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Russellville attorney Beason honored as Franklin County Citizen of the Year

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Monday was a good day for the Beason family, as Russellville attorney Eddie Beason was honored as the Franklin County Citizen of the Year, and his son Caleb was named Farmer of the Year at the 2023 Farm-City Banquet, presented by the Franklin County Extension System and the Farm-City Planning Committee.

The annual event recognizes citizens, families and educators whose

contributions to agriculture stand out among their peers. The banquet brings together city officials and farmers to highlight the important relationship they share.

Beason, a Russellville attorney the past 41 years, has lived in Russellville with his wife Debbie the past 33 years. They have two children, Caleb and Rebekah DeLoach, both of whom are teachers.

Beason has been a fixture in the Russellville Civitan Club for more than 35 years, including four terms as Civitan President.

See 'CITIZEN,' Page 3

Christmas at Sloss Lake a fun-filled family event to celebrate Jesus

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Russellville has several annual events that have made their way into the mental clocks of most residents. They include the annual Christmas and Homecoming parades, the Franklin County Watermelon Festival and the City of Russellville's Fourth of July Jam on Sloss Lake.

Paula McDougale, Byron Gann and Tim Williams, the members of the gospel group Purpose, hope their inaugural Christmas at Sloss Lake, set for Sunday, December 3rd from 1:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., will join that list.

Though the trio will perform that evening, Christmas at Sloss Lake is not a gospel music event. It's much

more than that.

"We want this to be a family event, a Christmas production," McDougale said. "It will be an entertainment venue for everyone to enjoy while we present Jesus in a different form."

There will be at least four food trucks at Sloss Lake, including Don Pepe Taqueria, Ashley Sweet Treats, Dixie Concessions and Aww Shucks, and more than 20 vendors offering a variety of unique Christmas gift items for sale.

Confirmed vendors include: Free Spirit Gallery, Livie T's, Molly's Bows, Shoals Hair Co., Light Us Up, Amy's Door Decor, the Fairy Hair Popup, Vic's Vittles, Trigreen, Garret's Crafty Creations, KS Creations, Elizabeth's Jazzy Jewels, the Crunchy

See 'SLOSS,' Page 4

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**Jerry Wayne Wheeler, age 59 of Haleyville, passed
away on Saturday, November 18, 2023.
Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.**

**Donald Dalton Flannagin, age 85, of Russellville,
passed away on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.
Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.**

**Lera Ociene Bottoms Knight, passed away
November, 13, 2023.
Akins Funeral Home assisted the family.**



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'CITIZEN,' From Page 1

He's participated in numerous Civitan projects including community Thanksgiving meals, Adopt-A-Mile, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and he's a financial supporter of the Civitan International Research Center at the University of Alabama Birmingham.

Never one to relish the limelight, Beason humbly accepted his award from Franklin County Extension Coordinator Katernia Cole-Coffey.

Caleb is an Agriscience Teacher at Phil Campbell High School who serves as faculty sponsor for several student agriculture-related organizations. Beason is known for encouraging and motivating his student to be 'all-in' when it comes to opportunities to take part in farming and/or agricultural contests and activities.

Beason is a past recipient of the Franklin County Educator of the Year in 2022.

Donnie Nichols was named Agricultural Educator of the Year. Nichols has been a secondary agriculture teacher the past 24 years in Franklin County, at Belgreen and Russellville.

He and his wife Diann have two kids, Natalie and Mason, and Nichols enjoys working on his cattle farm and hunting in his free time.

Russellville veterinarian Dr. Mickey Spillers was honored with the Lifetime Agricultural Achievement Award, and Oliver Farms received the 2023 Farm Family of the Year Award.

The Oliver's family business provides strawberries to the Franklin County and Russellville City Schools' cafeterias. The Oliver family planted their first U-Pick Strawberry Patch in October 2021, as a way to offer families the chance to spend time together picking fresh strawberries.

The family also houses bees provided by the LeMay Bee Farm.

In conjunction with the annual Farm-City Banquet, the Extension Office runs contests for coloring, posters and essays with this year's theme, Agritourism: Connecting Alabama Farms and Communities.

Contest winners included:

Coloring-Pre Kindergarten: First Place, Ann Marie Belue, Red Bay Elementary, Second Place, Hudson Kennedy, Red Bay Elementary and Third Place, Brean Terry, Red Bay Elementary.

Poster Contest—Kindergarten thru Third Grade: First Place, Pyper White, Red Bay Elementary, Second Place, Paislee White, Red Bay Elementary.

Poster Contest—Fourth thru Sixth Grade: First Place, Abigail King,

Belgreen High School, Second Place, Nicole Britton, Belgreen, Third Place, Xzavier Walker Eugene Daily, Red Bay Elementary and Honorable Mention, Jayden Heather Beal, Red Bay Elementary.

Essay Contest—Tenth thru Twelfth Grade: First Place, Justin Wade, Phil Campbell High School, Second Place, Patience Mays, Phil Campbell, Third Place, Sadie Hill, Phil Campbell and Honorable Mention, Lindsey Everette, Belgreen High School.

Cole-Coffey extended her appreciation to several organizations and business who helped with this year's banquet, including: CB&S Bank, Community Spirit Bank, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Franklin County Commission, Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District, Franklin County Cattlemen's Association, Franklin County Junior Leadership, Franklin County Farmer's Federation and the A.W. Todd Centre staff.



COURTESY PHOTO

Three-branch military veteran leads annual parade

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When the annual Franklin County Veterans Day Parade rolled down North Jackson Avenue November 11th, it was a reflective time for Johnnie Pounders, who served as Grand Marshal.

Pounders, a Russellville resident, served in three branches of the military: the United States Navy, the Army Reserve and the Air Force.

Before the parade, Pounders laid the wreath next to the Honor Roll monument in front of the Franklin County Courthouse. The monument contains names of service men from Franklin County who died in defense of their country.

Clad in full dress uniform, Pounders placed the wreath next to the monument, stepped back and saluted the honor and valor of the men who never made it home.

The ceremony took place at 11 a.m., on 11/11/2023. It was on November 11, 1918 at 11 a.m., when the Allied powers signed a ceasefire agreement with Germany, bringing World War I to an end.

Though it contains names of men lost more than a century ago, the monument looked shiny and new, thanks to the efforts of Grant Atkins and his employees at Atkins Marble and Granite Works, Inc., who cleaned it the week prior to the parade.

"That's something Grant and his staff did without anyone knowing it," said fellow veteran Barry Moore. "They came and cleaned it and I know he doesn't want anyone to know but we all appreciate what they did."

Pounders' military service began in the United States Navy, where he was a combat crewman and worked in aircraft radar. He served on the USS Kearsarge, a long-hulled Essex-class aircraft carrier.

During Pounders' tour of duty, the ship picked up two U.S. Astronauts, including Gordon Cooper who splash landed in his 'Faith 7' Mercury space capsule and Walter Schirra, whose 'Sigma 7' landed after he completed America's then-longest spaceflight during the Mercury-Atlas 8 mission.

History was made, and Pounders was part of it.

He went on to serve eight years in the Army Reserve, where he served as a Military Police and a lightwheel vehicle mechanic.

In the United States Air Force, Pounders was a heavy equipment operator as a 1st Sergeant. He retired as a Senior Master Sergeant after concluding his career as an electrical superintendent.

"Best job I ever had," Pounders said of his Air Force tenure.

The experiences of men and women from Franklin County through their military service sees them deployed all over the world, away from home and separated from their families.

We truly do thank you for your service!



Franklin Free Press

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Russellville, AL 35653
256-332-0255

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'SLOSS,' From Page 1

Collective, Door Hangers and Freshies by Kaylee Smith, Violet Renee's Macarons, Country Woodworks and Crafts, Safeplace, Fresh Air Concepts, Sugar Rush, To Bless N Bling (Paparazzi), McGuire Leather, Invisible String Ballons and Lux Bougie.

McDougle said they are still accepting vendors and concessionaires through November 25th. Those interested should contact Molly Richardson at 256-275-6000.

The free family event will include inflatables, a Grinch-driven train ride and photo props for kids. Santa will be on hand from 5-7:30 p.m., to visit with kids. Parents are welcome to take photos of their children with Santa.

Local talent will perform throughout the day, including the Belgreen High School Chorus, Jessica McSpadden and the Gateway Church Praise Team and Dustin Richardson and his band. There are a few entertainment spots remaining for local talent to perform, McDougle said.

A live Nativity scene during the entertainment finale will highlight the end of a day full of family activities.

Additional information on the event is available on the Facebook page "Christmas at Sloss Lake."

"Our hope is to present Christmas in the context it's supposed to be—to get back to what Christmas is all about in a family event and the joy of living in a country where we're all free to worship," Williams said.

Williams said there is no admission although there will be a donation box at the entry for those who want to support the cost of hosting the inaugural event.

For McDougle, Gann and Williams, their prayer is to see Christmas at

Sloss Lake grow into an annual family event where the venue is "so completely decorated people will drive up and see one beautiful scene after another," Williams explained.

With the lineup of food trucks, vendors and entertainment in their first year, that vision seems definitely attainable.

Sumerel's donation a Christmas Spectacular for local children

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

More than 2,200 local children will enjoy a performance of the Roxy Theatre's Christmas Spectacular thanks to a generous donation from Russellville attorney Jamie Sumerel.

Sumerel, who practices law with the firm of Bedford, Rogers, Bowling & McReynolds, donated \$11,210, which includes the \$5 admission per child for 2,242 children from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Sumerel presented the donation Tuesday afternoon to Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council President Susie Malone.

Sumerel, who is running for Franklin County District Judge in the March 5, 2024, Republican Primary, said he first got the idea for the donation after meeting a lady from Winston County last year at his law office.

"She said there was a group of kids from her child's school who weren't able to come to see the Christmas Spectacular because their families either weren't able to pay or didn't pay the \$5 per child admission," Sumerel said. "So Evan (Hargett) and I paid for those kids to be able to go. And I decided that next year if I had the financial capability to pay for every child in Franklin County whose school is signed up to see the show, that's what I would do. And the Lord blessed me to be able to do that this year," he added.

The annual Roxy's Christmas Spectacular will present nine school performances, with three per day from Wednesday, Dec. 6-Friday, Dec. 8.

Public performances are set for Thursday, Dec. 7 and Friday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m., and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m.

Tickets for those shows may be purchased through a link you can find on the Roxy's Christmas Spectacular Facebook page.

Hillary Malone Hall, the director of the annual Christmas Spectacular, said this year's show will have a new story line and a new main character joining Fred the Elf and Gaspar the Pilot.

Zy Traywick and Micco Jackson will return as Fred and Gaspar, and Lillian Ritter will play their new friend, who will have a major role in the show's story.

Malone said Sumerel's donation not only will benefit more than two thousand children who will see the show, it's also an opportunity to introduce the Roxy and the Christmas Spectacular to their families.

"A lot of times when children see the program they go home and tell their parents how much they enjoyed it," Malone said. "And they may have siblings who didn't go to the show so they may come back and see another performance. And that's a good thing for us as far as sales for public performances."



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Jamie Sumerel with members of the Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council last Tuesday.

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City of Russellville announces holiday garbage pickup schedule

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The City of Russellville has announced its holiday garbage pickup schedule for Thanksgiving week, Christmas week and New Year's 2024.

Russellville Street Department Manager Shannon Wilson said for the Thanksgiving week of November 20-24, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday pickup days will be as usual.

Thursday's garbage pickup day will be moved to Friday. For the week of Christmas, December 25-29, garbage will be picked up one day late all week so Street Department employees may enjoy Christmas Day with their families.

For the week of January 1-5, garbage will be picked up one day late all week so city employees may spend New Year's Day with their families.

All commercial garbage pickup will run on regular schedule.

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

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The Foster Grandparent Program is seeking volunteers ages 55 and older to help tutor and mentor children in day care, head start and schools. Volunteers will receive a tax-free stipend and travel reimbursement. We have openings for several schools for the coming school year. Please call 256-332-6800 for an application.

AshaKiran 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.

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

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

Tennessee 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.

Russellville Masonic Lodge #371 is selling Hams For Thanksgiving. Hams are \$35 each and may be pre-ordered by dialing (256) 810-1970. Pickup is Wednesday November 22nd, between 8-10am at the Lodge on Coffee Avenue.

Aclaimed acoustic band Act of Congress will perform their unique blend of American roots music mixed with traditional Christmas music at the Ritz Theatre on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. An Act of Congress Christmas is made possible by presenting sponsor Colbert County Tourism. Tickets range from \$40 - \$30 and are available now at tennesseevalleyarts.org or by calling 256-383-0533. The Birmingham-based band has released multiple albums and has toured the world as Cultural Ambassadors for the U.S. State Department. Act of Congress regularly performs with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and has played for the likes of Disney, SXSW, NPR, Paste, and Billboard. Their modern mixes of traditionally popular Christmas songs demonstrate their skillful musical talent while enticing audiences to sing along. For more information about the Tennessee Valley Art Association, which runs the Ritz Theatre and the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, visit tennesseevalleyarts.org or call 256-383-0533.

The Frog Pond Volunteer Fire Department is holding a fund raiser Gun Raffle with proceeds going to benefit the Frog Pond VFD. Tickets are \$10 or \$25 for 3 and may be purchased through Cash App or PayPal. Call 256-263-0825 for more information. One AR-15 and one Glock 19 Gen 5 will be given away. 16" AR-15 5.56/223 with 15" MHR. And Glock 19 Gen 5 9mm. Drawing will be held at the Fire Department on February 23, 2024, at 6 p.m.

MY FATHER'S HOUSE MINISTRIES, RUSSELLVILLE, AL, 104 E. Lawrence St., Pastor Pearl Shelton, would like to invite you to our weekly Prayer Meeting every Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. Come join us as we pray together in unity and power! Anyone needing prayer please be sure to join us! Everyone is welcome!

Four Christmas Parades are set for Franklin County in December. The first is the Red Bay Christmas Parade on Monday, Dec. 4. Vina will host its Christmas Parade on Tuesday, Dec. 5. On Thursday, Dec. 7, the annual Russellville Christmas Parade will roll through downtown Russellville. The Phil Campbell Christmas Parade is set for Thursday, Dec. 14. All parades will begin at 6 p.m.

The Frog Pond Volunteer Fire Department is holding a fundraiser sale of Boston Butts and BBQ ribs smoked by William Bishop. They are pre-selling Boston Butts and ribs with all proceeds benefitting the Frog Pond VFD's expenses for new equipment. Whole smoked butts are \$35 and full rack of BBQ ribs is \$25. You can pay with Cash App, Paypal. Must be paid when order is made. Cash App is \$FROGPONDVFD and Paypal BINGHAM899. To order call 256-263-0825 or 256-856-0476. Pick up is December 16, 2023, at Frog Pond VFD between 3-6 p.m.

The Cowboy Church of Franklin County will hold a fund raiser Bake Sale on December 2, 2023, starting at 9 a.m., in front of Canine Cakes & Curls, 516 St. Clair Street in Russellville. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Cowboy Church of Franklin County's Youth Program.

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FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSION

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

Roadway Maintenance Technician I, Franklin County Highway Department

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Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until 5:00 PM on Friday, December 1, 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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County Board of Education approves resignation from Phil Campbell teacher facing charges

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Board of Education accepted the resignation of a Phil Campbell High School teacher who's facing charges for distributing obscene material to a minor.

The board approved Wells' resignation letter at its November 16th meeting.

On the day the board was set to hold a termination hearing for Timothy Mark Wells, Wells tendered his resignation effectively November 13, 2023.

Wells, who taught Special Education at Phil Campbell, was arrested August 11, 2023, after an investigation showed he sent a sexually explicit video to a 17-year-old female student. He was also a track and field and basketball coach at Phil Campbell and was hired in January to coach Northwest Shoals Community College's new men's and women's cross-country teams.

Wells is facing charges of distributing obscene material to a minor and a school employee distributing obscene material, misdemeanor charges according to Franklin County District Attorney Jeff Barksdale.

He remains out on a cash bond of \$5,000.

Wells' cases are set for trial in Franklin County District Court on November 27th, but Barksdale said it is likely they could be continued until early 2024.

Other personnel moves and agenda items approved by the board included:

--Resignation: Delores Hester, Pre-K Auxiliary Teacher, Vina and Regenia Potter, Child Nutrition Assistant, Tharptown.

--Retirement: Amy Cochran, Child Nutrition Program Manager, Phil Campbell Schools, Judy Moses, Secretary, Red Bay High School, Teresa LeMay, Child Nutrition Program Assistant, Phil Campbell Schools.

--Employment: Morgan Miller, Special Education Aide, Pre-K at Vina, Lisa McGee, Child Nutrition Program Assistant, Franklin County Schools.

--Personal Leave of Absence: Caden Baker, Special Education Aide, PCES, through end of 23-24 school year, Teresa Simmons, Child Nutrition Assistant, Belgreen, through December 8, 2023, Victoria Jones, Special Education Teacher, East Franklin, through January 9, 2025 and Angela Gilliland, Child Nutrition Program Assistant, Red Bay, through January 8, 2024.

--FMLA Request: Hanna Tess Harbour, Speech Therapist, through October 25, 2023, Caitlin Maijala, Pre-K Auxiliary Teacher, Tharptown, through March 1, 2024, and Molly Netherton, Elementary Teacher, Tharptown, effective January 24, 2024, for 12 weeks and personal leave for remainder of school year.

--Coach in Supplement Only: Winston Nolen, Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach, Tharptown.

--Volunteers: Joey Childers, Volunteer Assistant Coach Boys Basketball, Red Bay.

--New Teacher Substitutes: Linda Bumpers, Angela Lawler, Linda Mueller.

--Substitute Bus Driver: Jerome Morgan, Linda Mueller.

--Child Nutrition Program Substitutes: Karen McGee, Kaitlyn Bragwell.

--elected Terry Welborn as Board President and Kacey Johnston as Vice-President for the new year.

--amended Accounting Policies & Procedures to reflect increase in competitive bid law to \$40,000.

--approved Psychometric Services Contract with Donna Thigpen for period of September 20, 2023, through September 20, 2024.

--approved compensation agreement paying Patti Swinney \$500 for Yearbook Sponsor at Vina High School and \$900 to Sherry Leigh Smith for Yearbook Sponsor at East Franklin. Both schools will reimburse the Franklin County BOE the compensation amount plus applicable benefits.

--approved out-of-state trips for Red Bay Elementary First Grade, Disney on Ice in Tupelo, December 1, 2023, Tharptown High School seniors to Itawamba Community College November 17, 2023, Red Bay varsity boys' basketball team to Belmont, Miss., December 8, 2023, and to Breese, Ill., for Mater Dei Christmas Tournament, Dec. 26-30, 2023, and Red Bay varsity girls' and boys' basketball teams to New Site, Miss., February 1, 2024.

The next scheduled meeting for the Franklin County Board of Education is January 25, 2024, with work session at 4 p.m., and meeting to follow.

Franklin County Community Development Commission

The following information is the annual report of receipts and expenditures of the Franklin County Community Development Commission for the fiscal year ending 9-30-2023.

The information is "unaudited" and is reported to the citizens of Franklin County to document how these tax dollars are being expended. The Franklin County Community Development Commission is a 3-member board, whose membership for the previous year included: Brad Bolton as Senator Stutts' appointment, Jeremy Campbell, as Representative Kiel's appointment, and the Chairman of the Commission, Mayor at Large- David Grissom. All grants approved must be within the charter of the development fund which is as follows:

In accordance with Act No. 2008-75 enacted by the Legislature of Alabama, grants may be awarded only for the following purposes: Alabama, grants may be awarded only for the following purposes:

1. To promote economic development, education, recreation, conservation, and fire protection.
2. To enhance the education of the citizenry through activities, expenditures for capital improvements or equipment, to promote literacy, learning, arts appreciation, public health, and mental health.
3. To promote activities that provide human and social services which reduce the hardships of old age, poor health, or poverty.
4. To promote the marketability, yield, or quality of Alabama-produced agricultural commodities.
5. To promote the preservation, restoration, development and propagation of Alabama's natural resources, recreational facilities, environment, history, culture, transportation lanes, tourism, public safety, and historic landmarks and buildings.

| BEGINNING BALANCE FCCDC FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 10/01/2022 | | \$51879.40 |
|---|-------------------|--|
| TOTAL IN LIEU OF TAXES DEPOSITS RECEIVED THRU 9/30/2023 | | \$191,097.60 |
| TOTAL INTEREST EARNED THRU 9/30/2023 | | \$747.45 |
| TOTAL BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR GRANT FUNDING | | \$243,724.45 |
| | | |
| GRANTS AWARDED AS FOLLOWS: | | |
| GRANT # ENTITY: | GRANT AMT: | |
| 2243 THS Gym Wall Padding | \$2,500.00 | |
| 2244 Franklin Co Career Tech-Bus for College Campus | \$250.00 | 2295 Tharptown High School Special Education - Franklin County Special Olympics Program Expenses \$500.00) |
| 2245 Community Action - Meals on Wheels | \$500.00 | 2296 Vina High School Sixth Grade - Expenses for Dauphin Island Sea Lab Trip \$250.00 |
| 2246 Community Action - Transportation Assistance | \$500.00 | 2297 Russellville Fire Department - Purchase of Kubota \$2,500.00 |
| 2247 VHS - Dauphin Island Field Trip | \$250.00 | 2298 Belgreen High School Arts Program - Purchase of Art Supplies \$250.00 |
| 2248 VHS-Cross Country | \$250.00 | 2299 Phil Campbell High School Football - Purchase of Ice Machine \$2,000.00 |
| 2249 PCSH FFA National Convention | \$500.00 | 2300 Red Bay High School Football - Purchase & Repair of Helmets and Should Pads \$4,900.00 |
| 2250 RBHS Gym Sound System | \$2,500.00 | 2301 East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department - Purchase of Chain Saws \$1,500.00 |
| 2251 Big Brothes Big Sisters Rville and RB Scholarship | \$500.00 | 2302 Red Bay High School Sixth Grade - Field Trip to Chattanooga, TN \$250.00 |
| 2252 RBHS FFA National Convention | \$500.00 | 2303 Franklin County Chamber of Commerce - Junior Leadership Program State Capitol Trip \$500.00 |
| 2253 PCPD Patrol Eye Cameras | \$1,500.00 | 2304 Phil Campbell Elementary School - Problem Solving Team Purchase of Materials \$250.00 |
| 2254 TES EL Instruction Materials | \$800.00 | 2305 Russellville Middle School Football - Purchase & Repair of Helmets and Shoulder Pads \$2,500.00 |
| 2255 PCSH Football-Helmet Reconditioning | \$2,500.00 | 2306 Phil Campbell High School JAG - National Conference \$250.00 |
| 2256 THS Volleyball Equipment | \$1,000.00 | 2307 Belgreen High School - Purchase of Supplies for First Grade Classroom Library \$800.00 |
| 2257 BHS 3rd Grade Classroom Tech (Wilson) | \$800.00 | 2308 Belgreen High School - Purchase of Tables for Deb Millwork Classroom & Classroom Supplies \$500.00 |
| 2258 BHS 3rd Grade Classroom Tech (Johnson) | \$800.00 | 2309 Vina High School Softball - Facilities Repair / Concession Stand Remodel / Equipment Purchase and Repair \$500.00 |
| 2259 Russellville Fire Dept Furniture Conex Training | \$1,500.00 | 2310 Phil Campbell Elementary School - Purchase of Supplies for First Grade Classroom Library \$800.00 |
| 2260 City of Russellville - Radio Emergency Services Repair | \$1,500.00 | 2311 Serenity Saviors - Purchase of Tractor & Bush Hog \$500.00 |
| 2261 THS School Library Book Purchase | \$250.00 | 2312 Phil Campbell Elementary School - Purchase of Supplies for First Grade Classroom Library \$800.00 |
| 2262 BHS Profound Special Needs Play Area | \$1,000.00 | 2313 Postage \$15.60 |
| 2263 Franklin Co Board of Education-Groundskeeping Eq | \$500.00 | 2314 Phil Campbell Elementary School - First Grade Reading Library \$800.00 |
| 2264 RHS Softball Concession Stand/Dugout Bricking/Field Re-Fencing | \$2,500.00 | 2315 Belgreen High School - Football Program Equipment & Supply Expenses \$2,500.00 |
| 2265 TES Purchase 25 radios | \$2,500.00 | 2316 Vina High School - Track Team Facilities & Equipment \$250.00 |
| 2266 Franklin Co Board of Ed-Tharptown Bleacher | \$2,500.00 | 2317 Phil Campbell High School - Girls Track Purchase of Equipment / Work on Long Jump Pit \$500.00 |
| 2267 Franklin County Career Tech | \$2,500.00 | 2318 Phil Campbell High School - Girls Volleyball Purchase of Equipment \$500.00 |
| 2268 Postage | \$14.25 | 2319 Franklin County Chamber of Commerce - Watermelon Sponsorship \$2,500.00 |
| 2269 Correct Deposit Error | | 2320 City of Russellville Police Department - Updating & Replacing Service Weapons \$2,500.00 |
| 2270 Bear Creek Collaborative | \$5,763.08 | 2321 Red Bay Tip-Off Club - Block Wall Construction / Installation of Roll Up Door \$2,500.00 |
| 2271 BHS Special Ed 4 Chromebooks | \$800.00 | 2322 Town of Vina - Fire Department Replace (3) Sets of Gear / Suits - Fund Purchase of 1 of 3 Suits \$3,954.00 |
| 2272 VHS Scholars Bowl Club Expenses | \$250.00 | 2323 Red Bay Quarterback Club - Purchase of Signage & Installation at Football Press Box \$1,500.00 |
| 2273 THS Muscial Ed Instruments/resources | \$500.00 | 2324 Blue Springs Volunteer Fire Department - Purchase of Reader Board Sign \$1,500.00 |
| 2274 Franklin Co Sheriff k-p Training Eq | \$1,500.00 | 2325 Franklin County EMA - Purchase of (10) Battery-Operated Chainsaws - Fund Purchase of 5 of 10 Chainsaws \$1,869.90 |
| 2275 BHS Scholars' Bowl National Championship | \$500.00 | 2326 Phil Campbell Elementary School - Second Grade Purchase of Chromebooks \$800.00 |
| 2276 PCES Purchase Water Filling Station | \$800.00 | 2327 Phil Campbell Elementary School - Second Grade Purchase of Reading Literacy Materials & Manipulatives \$800.00 |
| 2277 RBHS Purchase AED | \$750.00 | 2328 Bear Creek Development Authority - Purchase of Life Vests, Drone & First Aid Kits \$2,500.00 |
| 2278 Weatherford Library Summer Program | \$800.00 | 2329 Red Bay High School - Volleyball Purchase of Uniforms \$250.00 |
| 2279 THS Rocketry Club Materials & Equipment | \$800.00 | 2330 Postage \$9.60 |
| 2280 BHS Purcahse AED Cabinet | \$178.00 | 2331 RHS Cross Country to State \$500.00 |
| 2281 Franklin Co Schools 9 AED Cabinets Athletic Fac | \$675.00 | 2332 Red Bay High School Fencing \$5,000.00 |
| 2282 Franklin Co Schools Mics, Stands, Accessories | \$1,500.00 | 2333 Liberty Learning Foundation Super Citizen Program \$7,000.00 |
| 2283 Franklin Co Times Annual Report | \$506.25 | 2334 City of Red Bay Founders Day Sponsorship \$1,000.00 |
| 2284 Franklin Free Press - Annual Report | \$550.00 | 2335 Franklin County Sheriff's Office Stalker Radars \$2,999.50 |
| 2285 Red Bay News Annual Report | \$318.60 | 2336 Russellville High School Track and Field Shot Put \$2,500.00 |
| 2286 Postage | \$9.00 | 2337 Red Bay Golf Team Expenses, Travel, Equipment, Uniforms \$500.00 |
| 2287 East Franklin Junior High School - Purchase of Playground Equipment | \$3,000.00 | 2338 Red Bay School Improvement Football Scoreboard \$3,500.00 |
| 2288 Franklin County Career Technical Center - Purchase of Tables & Chairs for Health Science Classroom | \$1,500.00 | 2339 Red Bay High School Newspapers in Education via RB News \$1,375.00 |
| 2289 Phil Campbell High School Baseball - Purchase of Padded Backstop and Helmet Rack | \$1,500.00 | 2340 Vina High School Newspapers in Education via RB News \$625.00 |
| 2290 Vina High School Baseball - Purchase of Equipment and Field Supplies | \$1,000.00 | 2341 Red Bay High School Purchase Tables for Computer Science Program \$450.00 |
| 2291 Vina High School Boys Track - Purchase New Uniforms and Equipment, Season Expenses | \$250.00 | 2342 Downtown Russellville Collective Purchase Laptop and Monitor \$1,500.00 |
| 2292 Red Bay High School Boys Track - Season Expenses and Purchase of Supplies | \$250.00 | 2343 Postage \$6.30 |
| 2293 Tharptown High School - Purchase of Personal Radio Communicators | \$800.00 | 2344 Red Bay High School Volleyball \$2,050.00 |
| 2294 Tharptown High School Girls Softball - Purchase of Field Materials (Bases, Pitchers Mound, Infield Dirt) | \$1,000.00 | 2345 City of Red Bay Jaws of Life Tool and Accessories \$2,500.00 |
| | | Transferred to Future Economic Development \$28,000.00 |
| | | TOTAL OF ALL GRANTS AWARDED DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING 9/30/2022: 170,829.51 |
| | | TOTAL ENDING BALANCE OF THE FCCDC AS OF 9/30/2022: \$51,879.40 |

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SPORTS

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Wildcats race to fifth-place finish at state cross country championships

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

A season to remember ended Saturday with a fifth-place team finish for the Tharptown High School boys cross country team in the AHSAA's Cross Country Championships in Oakville.

Coach Darrel Baker's team competed against 1A and 2A schools from across Alabama.

Although Tharptown's girls team ended its team season at Sectionals, two Wildcat girls qualified individually for state. Addison Compton and Abby Wilson represented their school Saturday morning.

10 Tharptown runners competed for the boys' team at state, with the top five times counting for team standings.

Baker said Alex Quintero ran a personal best of 17.47 in the 5K and Angel Garcia posted an impressive time of 18.18.

Saturday's state meet ended the high school careers of three seniors, Jessie Mitchell, Edwin Vela and Ricardo Hernandez.

Mitchell leaves with the school record in the 5K as well as the Franklin County record. He has multiple cross country scholarship offers, Baker said, including Northwest Shoals Community College.

"Those three young men will be missed next year, but we've got a lot of kids coming up, some who are running in the 18s as 10th graders and a junior who ran in the 17s," Baker said. "(Quintero) will be pushing for a state title as long as he stays healthy."

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Trio of Golden Tigers sign athletic scholarships with Northwest Shoals

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

Russellville High School seniors Jacey Moore, Brandt Cummings and Cayden Johns received some rock star-like attention at the trio's athletic scholarship signing ceremony Wednesday afternoon in the RHS Fieldhouse.

An overflow crowd packed into the second floor meeting room, adorned in black and gold decorations, as the students signed their letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the next level.

Moore signed to join Coach Angel Brown's Northwest Shoals Community College softball program beginning in the fall of 2024.

RHS softball coach Rick Lawson, in his first year at Russellville, said he's seen enough of

See, 'NORTHWEST SHOALS,' page 12



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Cayden Johns, Jacey Moore and Brandt Cummings at Wednesday's signing ceremony.

Final play of first half catapults Moody to 42-21 playoff win over Russellville

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

Outscored 28-7 in the second half, you might think that's where the troubles began for the Russellville Golden Tigers in their playoff second round 42-21 loss to Moody, but the turning point actually came moments before the teams headed to their halftime break.

With Russellville leading the state's sixth-ranked 5A team 14-7 with a few ticks remaining in the second quarter, Moody QB Charlie Johnston found Aidan Robinson in the end zone on a fourth down play from the 12 yard line as time expired.

The PAT made it 14-14 at the half and with the Blue Devils having the opening possession of the second half, momentum didn't just shift to Moody, it relocated altogether.

After the Blue Devils scored 90 seconds into the third quarter, the Golden Tigers went three-and-out and Manny Martinez' punt was returned for an apparent Moody touchdown.

But a running into the kicker penalty, not the roughing call that would have given Russellville a first down, nullified the play and Martinez lined up to punt once again.

This time, a special teams breakdown on the snap allowed Moody's Izaiah Hatch to scoop up the ball and return it for a touchdown. The Blue Devils, once trailing by seven, had a 14-point lead and never looked back.

Russellville's second half touchdown came on a Harrison Burch to Michael Scofield 17-yard pass in the fourth quarter, to cut it to 35-21, but the ensuing onside kick was returned 60 yards for a Moody touchdown.

The Blue Devils, 10-2, face Ramsay this Friday in third-round playoff action. Coach John Ritter's Golden Tigers finish their season 9-3, including a spotless 6-0 record in 5A Region 8.

Ritter looked back at the final play of the first half as a game-changer for the Blue Devils.

"It led to a 14 point swing, which is never good in any game, much less a road playoff game against the Number Six team in the state," Ritter said. "You take that along with two special teams mistakes and that's a 28-point swing in a game we lost by 21."

Moody led 7-0 after the first quarter, but the Golden Tigers scored twice in the second on Cam Phinzee seven-yard and two-yard runs (the second TD set up by a Malachi Duncan

See, 'RUSSELLVILLE,' Page 14



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'NORTHWEST SHOALS,' From Page 11

Moore's work ethic to know the type of athlete, and person, she is. "From my brief experience here, I can tell you Jacey will be successful because she works too hard not to be successful," Lawson said. "She is and will continue to be a great representative of her community, family and school."

Moore, a standout pitcher for the Golden Tigers, was on the mound for Russellville's final game last season, and struck out 10 Lawrence County batters and allowed only two earned runs.

She had several scholarship offers, but Moore said she knew it would be Northwest Shoals after her official visit.

"When I went to visit Northwest Shoals, it felt like home. It was very familiar to me. I know all the time Coach Brown has put into building the program and I knew right away I wanted to be a part of it," Moore said.

For Cummings, who along with Johns was part of Russellville's 2022 state championship team, his familiarity with former RHS assistant baseball coach David Langston was a big reason why Cummings will join the Patriots' program next fall.

"My relationship with Coach Langston before he became Northwest Shoals coach was really good," Cummings said. "I knew that's where I wanted to go. I know what to expect playing for him and I'm looking forward to it."

Cummings, a 4.0 student and member of the National Honor Society, led the Golden Tigers in runs scored and was second in total hits. He had a .298 average with a .413 on base percentage last spring.

Johns was and remains an important part of the Golden Tigers' pitching rotation. He posted an earned run average of 2.748 last year and was part of a combined no-hitter against Florence and he had a complete game one-hitter against the state's No. 5 team, Arab.

Johns also led the team in extra base hits in the 2023 season.

"You've worked countless hours to get to this point today," Smith said to the three signees. "I can't say enough about all three of these individuals. And we look forward to stellar careers for each of you this year and in the years ahead."

Cummings and Johns are the 9th and 10th RHS students to sign scholarships with NWSCC since the baseball program was

reinstated.

"At the college level we want to recruit players from great high school programs and there's no doubt they understand at Russellville what that process looks like," Langston said.

"On behalf of our baseball program, we're very excited to have both of these guys and we know they'll be a big part of our program at Northwest Shoals," he added.

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Lady Red Devils off to fast 3-0 to hoops season start

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Coach Richie Hester's Vina girls varsity basketball team has started its season 3-0 with wins over Berry, Tharptown and Cherokee High Schools.

On November 9th, Vina defeated Berry 63-36. Junior Sara Harper led the Lady Red Devils with 14 points and eight assists.

Sophomore Braxtyn Quinn added 13 and junior Khylee Brooks had nine points and 10 rebounds. Freshmen Lana Bell (8 points), Kenzie Elrod (3 points) and Layla Hester (2 points, 7 assists) also helped the team to a blowout win.

While Hester's squad is loaded with young talent, he can also depend this season on seniors Mikala Mitchell (7 points) and Jalyn Shotts (1 point).

The following night, Vina won an in-county rivalry with a 56-43 defeat of Tharptown.

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See 'VINA,' Page 14

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'RUSSELLVILLE,' From Page 11

interception return) and it appeared Russellville would take a 14-7 halftime lead.

But Moody's fourth down conversion on the final play of the first half was one of eight fourth down conversions the Blue Devils had out of 10 attempts.

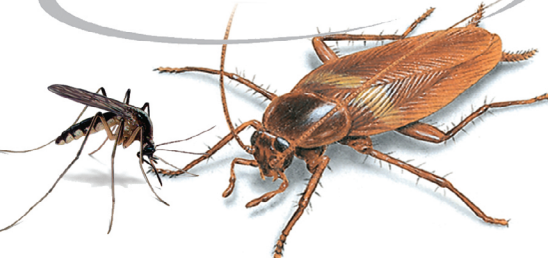
10 fourth down attempts! It was a gambling kind of night for Moody coach Jake Ganus and the dice were in his favor.

A disappointing end for 26 Russellville senior football players, but that doesn't detract from a successful 9-3 season.

"I love this group of seniors. They did everything right. We may have had only one or two bad practices in 19 weeks of fall camp," Ritter said. "And they responded well to those.

"These kids did things the right way. They were a joy to coach, with no problems in the classroom and all around what we want our program to be. They played with passion and integrity and I love them," he added.

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'VINA,' From Page 13

Vina raced out to a 20-4 lead after one quarter, and took a 34-15 advantage into halftime.

The Lady Red Devils were paced by Brooks' 11 points and seven rebounds. Harper and Hester had 10 apiece. Harper added eight assists. Kaley Attaway had eight points and nine rebounds.

Tharptown was led by Ashton Sharp and Cortney Smith, who scored 10 each.

Last Monday, Vina rolled over Cherokee 51-28, led by Attaway's 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Harper had 12 points and seven assists, and Brooks 10 points and 14 rebounds. Hester added 10 points with five assists.

Vina hosted a Holiday Tournament starting Friday, Nov 17th, with Russellville, Fayette County, Tharptown and Waterloo scheduled to participate.

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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 Harold Bolton, our Week 11 winner, who correctly predicted 8 of 10 games, and won with his tiebreaker prediction of Georgia 38-17 over Tennessee.

Submit your picks by email to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com by Saturday morning, November 25th, at 10 a.m. Include your name, phone number and game selections, including tiebreaker.

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
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| Florida State | Florida |
| Kentucky | Louisville |
| Texas A&M | LSU |
| Arizona | Arizona St. |
| North Carolina | North Carolina St. |
| Iowa St. | Kansas St. |
| Ohio St. | Michigan |
| Clemson | South Carolina |
| Miami | Boston College |

Tiebreaker Score: Alabama Auburn

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(44) Mindy Woodard
(91) Charles Coolidge
(142) Marsha Everett
(148) Christina Headley
(149) Chris Ergle

Units located at 524 St. Clair:
(11) Taylor Darby
(23) Destiny Murray

Units located at 900 Scotty Moore Drive
(65) Deanise Bishop

George Evans, MD

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Jason Miller

for

Franklin County Probate Judge Republican Primary 2024

**As campaign season begins, I make this
pledge to the citizens of Franklin County:**

- 1. A School Resource Officer at every Franklin County school. I will work with the County Commission, Superintendent of Education and Sheriff to make this happen.**
- 2. Developing and opening at least one Senior Center in the unincorporated area of Franklin County.**
- 3. Hire a sheriff's deputy as Franklin County Animal Control Officer to enforce existing state laws and work with our current two Animal Control employees.**
- 4. Add additional tornado shelters in St. Paul, Newburg, Waco, Rockwood, Atwood and Halltown communities.**
- 5. Work with our Circuit Judge and District Judge to develop a Franklin County Veterans Treatment Court.**

**If you have any questions or want to speak
with me, please call 256-627-2714**

