point conversion gave Phil Campbell the lead at 16-12.

Colbert Heights answered with a touchdown and converted the two point try to regain the lead at 20-16.

In the fourth quarter the Wildcats scored their last touchdown of the game to bring bolster their lead to 27-16.

But Logan Cooper and Wingo both found the end zone in the final six minutes as Phil Campbell took home a 32-27 win.

Wingo carried the rock 11 times for 121 yards and two touchdowns.

Isac Hill carried the ball five times for 57 yards.

Cooper had one reception for 20 yards and a touchdown and Wingo had one reception for 15 yards and a touchdown. The Bobcats will face Clements this Friday, October 27 in another their final Region 8 matchup.

"I'm excited about it, it's gonna be great competition for us. Clements is a good team, with an explosive offense. We have a chance to force a three-way tie for 4th place, so our kids are locked in and focused on the task at hand. It's going to be a great, competitive game," Hamilton said.

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Mitchell breaks school record (again) as Tharptown cross country continues to shine

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Tharptown High School cross country team continues to pile up top finishes almost as fast as senior standout Jessie Mitchell breaks his own school record in the 5K.

The latest win for Coach Darrel Baker's team came October 10th at the Athens Bible Invitational. Tharptown's boys varsity team won the team event and the Wildcats' girls team finished second.

Most cross country events are scored by taking the five best times from all runners who are listed on the team entry. For the boys at Athens Bible, top times came from Mitchell, Ricardo Hernandez, Edwin Vela, Angel Garcia and



COURTESY PHOTO

Tharptown's boys cross country finished first, and the girls team second, at the Athens Bible Invitational.

See, 'MITCHELL,' page 14

56-0 blowout of Ardmore sets up Golden Tigers with showdown against Fairview

Hayden Moss
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Golden Tigers defended their field on Homecoming night with a dominant disposal of the Ardmore Tigers 56-0.

Maheida Figueroa was crowned the 2023 RHS Homecoming Queen.

The Golden Tigers opened the game scoring on a 28-yard touchdown run by sophomore running back Cam Phinizee, making the score 7-0.

Russellville scored again on a big play, a 72-yard touchdown on a Phinizee run, extending the lead to 14-0.

The Golden Tigers would score again on a 12-yard pass from Harrison Burch to Bralynn Vincent and Manny Martinez' PAT made it 21-0 in the first quarter.

Russellville scored again on a four-yard touchdown run by Phinizee, extending the lead to 28-0.

The Golden Tigers carried a 49-0 lead into halftime.

The Golden Tigers' final three touchdowns of the first half came on Burch hookups to Cash Crumpton, Michael Scofield and a second TD

reception for Vincent.

Crumpton had four receptions for 115 yards to lead all receivers. Burch, who watched much of the second half from the sideline in the blowout, finished 9-15 for 213 yards and four TD passes.

The lone second half touchdown came on a 24-yard run by freshman Tarus Davis.

The Golden Tigers improved to 7-1 overall and 5-0 in 5A Region 8 play. The region's other undefeated team, Fairview, comes calling upon the Golden Tigers this Friday in a winner-take-all region championship game. The Aggies scratched by Lawrence County 14-7 to improve to 8-0, 5-0.

Friday Night High School Football Schedule 10/27

Russellville vs Fairview
Phil Campbell vs Clements
Red Bay vs. Hatton
Tharptown vs Falkville
10/26 Vina @ Hackleburg

See, 'GOLDEN TIGERS,' Page 13



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'GOLDEN TIGERS,' From Page 11

Russellville head coach John Ritter was asked about hosting Fairview next week and keeping his team focused.

"It's for the Regional Championship, that's enough said. They are a really good team, a really physical team and you know I don't think we really have to say anything special or do anything special to keep our guys focused this week," Ritter said.

Coach Ritter was asked about the impressive play from the offense and the defense, which limited Ardmore to 66 total yards.

"I thought we took full advantage of the bye week," Ritter said. We got healthy, we got our legs back under us, the mental side of it we needed the break and we came out tonight and dominated in all three phases: throwing the ball vertically, running the football, and really controlling every aspect of the game which was really what we wanted to do."

It was another banner night for the Golden Tigers' offense, which amassed 429 yards, led by Phinizee's seven carries for 159 yards and three touchdowns.

Through eight games, Phinizee has 30 touchdowns, 1,646 yards on 158 carries, the types of offensive statistics that draw attention across the state.

Russellville will host Friday with kickoff set at 7 p.m. The game may be heard on WGOL-FM 100.7 with Chad Whitfield and Joey Rushing calling the action.

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

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'MITCHELL,' From Page 11

Alex Quintero.

The top five girls' times came from Addie Compton, Alexa Hawkins, Abby Wilson, Aalivia Wilson and Bella Hall.

Each of these 10 runners earned Elite Runner honors in the Athens Bible Invitational. Tharptown participated in the 1A-3A division, which included several larger schools Wildcat runners left in their wake.

For Mitchell, it's not a matter of if, but when, he breaks his own school record of 16:44:92 in the 5K. For you statistics junkies, that's an average of 5.30 minutes per mile in the 3.1 mile event.

Last Saturday, Mitchell and the Wildcats competed in the James Clemens High School Under the Lights Festival at Madison's Palmer Park.

That's where Mitchell ran his career-best 16:44:92, breaking his previous school record for the fifth time.

"He's worked extremely hard to get into the 16s," said Baker, who took over the program after Joseph Brown resigned to accept a coaching position at Northwest Shoals Community College.

"Early in the year, getting into the 17s was his benchmark. Now that he's broken into the 16s, he's real close, if not already past, the county record," Baker added.

Tharptown's boys varsity finished fourth overall at the October 21st event. Top five times came from Mitchell, Quintero, Vela, Garcia and Ricky Santibanez.

The Wildcats will compete Thursday, Oct. 26th in the Northwest Alabama Championships at Oakville.

Sectionals are set for November 2nd at Madison.

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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 this week's winner, Bryant Wade King, who correctly predicted 8-10 games and won the tiebreaker.

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.

Oklahoma	Kansas
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Duke	Louisville
Tennessee	Kentucky
Oregon State	Arizona
Mississippi St.	Auburn
South Carolina	Texas A&M
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Wyoming	Boise State

Tiebreaker Score: Mississippi St. Auburn

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